



Today's Message

Date: November 18, 2018
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *True Christian Love*

Text: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Introduction: Second Corinthians began in a rather dismal way with Paul defending his integrity and authority as an apostle. In today's sermon text, Paul breaks off his distasteful task to express his joy over the privilege of serving the gospel. His exultation begins in 2:14 to continues into chapter 7. One author calls the subject matter of this section "The Glory of the Ministry." The opening words of the text govern the paragraph: "Thanks be to God!"

Today's take-home truth: In every circumstance, give thanks for the privilege of gospel ministry.

I. Give thanks because Christ has conquered us. 14a

II. Give thanks because Christ spreads his own fame through us. 14b

III. Give thanks because Christ conquers others through us. 15-16

A. He wields mighty power . . . 15-16a

1. By his power, he gives life.
2. By his power, he brings death.

B. channeled through our humble weakness. 16b

IV. Give thanks because Christ entrusts to us the gospel. 17

A. We are not like the selfish who “use” the Word of God.

B. Instead, as thankful slaves of Christ . . .

1. we maintain integrity . . .
2. and always remember the One we serve . . .
3. so that we can speak with the authority of Christ.