

Analogy for a Christian's Place in the World

- When we hear: Life is like... a box of chocolates... bowl full of cherries... a mountain railroad
We know what is meant. These are analogies and the Apostle Paul used three to describe Christians and our role in the world.
- God reveals Himself in His Word, in nature, in the Lord Jesus Christ, and through us!
- We are an aroma, a letter, and ambassadors

Analogy 1: An Aroma- 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

- In first century AD Rome, when soldiers would march through the city in victory, people would throw flowers into the street before them. These flowers would be crushed under the soldiers' or horses' feet and release their scent.
 - As a gardener in the rose garden picks up the scent of the roses, so those who spend more time with the Lord give off His fragrance.
 - A rose gives off its smell, but when crushed the scent is stronger, as with the case of the Roman victory march.
 - It is also like a baker's store, which gives off the smell of warm, fresh bread that can't be contained, God wants our aroma of Him to be uncontained.
- Read also **2 Corinthians 6:4-11**

Analogy 2: A Letter- 2 Corinthians 3:1-5

- Christians are to be the Bible, constantly and consistently, read by others.
(This is based on the tense in the original Greek used in **v.1-3**)
 - The Holy Spirit gives the ability to do this.
 - v.3-5** exemplified:
 - Billy Graham, the evangelist who led thousands to the Lord Jesus Christ, was shown to the Lord by his Sunday School teacher. The Sunday School teacher was brought to Christ by a shoe salesman.
 - The hymn, "On Christ the Solid Rock" was written by a carpenter.
 - God uses all kinds of people throughout the Bible and today to do amazing things for His glory,
never assume that He can't use you in the same way.
- Read also **2 Corinthians 3:6,12; 4:1-5, 10-11, 16-18**
- NOTE: letter in 3:6 refers to the Law rather than believers as a letter, as was the previous metaphor**
- v.10-11:** Christ's life should be obvious in our own.
 - v.16-18:** Never give up, our hope is unseen, but certainly real, eternal, and wondrous.

Analogy 3: Ambassadors- 2 Corinthians 5:11-21

- v.19-21:** Just as US ambassadors represent the president, we represent the Lord. If people want to know what God desires then our actions and lives should reflect that for those who do not know the Lord.

-Accountability to God will be required one day, and as the prophet Ezekial was charged to be a watchman (**Ezekial 3:16-27**), we too must reach out to those who are lost and let the Lord's presence permeate our lives so that our very fragrance is of him, the Word can be seen and read through us, and that those who are lost will know the Lord's love and will by our actions.