

*<sup>12</sup> Now when I came to Troas for **the gospel of Christ** and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,*

*<sup>13</sup> I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.*

We see two things here:

1. Paul's deep-seated desire for the spread of **the gospel**;
  2. And his still deeper-seated need for the saints who were in danger of **compromising** Christ.
- Though an **open door** was set before him by the Lord he was unable to benefit from it, due to his great anxiety for news of the Corinthians.
  - In this case his **pastoral** devotion prevailed against his evangelistic **fervor**.

*12 Now when I came to Troas for the gospel of Christ and when a door was opened for me in the Lord,*

*13 I had no rest for my spirit, not finding Titus my brother; but taking my leave of them, I went on to Macedonia.*

**QUESTION, how does one decide which way to go?**

- The only way to obtain guidance in work is by **living close to the Lord.**
- The Lord will send it by laying it on one's heart to go.
- In the absence of guidance, do nothing, but be a testimony where you are.
- If your eye is single, your whole body will be full of light.
- **We get right impressions by living with Christ.**
- **You must live near the Lord, or you cannot reckon rightly on being guided.**

DARBY



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor. 2:14-17

*2 Cor. 2:14 But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.*

- **“thanks be to God”**

- Note: The world is not thankful to God - even though God has given them the knowledge of Himself. - Rom 1: 19-21
- Look at what we believers can be thankful for:
  - His teaching (doctrine) through His word - Rom 6:17
  - The victory we have in Christ - 1 Cor 15:17
  - His indescribable gift (of righteousness) through Christ - 2 Cor 9:5

**Question:** What 2 things does this passage say we can thank God for ?

1. He is always leading us in **triumph** in Christ.
2. He is always making **known** the **knowledge** (gnoseos = objective truth of Christ) through us (revealing His Glory through us).



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

**Question:** What does it take to be triumphant ?

- “*leading in triumph*” (thriambeuō) - The focus is on the display of glory of the conquerors after the victor.
- We are in Christ, our leader, who has triumphed over all enemies. - Col 2:15
- We are super conquerors through Christ. - Rom 8:37
- Christ is displaying His glory through us to principalities & powers in heavenly places (i.e. revealing His glory). - Eph. 3:10
- Christ is displaying His glory through us to the world (i.e. revealing His glory). - 2 Cor. 3:1-18

**Question:** Do believers still have enemies ?

Who is enemy #1 in your life ?

- We can thank God that Christ has conquered all our enemies !
- He has conquered all principalities & powers. - Col 2:15
- He has conquered enemy #1 (our enemy within) = our **sin nature** - Rom 6:6,10; Gal 2:20



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

**2 Cor. 2:14-15** *But thanks be to God, who always leads us in His triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place.*

*For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;*

**Question :** How does God fulfill His eternal purpose of revealing His glory to mankind ?

- **Through believers** - who are a sweet savor or fragrance of the knowledge & glory of Christ to 3 parties:
  1. **“to God”** - The glory of Christ being manifested through us (2 Cor. 3:1-18) is very pleasant to God but not necessarily to men (unbelievers & believers).
  2. **“among those who are being saved”**
    - **Question: What are these believers being saved or delivered** (present, passive) **from ?**
    - Is not God (passive voice) delivering us (present tense = moment by moment) from all the difficult circumstances previously mentioned:
      - Tribulation / affliction, being afflicted, suffering, being pressed, burdened & in despair - 2 Cor. 1:4-10
  3. **“among those who are perishing”** - 2 Cor. 2:15
- God divides all mankind into 2 groups - 1 Cor. 1:18
  - “Those being saved” &
  - “Those perishing” (not extinction but loss of well being for all eternity)



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

**2 Cor. 2:16** *to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate (sufficient) for these things?*

**Question :** What is meant by the expressions “death unto death” & “life unto life” ?

- Those perishing & those being saved fall under God’s operating principles :
  - “The principle of sin & death” - for those who are perishing - Rom 8:2
  - “The principle of life” - for those who are being saved - Rom 8:2
- “death” (principle of death /separation in Adam) unto “death” (separation from God now and for all eternity) - Rom 8:2; Rom 5:12,18
- “life” (principle of life in Christ) unto “life” (Christ’s life now & for all eternity) - Rom 8:2; Col 3:4
- Note: Joseph was a savor of death to the baker & a savor of life to the butler - Gen 40

**Question :** Do you & I have the sufficiency to be this aroma of Christ ?  
( This question is answered in 2 Cor 3:5 )

*<sup>16</sup> to the one an aroma from death to death, to the other an aroma from life to life. **And who is adequate for these things?***

No wonder the question is raised. It is raised, but, not answered immediately.

