

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **2Corinthians 2:14-17**. Sentinel, OK; 16 .
- B. Everyone likes the smell of sweet flowers, or a hot meal cooking on the stove.
- C. Conversely, the smell of some factories and animals can turn people off.
- D. Paul tells us that as Christians, Christ leads God's triumphal procession and the aroma of it is sweet to some and not so sweet to others.
- E. Today's lesson deals with God's triumph and what it means to use

I. WHAT WAS THE CONDITION?

- A. To understand more completely God's triumph in Christ over sin, we need to look at the condition of the Jews at the time of Jesus' ministry.
- B. We shall look at three groups of people:
 - 1. The Pharisees.
 - 2. The Sadducees.
 - 3. The scribes or lawyers.

II. THE PHARISEES.

- A. To get a good picture of what a Pharisee was like we notice Jesus' words in Matthew 23:13-39:
 - 1. They were keeping themselves and others from receiving Christ and salvation (v13).
 - 2. They made converts (proselytes) to human opinion, not God's word (v14).
 - 3. They did not put things in proper perspective (tithing over justice, mercy and faith) (v23).
 - 4. The end sometimes justified the means (It didn't make any difference how the meat was obtained, just so long as the utensils were clean) (v25).
- B. God's triumph was over the hypocrites and blind guides of Christ's day.

III. SADDUCEES.

- A. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection and Jesus taught them differently (Mt. 22:23-34).
- B. The Sadducees persecuted the early church because of the apostles' teaching (Ac. 4:1,2; 5:17).
- C. God's triumph in Christ was over false teaching and lasting persecution.

IV. THE SCRIBES (AND LAWYERS).

- A. The term 'scribe' is synonymous with 'lawyer' in the N.T.
- B. The scribes were notorious transmitting unwritten, oral law as more important than Mosaic (written) law. Jesus nullified this practice (Mk. 7:5-13).
- C. God's triumph in Christ was over the human tradition and teachings of men.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God sent Christ into the world to save us and set us free from sin (Jn. 3:16; 1:29; Lk. 19:10).
- B. In doing this God triumphed over:
 - 1. Hypocrisy.
 - 2. Blind guides.
 - 3. False teaching.
 - 4. Persecution.
 - 5. Human tradition.
- C. We can also triumph over these things if we will obey God, by obeying His Son, Jesus Christ.
- D. When we know the truth, the truth will set us free (Jn. 8:32).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.

