



Real Life Ministry ~ 2 Corinthians 2:12-3:6  
February 15, 2026

next week: 2 Corinthians 3:7-18

## Questions for the Community

**What does the Bible say?** (goal: go slow, notice the text, let God speak for Himself in the words of His book)

1. In verses 12–13, what opportunity did Paul have in Troas? Why did he leave anyway?
2. Review the “victory parade” discussed on Sunday. According to verse 14, who leads the triumphal procession? What is Paul’s role in it?
3. What spreads everywhere through believers in verse 14?
4. In verses 15–16, how can the same “aroma” produce two completely different reactions?
5. What question does Paul ask in verse 16? Why would ministry make someone ask that?
6. How does Paul describe true ministers in verse 17 compared to false teachers?

**What does it mean?** (goal: get to the heart of the text by understanding what Paul is teaching then and how it relates to now)

7. Why do you think Paul chose the image of a Roman victory parade to describe Christian ministry?
8. What does it practically mean that we are not the hero of the parade but part of Christ’s procession?
9. How can the gospel honestly feel like “life” to some people and “death” to others?
10. What danger was Paul warning about when he mentioned “peddling God’s word”?
11. Why is it important that ministry success is not based on personality, gifting, or technique?

**What do I do?** (goal: move from understanding to faithful, obedient lived response; this is sometimes plain and sometimes requires listening in prayer)

12. Is there a door of opportunity for you to represent Christ in your circles (home, work, neighborhood, church?).
13. Are there any hard situations you’ve been tempted to avoid (like Paul going back to the Corinthians instead of moving on to the new and exciting)? What does love require of you?
14. How have you tried to change the smell of the Gospel? (i.e. softened hard messages). What does faithfulness look like?
15. How might God be using hardship to give off the aroma of Christ right now?