

*“Becoming a Sweeter Aroma for Christ”*

Real Ministry in a Dot.Com World • part 5

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

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INTRODUCTION

- goals this morning...
  - 1) to move you to actively look for those to whom you might be the fragrance of Christ
  - 2) to encourage you to trust our Sovereign God to a greater degree
  - 3) to inspire praise and thanksgiving in even your most difficult and demanding circumstances

- review:
  - + *Who am I in Christ?*

+ *What can I do to become a sweeter fragrance of Christ?*  
- erase...

- embrace...

- how does God cause a believer to become an even sweeter fragrance of Christ?

Phil. 3:10; Gal. 6:17; 2 Cor. 11; 1 Pet. 4:13

*Emmanuel Bible Notes*

December 31, 2000 • Pastor Rob Martini

**why does God crush those whom He loves?**

*1. ...that we might trust in Him (and not in self)*

2 Cor. 1:8-9

“God uses chronic pain and weakness, along with other afflictions, as His chisel for sculpting our lives. Felt weakness deepens dependence on Christ for strength each day. The weaker we feel, the harder we lean. And the harder we lean, the stronger we grow spiritually, even while our bodies waste away. To live with your ‘thorn’ uncomplainingly—that is, sweet, patient, and free in heart to love and help others, even though every day you feel weak—is true sanctification. It is true healing for the spirit. It is a supreme victory of grace. The healing of your sinful person thus goes forward, even though the healing of your mortal body does not. And the healing of persons is the name of the game so far as God is concerned.”  
— J.I. Packer

*2. ...that His power might be seen in us*

2 Cor. 13:4; 12:9-10

“The child of God is often called to suffer because there is nothing that will convince onlookers of the reality and power of true religion as suffering will do, when it is borne with Christian fortitude.”  
— F.B. Meyer

“It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply.”  
— A.W. Tozer