

# Wesley Wright

Lighthouse Bible Church  
Sunday, January 4, 2026

2 Corinthians 2:12 — 2 Corinthians 3:6

Title: A sweet-smelling aroma to God

Paul moved from Troas (modern-day Turkey) west to Macedonia, he notes. Troas comes up several times in the NT.

An example: Acts 20:5-12

# What is Christ's gospel?

- John 8:21-30
- Acts 10:34-41
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-9

After mentioning Titus, Paul makes a powerful point: God causes him (and us by extension) to triumph in Christ.

Believers in all ages will triumph in Christ:

- Romans 8:29-39
- Revelation 12:7-11
- John 16:24-33 (Christ triumphed already)

The church as a body will triumph, too:  
Matthew 16:13-20

Notice Paul says he and others are a sweet-smelling aroma to God (2 Corinthians 2:14-15).

In context, that aroma is good. Here's the opposite nose metaphor:

- Isaiah 3:16-26
- Ezekiel 8:16-18

Paul makes a clear distinction between those who corrupted the gospel and his brethren, who did not (2 Corinthians 2:17). We must do the same.

# Who are those who corrupt the word of God?

- 1 Timothy 6:3-10
  - Titus 1:7-14
  - Jude 1:1-8

# What should we do with these bad actors?

## Romans 16:17-19

Letters of commendation were common  
during Paul's time.

Paul (Saul): Acts 9:1-2, Acts 22:1-5  
Phoebe: Romans 16:1

Paul says his readers and their changed lives serve as a letter of sorts — they are the proof of the work God did among them (2 Corinthians 3:2).

No letter needed.

**Note that Paul makes a distinction  
between letters merely written on stone  
and those written on the human heart.**

Paul appropriately credits God for that work, and that same God we serve made them ministers of a new covenant (2 Corinthians 3:4-6).

Old Testament passages point to a new covenant coming for true Israel:

- Jeremiah 31:31-36
- Ezekiel 36:22-38

This new covenant is centered around  
that same Christ:

- Luke 22:14-20
- Hebrews 13:20-21
- 1 Corinthians 9:20-23

We and all others triumph ultimately in Christ, and by extension are a sweet-smelling aroma to God. That new covenant, by the way, is a superior one.

Be wary of false teachers and those who corrupt the gospel. The more readily that you can identify them, the more quickly you can help others avoid them.

Next week, we'll talk more about this new (decidedly superior) covenant, and its surpassing glory.