It is answered however in verse 5 of the next chapter.

**Because the whole point being of God there is no sufficiency but of God.**



## 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

Note : There are different Greek words & translations for the words  
“savor”(KJV) & “aroma / fragrance”(NAS)

- 2:14 osmēn - a smell, odor, or fragrance of any kind, it can be good or bad
  - KJV = ‘savor’
  - NAS = ‘sweet aroma’
- 2:15 euōdia - a good smell, odor, or fragrance
  - KJV = ‘sweet savor’
  - NAS = ‘fragrance’
- 2:16 osmēn (2X ) - a smell, odor, or fragrance of any kind, it can be good or bad
  - KJV = ‘savor’ (2X)
  - NAS = ‘aroma’ (2X)

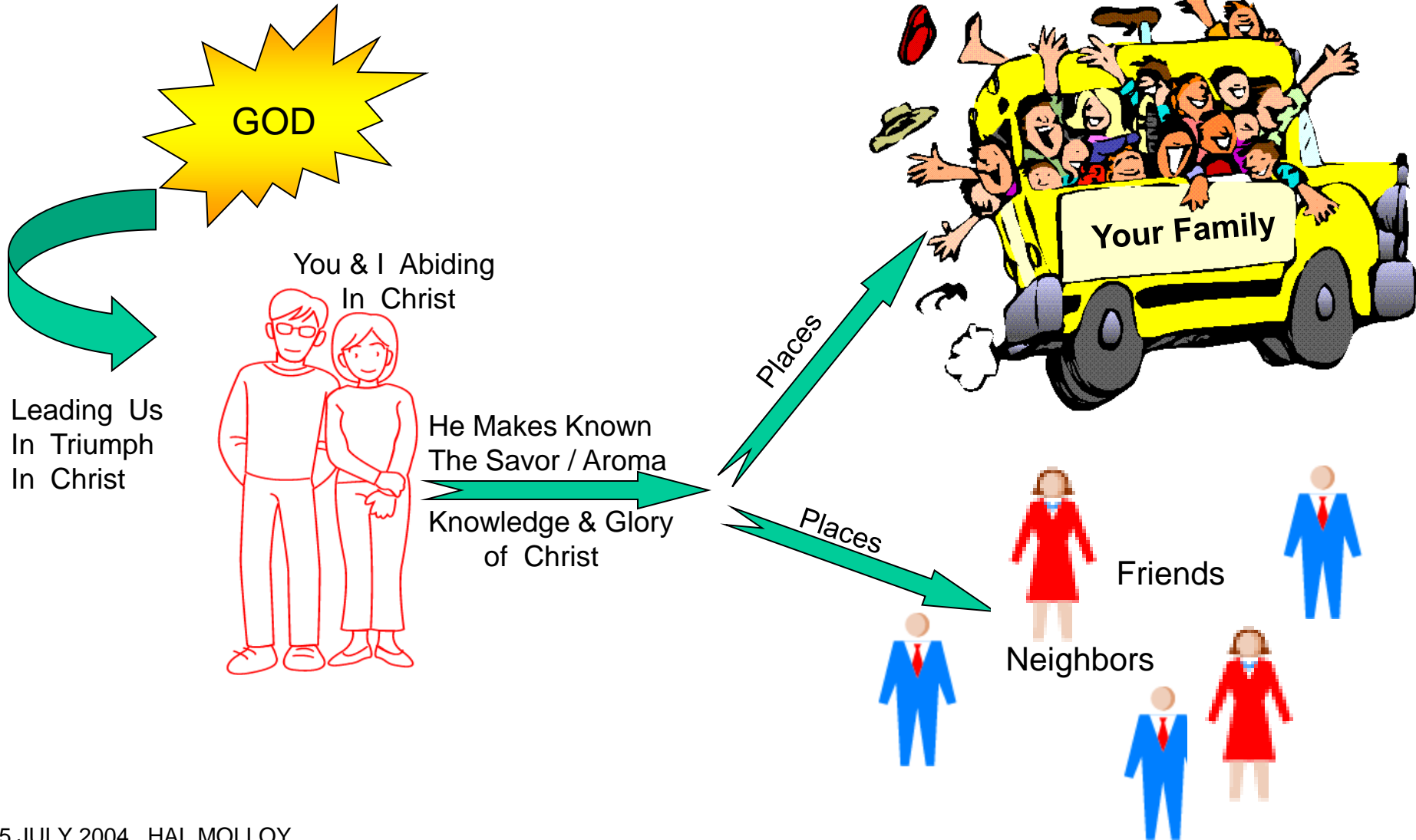




