

## Life Group Notes 6/1/2025

### Pastor Richie Cayabyab

### Christ's Aroma

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time.

– Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.

**Remember:** Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

***Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.***

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

**Note:** I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 6/1. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes.

**Important:** At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

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After communion, the service began by honoring those graduating this year. This is an appropriate time to share any thanksgiving, concerns and prayer requests. Take a moment to share. If you get a chance, share God's graduate verse with your graduates from Psalm 105:19. "Until the Word/Promise of the LORD came to pass, the Word/Promise tested him [Joseph]." Remind them that the promise they received stepping into faith was only a seed, but for Joseph and his childhood promise, though he didn't know until it happened, the journey from Pharaoh's dungeon to Pharaoh's right hand was always only two dreams away. His only task, as he waited, was to remain faithful. God bless the faithful graduates.

Pastor Richie began with praise to God, and then he said, "When you are walking in the Spirit, God is making something new. Look up Revelation 21: ***4*** *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the former things have passed away.*" ***5*** *And the One seated on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new."* *Then He said, "Write this down, for these words are faithful and*

**6**And He told me, *"It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give freely from the spring of the water of life.*

1. What is He not making new?
2. Do we see new things yet? Explain.
3. Why should we wait for new things, then? What assurance do we have that they are happening?
4. Look up Jeremiah 1: **11***And the word of the LORD came to me, asking, "Jeremiah, what do you see?" "I see a branch of an almond tree," I replied. 12**"You have observed correctly," said the LORD, "for I am watching [Hebrew: branching] over My word to accomplish it."* How faithful is God to keep all His promises?
5. Now look up 1 Thessalonians 5: **23***Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your entire spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24**The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it/bring it to pass. 25**Brothers, pray for us as well.* Answer the above question again. How faithful is He to bring to pass what He began?
6. Knowing this, why does Paul ask the Thessalonians for prayer (v. 25)? What is a "co-laborer?"

Pastor Richie continued, "God is changing your heart. God is changing your mind. God is changing your entire being."

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. Do you have concerns?
3. Is all this change going well? Or is it taking too long?
4. How long did it take for Joseph to get from the drywell to the pit of Pharaoh's dungeon. How long from the dungeon until God was able to elevate him to Pharaoh's right hand?
5. Explain Why couldn't Joseph just go from the well directly to the right hand?
6. What ingredients were missing? Why did Pharaoh not need Joseph at the time when he was sold to Potiphar?

Review again 2 Corinthians 5: **17***Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away. Behold, the new has come! 18**All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.*

1. How well acquainted was Paul with the new? How did he know this?
2. Describe Paul's "old" that had since passed away? Was there anything left in Paul of his "old?" (For instance, what was his "old" name before he was "Paul?")

Richie said, "Whether you feel it or sense it, when you are walking in the Spirit God is making something new. That's the nature of the God that we follow. The old has gone and the new has come, despite the enemy who will whisper lies to you, saying, 'No. You're still the old guy...the same sinner. You will keep doing the same things you were doing in the past. You're going to fall, because you are a sinner.' Church, can I just tell you, when Jesus gave you the Holy Spirit you became a new creation. You ARE no longer a sinner. You have been made righteous in the Lord. You ARE a saint in the eyes of God."

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. What do these words do to you?
3. Is there an enemy trying to discourage and distract you? Explain.
4. Review Romans 8: **28***And we know that God works all things together for the good of those who love Him, who are called according to His purpose. 29**For those God*

*foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brothers. **30**And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified. **31**What then shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Answer Paul's question. Who can be against you, successfully?*

5. In what ways was Joseph tested? Have you caught up to Joseph in testing, yet?
6. What does the victory look like in your situation? Write down your answer.

Richie says, this is not even the message. "I'm just warming up."

1. What came next?
2. What do you remember?
3. Do you have a favorite scent? What is it?
4. Are you aware of other people's scents?
5. Look up Ephesians 5: **1***Be imitators of God, therefore, as beloved children, **2**and walk in love, just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant sacrificial offering to God. **3**But among you, as is proper among the saints, there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed.* How does self-sacrifice become fragrant?
6. What pollutes the air around a person?
7. Look up Ecclesiastes 10: **1***As dead flies bring a stench to the perfumer's oil, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honor. **2**A wise man's heart inclines to the right, but the heart of a fool to the left.* What pollutes the air around a person?
8. How uncomfortable are you when the odors in the room are not healthy?

Pastor Richie began the message from 2 Corinthians. Look at chapter 2: **12***Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and a door stood open for me in the Lord, **13**I had no peace in my spirit, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia.*

1. What do you see? What went wrong?
2. What was Paul expecting in Troas?
3. What two cities from Macedonia can you name?
4. How well is Paul acquainted with the Philippians? With the Thessalonians?
5. How important are Paul's associates to him? What risks do they face every day?
6. Why does it matter that Titus isn't there?

Continuing on: 2 Cor 2: **14***But thanks be to God, who always leads us triumphantly as captives in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of Him. **15**For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. **16**To the one we are an odor that brings death, to the other a fragrance that brings life. And who is qualified for such a task? **17**For we are not like so many others, who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God.*

1. What do you notice?
2. Explain how Paul is a captive (v. 14)? Captive of whom? Before whom is Paul on display?
3. When Paul is put on display before you like this, what do you see?
4. Explain the concept of "aroma" here. What does a Christian bring with him into any place he goes? How does that effect the atmosphere in the room?
5. How is he the "aroma of life" to some and the "odor that brings death" to another?

