

# Sermon Study Questions

## Sunday, September 29, 2024

1. Read 2 Corinthians 2:12-17
2. What was Paul's experience when he got to Troas? Some will argue that a really spiritual person will not experience anxiety. What are your thoughts about that notion, and how do you respond to it?
3. In the midst of chronicling the deep struggles he had in Troas and later in Macedonia, Paul suddenly breaks out in thanksgiving to God saying, "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." Describe the Roman "triumphal procession" Paul is envisioning here? What is God's triumphal procession? Cf. Col.2:13-15.
4. In speaking of God's triumphal procession, Paul sees himself not as the victor, but as the conquered. Why? What does Paul say his place is in God's triumphal procession?
5. What does Paul mean by speaking of the apostles as "the aroma of Christ to God"? What is he saying about them, and how does this rebuff the charge that he, as an apostle, wouldn't suffer if God was truly pleased with him?
6. In speaking of himself and the apostles as the aroma of Christ to God, he says they are so "among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to the one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life." What does he mean by that?
7. In v.16 Paul says, "Who is sufficient for these things?" What "things" is he referring to, and why does he say this?

8. In contrasting the apostles to the false teachers Paul goes on to say, "We are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word." What is meant by this phrase "peddler's of God's word"? What is different about Paul's apostolic preaching, and all faithful preaching, from one who peddles God's word?

9. In describing himself as a captive in God's triumphal procession, Paul suddenly breaks out in thanksgiving. In light of what he is telling us about the incredible hardships he endures as an apostle, why would he break out in thanks to God? What is the lesson you can learn from this, and what application can you draw from it?

10. Pray

**Reading of Law: Hebrews 13:5**

Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Prayer of Confession:**

Our Father who is in heaven, you are the one and only True and Living God. You are a God who is full of grace and mercy and power, and truly there is none like you. Father, you own a cattle on a thousand hills. Everything in creation is yours, and you are so kind and generous so as to share it with us and allow us to enjoy the bounty of what belongs to you. And yet Father, though you share so generously with us, we are often discontent with what we have. We confess that we often struggle to keep money in its right place in our hearts, as we are prone to prop it up and love it more than we should. We are those who struggle to be content, as we yearn for more than what you in your kindness have given to us. Moreover, what we years for is often misplaced, as we yearn for material goods and possessions, rather than spiritual growth and maturity. Father, we confess this and we ask that you forgive us. We ask that you create in us a clean heart; a heart that would be content with the provision you make for us; a heart that would know the supreme value of what you have given to us in Jesus Christ, as in Him we have the One who is infinitely more valuable than all earthly riches combined, and in Him you have blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. And for this we thank you and adore you, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

## **Assurance of Forgiveness: Nehemiah 9:17**

But you are a God ready to forgive, gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

### **WLC: 147**

Q. 147. What are the duties required in the tenth commandment?

A. The duties required in the tenth commandment are, such a full contentment with our own condition, and such a charitable frame of the whole soul toward our neighbor, as that all our inward motions and affections touching him, tend unto, and further all that good which is his.

[Heb. 13:5](#); [1 Tim. 6:6](#); [Job 31:29](#); [Rom. 12:15](#); [Ps. 122:7-9](#); [1 Tim. 1:5](#); [Esther 10:3](#); [1 Cor. 13:4-7](#).

### **OT Reading: Ezekiel 20:40-44**

"For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, declares the Lord GOD, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land. There I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred offerings. <sup>41</sup> As a pleasing aroma I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered. And I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations. <sup>42</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I bring you into the land of Israel, the country that I swore to give to your fathers. <sup>43</sup> And there you shall remember your ways and all your deeds with which you have defiled yourselves, and you shall loathe yourselves for all the evils that you have committed. <sup>44</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I deal with you for my name's sake, not according to your evil ways, nor according to your corrupt deeds, O house of Israel, declares the Lord GOD."