

## LIFE GROUP SERMON SUMMARY QUESTIONS

## 2 Corinthians Series

These questions are for the **May 20, 2018** sermon, "The Victor's Aroma." Please read the sermon passage (2 Corinthians 2:12-17) together out loud.

### Sermon Outline

AS WE CONSIDER THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL, NOTE . . .

1. The open doors provided by God (2:12-13)
  - a. A closed door is not necessarily a locked door. Learn to wait on the LORD.
  - b. Paul did not open the door himself, but "the door was opened for him."
  - c. Paul was less concerned with his earthly zip code, and much more concerned that he was accomplishing the work of his heavenly zip code.
  - d. Paul had stress and tension, despite the fact that he was in the center of God's will.
    - i. We will often have stress and discomfort because we are walking with God.
    - ii. You can be "in the Lord," and still "not at rest."
  - e. When your timing conflicts with God's, learn to trust God's timing.
2. The conquering Savior provided by God (2:14-17)
  - a. Thanksgiving is a spiritual discipline which should be offered . . .
    - i. even while we struggle with disappointments (especially in relationships)
    - ii. even while we wait on something we are praying for.
  - b. In speaking of good news, we necessarily speak of a conquering and victorious Savior.
  - c. While nations parade political and military victories, Jesus Christ outshines them all.
  - d. Our gospel is to be actively proclaimed among the nations . . .
    - i. to those who reject Jesus, we become the "aroma of death" and defeat.
    - ii. to those who are being saved, the same aroma is ultimate victory.

### Life Group Discussion Questions

1. Based on #1, above: Are you waiting on God to open any doors right now? Of opportunity? Relationship? or ministry direction? How do you wait without being passive? How do you knock without being aggressive? When a door opens, how can you be sure it is God who has opened it for you?
2. Based on #1, above: We sometimes think that being in the center of God's will produce perfect rest, great sleep and a reduction of stress. But being in the center of God's will often produces resistance from the evil one, incredible responsibility and a sense of weakness. How can you discern the difference between tranquility and passivity? When might God be using stress, discomfort and disappointment as a tool to shape you as you remain in the center of his will?
3. Based on #2, above: In speaking of good news, we necessarily need to speak of a victorious Savior, Jesus Christ. Some will reject the message, as if we are bringing up defeat and death. Some will love the message as if we are announcing complete and total victory. But we must verbalize this message of victory. When was the last time you proclaimed this message? How was it received? Is there someone that you sense God is preparing to "smell" this aroma as the aroma of life? How can we be praying for you?