

Thursday Thought – 8/12/2010 - What do you smell like?

I love the smell of food being grilled out. I also love driving by restaurants that use smokers for smoking their BBQ or the wood ovens. They smell great and they get my saliva juices going. Sunday I was eating lunch at one of my favorite places to go. Their food is as good as the smell. ☺ It's a restaurant that I have gone to many times and have gotten to know the manager. Towards the end of the meal he came to say hello and ask how everything was. I joked around a bit as I normally do and then he asked me if I could help him. He proceeded to share that those coming in on Sunday after church were the ones that complained the most and were the least friendly. He asked me if I could do something about it. As I sat there I witnessed first hand what the manager was talking about. A man at the next table over sat there complaining about his steak. When they offered numerous times to get him a different one, he continued to complain but said no to the offer of a new steak. After the manager left his table he continued to grumble to those with him and then the subject of criticism turned to his pastor. (I was thankful they weren't from our church because our people would never do anything like that! ☺)

I began to ponder the manager's statements and was reminded of **II Corinthians 4:14-15** "But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and **through us** spreads everywhere the **fragrance** of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵**For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing.**" As believers we are to be the aroma of Christ! His aroma is an enticing aroma. Too often our attitudes, actions, and words do not smell much like Christ. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us "But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. **Always be prepared** to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." This verse is an indication that people are to see something different in believers. They are to see love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23) They are to hear words that do not tear down but instead edify. (Ephesians 4:29) It is my prayer and desire that the manager will see something different in me and will be attracted to Christ. It's my prayer that people will see something different in you as well.

Challenge Question: What do you smell like to others? Are they attracted to your aroma or repulsed by it?

Because of HIS Amazing Grace,
Myron D. Atkinson
Pastor

Penn Forest Worship Center
A Ministry of the Wesleyan Church
3735 Chaparral Drive SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

540-772-9482 office

540-556-3381 cell

www.pfwc.net