

The logo for 'Aroma of Faith' is centered in a white oval. The word 'AROMA' is in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a black rectangular background. Below it, the words 'OF FAITH' are in green, bold, sans-serif capital letters on a white background.

AROMA OF FAITH

SUNDAY 28 APRIL 2024 | PS GREGORY LIM

Bible Passage

2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Ministers of the New Covenant

12 Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, **13** I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia. **14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. **15** For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. **16** To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task? **17** Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as those sent from God.

2 Corinthians 3:1-6

1 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, like some people, letters of recommendation to you or from you? **2** You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone. **3** You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. **4** Such confidence we have through Christ before God. **5** Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. **6** He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

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Sermon Notes

Introduction

- In **The Message** translation, it says in **2 Corinthians 2:15**: *“Everywhere we go, people breathe in the exquisite fragrance. Because of Christ, we give off a sweet scene rising to God, which is recognised by those on the way of salvation - an aroma redolent with life.”*
- **The Pursuit of Godliness.** Moses beheld the glory of God, and his face reflected God’s glory. When we pursue God’s glory, the apostle Paul says in **2 Corinthians 3:18**: *“And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.”*
- In **Philippians 1:9-11**, Paul prays for the spiritual progress of the Christian in Philippi: *“9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.”*

1. Pursuing Love (v9): Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

2. Pursuing Excellence (v10): Ecclesiastes 9:10; Mark 12:30; Philippians 4:8

3. Pursuing Integrity (v10): Proverbs 10:9; Ecclesiastes 7:12; Corinthians 5:17

4. Pursuing the Glory of God (v11): Matthew 6:33

Conclusion: “to be careful how you live - not as unwise but wise” (Ephesians 5:15)

Reflection Questions

1. How does my behaviour and interactions with others reflect the love, compassion, and forgiveness that Christ demonstrated in his life?
2. In what ways am I actively sharing the gospel message and the hope that is only found in Christ with the people around me?
3. Do my words and action contribute positively to the spiritual growth and encouragement of fellow believers and thus help in creating a community that reflects the values of Christ?