

The Stench of Death and Aroma of Life

1. The Gospel Enrages Those Opposed to Christ.
2. We Are Witnesses to Humanity's Treason.
3. Jesus Is the Christ—the Promised King of All.

We should not be surprised when those opposed to Christ react vehemently against us. Our very existence points out their culpability. Indeed we are just as guilty as they are. Our testimony to Christ's grace galls them because they refuse to bow before our King. Pray that God would soften their hearts. Speak the truth in love. Serve Christ the King!

2 Peter 1:16-18 ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. ¹⁷For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, "This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased"— ¹⁸and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

First Peter 4: 12 – 19

¹² Beloved, **do not be surprised** at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; ¹³ *but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that* also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. ¹⁴ If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. ¹⁵ Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; ¹⁶ but if *anyone suffers* as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name. ¹⁷ For *it is* time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what *will be* the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? ¹⁸ And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner? ¹⁹ Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

Taken from *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Question #27: Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

Answer: Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition, made under the law, undergoing the miseries of this life, the wrath of God, and the cursed death of the cross; in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time.

Question #28: Wherein consisted Christ's exaltation?

Answer: Christ's exaltation consisted in his rising again from the dead on the third day, in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, and in coming to judge the world at the last day.

Acts—Series Overview

The Expansion of the Gospel Witness with Power

Acts records God's faithful accomplishment of all that He promised in taking the gospel to the nations. It lays the groundwork for all that will take place as His Church awaits His return. Just as Jesus lived and spoke as the Father commanded, we now are called to do in the power of His Holy Spirit. While Jesus did this perfectly, we will strive imperfectly, constantly in need of the Holy Spirit's direction, power, and correction. Nevertheless, our faithful God will work even through our failing efforts and His gospel witness through us will prevail and penetrate every nation, tribe, & territory. For the praise of our King!

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What is that stench? ¹ Have you ever been hit by an odor so foul that you couldn't see straight? That's what is going on with the opponents of Christ. The mercy of Christ lavished on the Apostles and their followers enrages the religious establishment and shows us how the world is likely to respond to us if we are declaring the coming King.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ Acts 5:27-42; 2Corinthians 2:14-17; 1Peter 4:12-19. DISCUSS, How does the crucifixion of Jesus expose our guilt and culpability? What is the natural reaction to this stench of death? What is the only way for that to become an aroma of life? What does it mean that Jesus is the Christ? Have you surrendered yourself to His rule as your King? PRAY for God to convict of us of our sin and to flee from any other source of refuge. Ask Him to make us delight in Him alone.

Sunday Evening

In lieu of the evening worship service tonight, please set apart some time to pray for God to bring repentance and renewal to us at FCCW and throughout His Church.

Monday

READ Acts 5:27-42; John 1:35-42; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. DISCUSS, What difference does it make if Jesus is the Christ? How did John's disciples know to expect the Messiah? Why did John call Him the "Lamb of God"? PRAY, "Lord Jesus, teach us how to worship You as the Christ. Empower us to proclaim You in word and deed."

Tuesday

READ Acts 5:27-42; John 4:25-26; Mark 14:61-62; 2Peter 1:16-18. DISCUSS, How did Jesus respond to the woman's claim that He was the Messiah? What did her neighbors say? PRAY, "Jesus, You are the King of All, the promised Messiah, Savior of the World. Enable us to worship You as we should and to give You faithful service as our Lord."

Wednesday

READ Acts 5:17-26; Luke 9:18-23; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. DISCUSS, Jesus is the Christ of God. How is that affecting your life today? Be specific. What sin do you need to repent from? Confess your sin specifically. Delight in the forgiveness you have in Christ. PRAY, "Lord, You have promised to build Your Church. Teach us to trust You as we take up our cross and follow You."

Thursday

READ Acts 5: 5:27-42; Matthew 21:4-9; Zech 9:9; 1Peter 4:12-19. DISCUSS, What does it mean that Jesus is the King? How is He ruling and reigning now? Is God or his plan hindered because of difficulties? PRAY, "Lord, teach us to trust You and to see Your wisdom as so much greater than our own."

Friday

READ Acts 5:17-26; 1Peter 4:12-19; 2Corinthians 2:14-17. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if Christ has counted you as part of His own! PRAY for renewal in the Church and revival in our land.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow.

READ Acts 6:1-15; 1Tim 3:8-13. Invite others to watch the *live-stream service* with you tomorrow. Pray for Christ to grant us boldness in following Him.

Second Corinthians 2: 14 – 17

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of the knowledge of Him in every place. ¹⁵ For we are a **fragrance of Christ to God** among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing; ¹⁶ 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? 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.