

## Smelly Christians

By Elder Curtis Pugh, now with the Lord

<http://gracebiblebaptists.org/PughsCorner/SmellyChristians-Pugh.html>

There is an interesting contrast regarding the reaction of people to those who are genuine children of God. It has to do with the "savour" or smell of those who are born again. Proof: "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life..." (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). Genuine Christians (not hypocrites or false professors) have a smell. Unto God this smell is a sweet one. We know this because Paul wrote "we are unto God a sweet savour [smell] of Christ."

Humanity is divided into two groups. Paul wrote of "them that are saved" and "them that perish." These are the two groups: saved people and perishing ones. These two groups react differently to the smell given off by those in whom the Holy Spirit dwells. Remember the Holy Spirit of God dwells permanently in those who are born again. We know this because the Bible says, "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his," (Romans 8:8-9). Those who never experience the indwelling Spirit are among "them that perish." They are "none of his." It is this Holy Spirit within the true believer that causes him or her to give off an odor. Such people are different. They live different lives from those around them. They follow holiness. They persevere in righteousness. God's Word says, "The righteous also shall hold on his way..." (Job 17:9). This is not because of what the believer is in and of himself, but rather because the Spirit of God is operative in him from his new birth forward.

So to "them that perish" genuine Christians smell like death. Not only do they smell like death, they smell like "death unto death." That means that the child of God is a death-conveying odor leading to the death of "them that perish." They want nothing to do with genuine Christianity although they may love their religion. The idea of salvation by grace alone is not reasonable to them. They think they are saved because of their works and trust in what they have done: praying, 'speaking in tongues,' having been baptized, 'going forward,' etc.

In contrast to "them that perish" are "them that are saved." To them genuine children of God smell like life. The children of God are a life-conveying odor leading to life of "them that are saved."

The all important question is this: what do genuine Christians smell like to you? Children of God do indeed give off an odor. Is it pleasant and inviting or do you find the true children of God offensive by the odor they give off? Will you live or will you perish?



Today is October 15, 2023

Sovereign Grace

Missionary Baptist Church

"Where the Truths of God's Word Have Been Taught  
for Sixty-One Years" Since October 21, 1961

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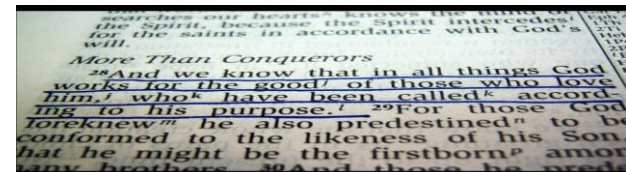
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### Pray For Our Church Supported Mission Works

Missionary Dan and Sunny Sullivan in Thailand, Elder Raul and the Printing work Romania, and the Berea Baptist Banner Mantachie, Ms.



# Pastor's Message

## "The Lord's Elected Fold."

By Pastor Randy Johnson

*"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."* John 10:16

God said in Ephesians 1:4 *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"* The question must be asked, who are the "us" in this verse? The word "us" are those who are the elect of God chosen before the foundation of the world was ever created by God Himself. People who want to deny the election of God must deny the whole of the scriptures. Some people say that the doctrine of election means that God was selective of some and refused others, and this would be true. When God said in John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* God cannot mean the entire population of the world because God does not love every soul who has lived in the world. The greatest example is Esau, God said in Romans 9:13 *"As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."* God did not come to hate Esau because God never loved Esau. We must remember that God is eternal, and He never changes, *"the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."* Jas. 1:17 Therefore, God never loved Esau, not ever, therefore it must be concluded that God never loved everyone in the world. God said in Rev. 17:8 *"...whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world..."* If names were not written, then they are not the elect of God. But it also tells us that names were written, and written before the foundation of the world.

Now, let us understand that while some claim that the elect of God are the Jews only, but this cannot be true. God has an elected nation in Israel and an elected people in those elected from the entire world's population. When John wrote *"For God so loved the world..."* He could have not included the entire population because not only did God hate Esau, but the Psalmist also wrote *"...thou hatest all workers of iniquity."* Psm. 5:5

With this all being said, we have established that the elect of God is not only to the Jews but to the Gentiles also let us look farther into John 10:16. Jesus said, *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold..."* also making known that while the elected fold included some Jews, it was not limited to Jews but also some Gentiles. Jesus went on to say *"them also I must bring"* that is into this fold which would include the world or the Jews and Gentiles

## "The Lord's Elected Fold." Continued

being in the fold together. But Jesus went farther when He said, *"...they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."* These elect Gentiles would hear His voice and they would come to Him for salvation, and they, and the Jews would be ONE-FOLD WITH ONE SHEPHERD. There is no more Jews and Gentiles but one-fold, one Saviour, and one nation. You cannot be one if you are not one and united in Christ. Jesus said in His prayer, *"I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."* John 17:9 – 10 Here is the true answer to John 3:16 that He did not include the entire population but rather the elect from the world, elected before the foundation of the world. Then in verse 20 we see Jesus add us to His prayer, *"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;"* John 17:20 But He never included the entire world.

Before the foundation of the world God had an Elected fold of souls, He gave this fold to His Son Jesus, and Jesus was born in time and redeemed them with His blood. This entire fold, both Jews and Gentiles are one-fold with one Saviour. Jesus said in conclusion, *"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."* John 6:37 Thank you Lord for saving my soul and for making me your child, inserting me in your fold before the foundation of the world, Amen!



- **The Church will be observing the Lord's Supper** on Sunday Oct. 22. This is one day after our churches 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary.
- **Happy Birthday** - Brother Justin Bookout, Monday October 16
- **Happy Anniversary** – Brother Frank & Sister Dawana Reigel, Wednesday October 18

**Clocks Fall Back One Hour Sunday, November 5**

