Devotion #297

**Stinky Attitudes**

**2 Corinthians 2:15 (NASB)** *“For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing.”*

When our children were still with us at home there were times when their attitudes were not the best, and I should probably throw my wife and me into that arena as well. So we would say to them and to each other, “Your attitude smells really bad right now.”. Sometimes we would say, “Your attitude smells rotten.” if it were a really bad day for any of us. These statements were the triggers that would help us take a look at ourselves and make some adjustments - at least hopefully make some adjustments - so the whole house wasn’t in an uproar and everyone’s attitude smelled like garbage.

Unfortunately, bad attitudes are a result of our sinful selves just like anything else that affects us negatively, and they show up a lot more than we would like. Over the past couple of days with the gas pumps going dry, people have shown there stinky attitudes. I heard of one woman who put a man in a headlock at the pumps because he cut her off. There were the people cutting in line, totally ignoring the people who were doing what was right by waiting patiently for their turn. And I’m sure there are many more stories of stinky attitudes through this gas “shortage”.

But the Lord says His people are not to be like that. We are not to be ones who put our stinky attitudes on display in any setting. Just the opposite. Paul reminded the Corinthian church that because of Christ and his triumph over sin and death, we receive from Him the aroma of sweetness as we have been given the knowledge of Him in every place of our lives. (2 Corinthians 2:14) In return we are to remember that His aroma is to fill the room no matter where we are.

Admittedly, it is very easy to smell the wonderful aroma of Christ’s love in the church. I’m talking about being a part of the church but also when we’re with God’s people. I have often been saddened when the church comes together but many of the people are not there and miss the sweetness of Christ in our midst.

It is quite another thing to be the aroma of Christ in all His beauty when we are in situations that are ungodly or worldly or whatever. Kinda like when we are waiting at the pump, and people cut us off. Too often our stinky attitudes give off the odor of death in those moments instead of the pleasant, attracting aroma of Jesus. I wonder how many stories there are of people who showed the love and sweetness of Christ at the pumps these past couple of days? I wonder who was thinking they need to be a reflection of Jesus? I wonder how many people let others go in front of them at the pumps just because they wanted to show a different attitude to the lost world? We will probably never know. But God knows. The world is so used to smelling the garbage of the souls of men and women that the new fragrance of Christ would totally captivate them if they were to get a good whiff.

So what do you think? Would you be willing to put the brakes on long enough in these challenging times to spread the aroma of Christ? It takes some mental and spiritual effort, but in the end it could be that your pleasant aroma would so fill the heart of someone that God would help them see Himself and change their lives forever.

For sure, God doesn’t need us to save a soul. But He chooses to use us to do so. So we should make sure we check our stinky attitude at the door before we go out into the world. Someone’s eternity could depend on your fragrance.