

A. Now we turn to Paul's further teaching of the Church in Corinth - beginning:

*Praises to the God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is adequate to this? (II Corinthians 2:14-17) see II Cor. 4:6*

A. This is Evangelical theology: II Corinthians 5:18-21. And Romans 8:1-11.

- a. The goal of all creation
  - i. The meaning of life
  - ii. The cognizance (coming to understanding) of human existence
- b. The Knowledge of God (not knowledge about God)
  - i. Isaiah 11:9 *They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*
  - ii. What Paul speaks of as his coming to understand: Philippians 3:3-11

B. This new fragrance of Life is to permeate the Christian life and change the earth

- a. It begins in revelation
  - i. God creates man to know him
  - ii. God acts to reveal his existence (I Am) - his will (the Teaching) - and his nature (person)
- b. In Revelation
  - i. We meet God in his revelation
  - ii. The Revelation includes and brings reconciliation
  - iii. The Reconciliation brings to us grace and truth
  - iv. This produces Renewal - the new birth
    - 1. Rescue - Restoration - Re-creation
    - 2. This is all in the Word of God

John 1:14 *Καὶ ὁ λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο - And the Word became flesh*

- i. The Word speaks, The Word acts, The Word reveals, The Word heals
- ii. The Word IS God
- iii. The word becomes flesh
  - 1. It does more than "put on" flesh
  - 2. The word is incarnate - Christ is known while remaining mystery
  - 3. He unites the Divine to the temporal
  - 4. From within God as "The Eternal Father" goes forth as "The Son" (Word) which reveals, and rescues, and restores - changing the aroma of our lives. Jesus IS the revelation of the true God.
  - 5. God derives his being in his Will - he wills to be flesh enlivened.
  - 6. Here is the Evangel - The Good News.
- C. This is the key to all understanding of the work of God in scripture (Israel) and in creation - herein lies the key to resisting heresies and idols of our creating in his name.

Christ taught us that "The Knowledge of God" was the key to ageless life: *This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you sent. (John 17:3)*

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