

Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life

Welcome

Tell us about a really nice letter you once received. What did it tell you about the person who wrote it?

Worship

Read Psalm 19

- Share the verse you like the most.
- Read the Psalm again, asking that the eyes of your heart be opened to see God at work in the world and in his word.

Word

Read 2 Corinthians 2: 14 - 16

Paul uses an image of a military victory procession. A ruler might return from a successful military campaign and parade through the capital city's streets. In the parade there would be captives - especially any VIPs taken prisoner during the battles. It's a problematic image for us because it only depicts one aspect of our relationship with Christ. Yes, we have been taken captive - but we are those captivated by love, not enslaved through military might.

- How do you respond to the notion of us being 'captives' of Christ?
- Next comes an image of an 'aroma'; obviously Paul is not referring to a literal smell, so what does he mean by this talk of an aroma? What does he tell us about it? What is it about an aroma that makes this a useful metaphor?

Read 2 Corinthians 3: 1 - 3

- What is the purpose of a letter of recommendation?
- Explore the idea that the Corinthians themselves were a letter of recommendation: Who would 'read' this letter? Who 'wrote' it? With what 'ink' and on what 'tablet' was it written?
- How do you respond to the idea that you might yourself be a letter from Christ to those who know you?

Respond

- In your journal - or somewhere else - write down a 'letter' putting into words what others might think about Jesus based on your behaviour, character and words.
- Stay positive! Remember we are in the cycle of grace, not the cycle of works! But then meditate on your 'letter' this week, and seek the grace, the wisdom and the strength you need to allow Christ to write with the ink of the Spirit on the tablet of your heart.