



Thursday Thought

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“What do you smell like?”

Thursday February 15, 2018

Verse for the week: Matthew 5:16 (NLT) “In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.”

I love the smell of food being grilled out. I also love driving by restaurants that smoke their BBQ or use the wood ovens. They smell great and get my saliva juices flowing. A few years ago I was eating lunch at one of my favorite places. Their food was as good as the smell. ☺ We were regulars there and had gotten to know the manager. Towards the end of the meal he came to say hello and asked 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 Sunday's after church crowd complained the most and were the least friendly to his staff. He asked me if I could do something about it. As I sat there I witnessed firsthand what the manager was talking about. A man at the next table over was loudly complaining about his steak. They offered numerous times to bring him a new one, but he continued to complain instead of accepting their offer. After the manager left his table, he continued his grumbling, 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 2:14-15 (NLT) “But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's triumphal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. 15 Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.”** As believers we are to be the fragrance of Christ! His fragrance is enticing. Too often our attitudes, actions, and words are not very Christ-like. **1 Peter 3:15 (NLT)** tells us “**Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it.**” 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 others will see something different in us and will be attracted to Christ.

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