

mar 30

"now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. for we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. to the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life." 2 cor 2:14-16

so i ask, "how smelly are you"? are you a sweet smelling fragrance to those who believe and those who are being saved? do you put off an offensive odor to those who have rejected knowledge of the Holy One? or maybe worse still, do you have no distinguishable smell about you at all?

i say worse still because i would liken those to be like the laodiceans in the revelation of john. our Lord was not pleased with them. "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. so then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth." rev 3:15-16

again, it is like those who would seek to cover their light, no matter how dim or bright it may be. "nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." matt 5:15-16

and in still another example, i would have you recall

the story of the talents. "then he who had received the one talent came and said, 'Lord, i knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. and i was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. look, there you have what is yours.'" matt 25:24-24

for goodness sake, do not seek to cover the light that is in you. that's the same as denying our Lord. "whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven." matt 10:33 and do not bury your talent within yourself. that is refusing to share the fact that the gospel of Christ "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes".

i think our Lord's response to all of these would be the same. "cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." matt 25:30

so i would ask the question again, "how smelly are you"? i do not say any of this to put doubt or fear into your hearts. that's the devil's job and he excels at it. i say this as a warning, a gentle prodding from the Holy Spirit.

the end of this age is closing fast. now is the time if you're going to serve Him. it's time to become either hot or cold. it's time to not only make sure your lamp is still lit, but that there is enough oil to keep it burning. it's time to invest your talent for the Lord. whether there be gain or loss, take the risk. who knows if He honors effort the same as profit? knowing our Lord, He will cause it to profit.

His word will not return void. (see isa 55:11)

i ask you again to put on the fragrance of Christ. if your smell is fading away, douse yourself again in the Holy Spirit. He reeks with Jesus and you cannot emerge from His presence without lingering aftereffects, just like the glow on the face of moses lingered.

dare to gaze into Him as moses did. "but we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 cor 3:18 from glory to glory. that's what our Lord has in mind for us who love His word. "do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward ... for yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry.". heb 10:35,37 STAY SMELLY!