

March 13, 2022

We Are Victorious

Pastor Chris Ogden

Passage: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

14But 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. 15For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, 16to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? 17For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

Background

Like all churches during the past two years, both the Horizon West and John Young campuses of First Orlando have had to deal with what has seemed like 'unstable ground.' Paul was no stranger to the uncertainty of life and desperate circumstances – whether he found himself in prison, threatened by a mob, or shipwrecked. But regardless of his situation, Paul continuously pointed other believers to hold tightly to the promises of a faithful God. Today, we step out of our series to hear from Pastor Chris Ogden, our Horizon West campus pastor, as he helps us see from the life of the apostle Paul how we can live from a place of victory even when life feels wobbly.

Service Notes

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Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Our hope is to have meaningful conversations around God’s Word, not simply answer all the questions. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- What is one specific way you saw God at work in or through you this week? How can we pray for you?

Talk it Over

- **Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-17.** In this passage, how does Paul describe what Christ does *for* us and *through* us? What do you think it means for us to be the ‘aroma of Christ’? How do we spread the knowledge of Christ to others? How did this mindset shape the way Paul lived his life? What are the differences between ‘peddlers of God’s Word’ and ‘men of sincerity’? How do we avoid being the former?
- **Read Galatians 2:20 and Philippians 4:10-13.** How do these passages demonstrate Paul’s approach to every circumstance of his life? How can we learn to ‘empty’ ourselves more each day so that the life of Jesus lives through us? What does mean practically to be ‘crucified in Christ’? In what areas of your life do you believe there is a lack of contentment? What steps can you take to rely more on Christ in that area? In Philippians, what does Paul say the secret is to contentment?
- **Read Acts 20:17-27.** In this final conversation with some of his friends, how does Paul describe the mission entrusted to him? What can we learn from his attitude and his approach despite all he experienced? How does Paul’s clarity of calling and intentionality of living challenge you (vs. 24)? In what ways does your life right now (work, family, hobbies, resources) serve ‘to testify to gospel of the grace of God’? How would life change for you if you had the confidence and clarity Paul displayed throughout his ministry? How can you take steps be more intentional in your everyday life to ‘testify’ about Christ?

Live it Out

- What is one promise from God in Scripture that you can focus on this week so you can keep proper perspective of whatever circumstance you might be going through?