

LWML *Texas* District

June 5, 2023

Bible Study

Scents

Growing up in the city there weren't a lot of unidentified plants around. Most lawns were well manicured with tightly edged curbs maintained by professionals. Country life is a completely different story. When I am walking pastures and around stock ponds there is plenty of unidentified vegetation.

On a recent walk, I decided to pull such a plant. It was in the middle of my path. Later that day, I found my hands reeked terribly. I could not for the life of me figure out where I had picked up the stench. Even after washing my hands many times with various detergents, the smell remained.

Sometimes our sin is like the scent of a stink weed. We sin against God or our neighbor, and the result of that sin is a long-lasting stench impacting our relationships. People do not want to get near us, or we avoid others out of guilt of our sin. Thankfully, the blood of Jesus can remove even the nastiest of sins, and the strongest stench of our guilt.

It took a solid two weeks for the smell of the stink weed on my hands to completely dissipate. The earthly consequences of our sins may remain for a time, but we can rest knowing that our place in eternity is secured through the work of Jesus on the cross.

Did you know Christians put off a smell? Paul says, *But 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. 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* (2 Corinthians 2:14–16a).

The fragrance of incense and sacrifice was pleasing to God, offered up as prayers of the people. We are God's witnesses here on earth to those around us. We can speak life, a pleasing aroma, to others. We can also speak death or curses, which reek like the stink weeds. *I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore, choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them* (Deuteronomy 30:19–20). What scent are you bringing today?

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