6. Was Jesus Himself the “aroma of life” to some and the “aroma of death to others?”
  7. Specifically, who hated Jesus? Why?
  8. What “smells good” to a Pharisee? What stinks to that Pharisee?
  9. What do you learn from the Pharisees’ example?
  10. Look at verse 14 above. How is being “captive in Christ” a triumph? Describe the aroma.
  11. What does your victory look like for you?
  12. Can you sense in a room when someone is depressed or discouraged? How? What is their aroma?
  13. In your own words, describe the “aroma of the knowledge of Christ” that Paul is talking about. How do fragrances get spread?
  14. Richie says, “When I go into a coffee shop and get my mocha, and sit and spend time journaling with the Word of the Lord, I believe that when I leave, those people there are going to sense my presence, because I carry the fragrance of God.” Do you have a testimony?
  15. He continued, “I believe that when you go anywhere, the enemy knows that you’re there, and he’s scared.” Do you have a testimony?
  16. How do you know if you’re following the Spirit when listening to a teaching? Where is your mind?
  17. What does a triumphal procession look like? Who is on display? Who else?
  18. Richie says, “If you were following your flesh, you’d be somewhere else, today. If you’re following your flesh, you won’t even sing. If you’re following your flesh, you won’t open your Bible. If you’re following your flesh, you would have already tuned out already, saying, ‘Who is this Asian guy. Why does he have a man bun?’” Do you have a testimony?
  19. What happens if you are listening to the Holy Spirit?
  20. Look again at the verses above, “**15**For we are to God the sweet aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. **16**To the one we are an odor that brings death, to the other a fragrance that brings life. And who is qualified for such a task?” Answer Paul’s question? Who is qualified?
  21. How real is this principle in your life? How can you tell, among your own acquaintances, who is being saved and who is perishing?
  22. What is your attitude toward “those who are perishing?” What is your strategy toward them?
  23. Pastor Richie says, “If you refrain from speaking. If you do not speak the good news of Jesus, there is no fragrance.” Explain. How is the fragrance released?
- Look up John 3: **16**For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that everyone who believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. **17**For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. **18**Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.
1. Explain this passage in terms of fragrance. Where does the aroma of God originate.
  2. What does love smell like?
  3. What does salvation smell like? What does unbelief smell like?

"They're not going to know that they're spiritually dead, unless you speak the truth. For those people who are being saved, when you begin to speak God's love, God's Word, God's truth, something in them begins to be revived and to respond. 'Are you a Christian? What church do you go to? You have a journaling group? What do you do there?'"

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. What is it like when doorways of conversation open up for you?
3. Have you benefited from a "Do what Jesus did" life group at Grace? Can you share what this means?
4. While sharing his testimony with a friend in the group, that friend told Pastor Richie, "I wish I had heard this testimony ten years ago." Why?
5. Look at Paul's testimony, from a life bent on stopping The Way, and arresting followers, to a life dedicated to sharing the Way and establishing followers. What happened?
6. Have you prayed to be like Paul? What would you look like? Write down your thoughts?
7. Do you know anyone who hated Christians and then became one? Share the story.

Examine Paul's story, Acts 9: [11](#) "Get up!" the Lord told him. "Go to the house of Judas on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying. [12](#) In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias come and place his hands on him to restore his sight." [13](#) But Ananias answered, "Lord, many people have told me about this man and all the harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. [14](#) And now he is here with authority from the chief priests to arrest all who call on Your name." [15](#) "Go!" said the Lord. "This man is My chosen instrument to carry My name before the Gentiles and their kings, and before the people of Israel. [16](#) I will show him how much he must suffer for My name."

1. What do you notice? What was Paul expecting on his way to Damascus?
2. How had Paul's reputation gone before him? Describe his "old fragrance."
3. What changed?
4. Did Jesus hold any information back from Paul when He was called?
5. Review what Paul told his friends in Corinth, 2 Corinthians 5: [13](#) *If we are out of our mind, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you.* [14](#) For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, therefore all died. What motivated Paul?
6. What motivates you? How does love motivate someone to do anything?
7. Paul suffered for Christ. List the ways in which he suffered that you know of?
8. What have we got to do to please God? What do we get to do, because we are pleasing to Him? Explain.

Look again at [2 Cor 5:17](#) above: [17](#) *For we are not like so many others, who peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, as men sent from God.*

1. What do others do?
2. How do you peddle the Word of God for profit? Did that actually happen in Paul's day?
3. Does that still happen today?
4. How does one "speak before God with sincerity?" For whom does that person work? Who's definitely listening when you "speak before God with sincerity?" Who else is hopefully listening?

5. If the word you preach is a seed, once you've planted the seed...what makes that word grow?
  6. Do you have to do anything more? List next steps.
  7. If you can do more, as a farmer, what do you do after planting?
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**Follow up application:**

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. Look at your current situation. What does victory look like? What do you triumph over?
3. Imagine a "road to Damascus" event. What changes in your own life? Who finds out first? Write down your thoughts?
4. Write down your testimony...reduce it to three minutes.

***Take the time to pray.***

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**For further study:**

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—Write what God is saying. / **P**ray—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Psalm 105:19 Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 10:1 Wednesday: Jeremiah 1:11-12 Thursday: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-25 Friday: 2 Corinthians 2:14-17 Saturday: Ephesians 5:1-3 Sunday: Revelation 21:4-7
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Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.