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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.**