# 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

## What God Is To Us - 2 Cor 2:14

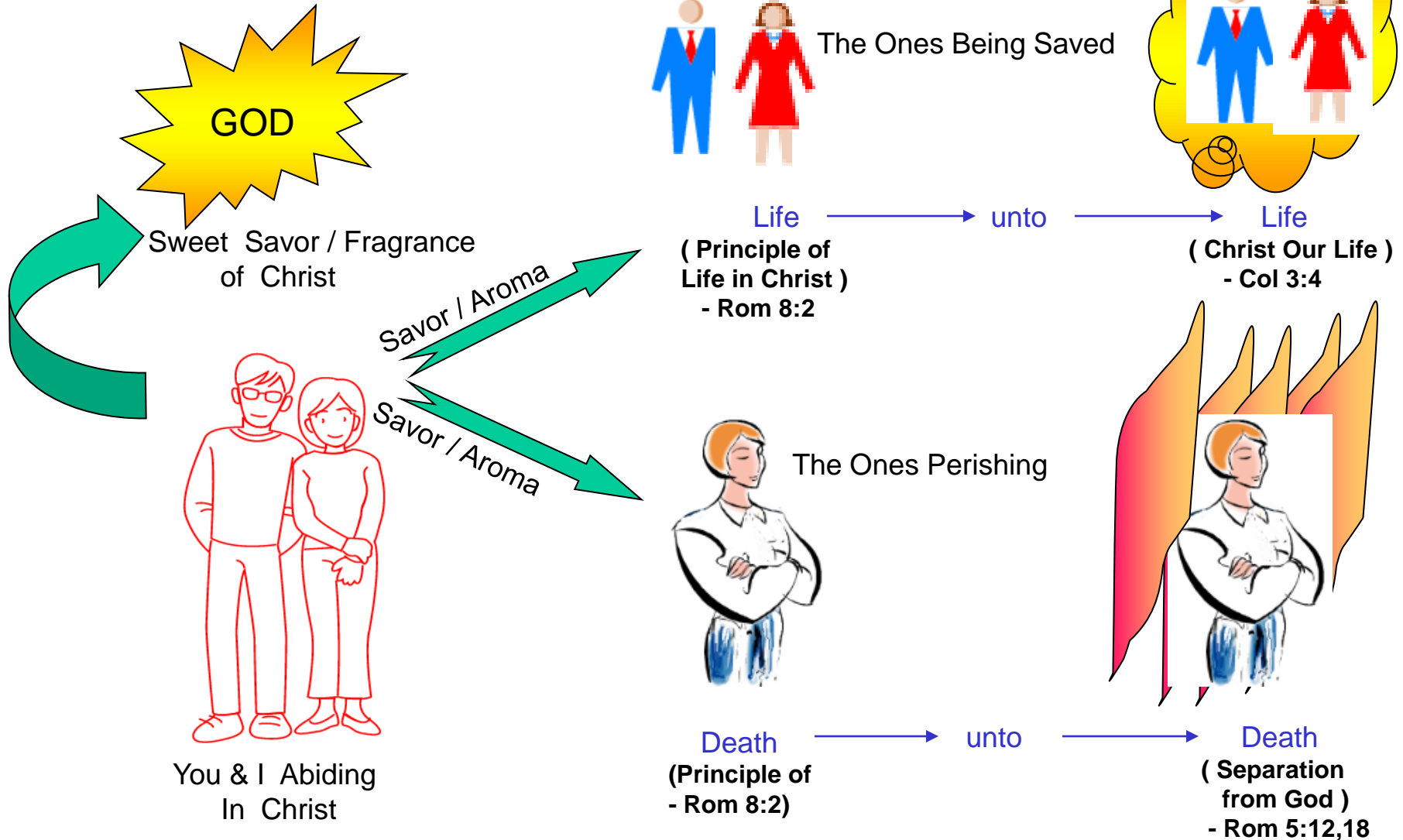




# 2 CORINTHIANS

His Life & Ministry Is Triumphant - 2 Cor 2:14-17

## What We Are To God - 2 Cor 2:15



***17 For we are not like many, peddling the word of God, but as from sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.***

"**we speak in Christ,**" "**before God,**" which is far more intimate and forcible than merely of Him.

**What a wonderful thing to be led in Christ's triumph! He went down into death, He came up in triumph, having spoiled principalities and powers. He has made a show of them, triumphing over them, and we are linked with Him**

who says, ***"I am he that lives, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore"*** (Revelation 1:18).