



# FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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## AROMA THERAPY



MOST PEOPLE LIKE AIR FRESHENERS WITH SCENTS OF PINE, CITRUS OR EVEN CHRISTMAS COOKIES. SOME EVEN DIFFUSE ESSENTIAL OILS LIKE LAVENDER, PEPPERMINT, LEMON OR EUCALYPTUS. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT GOD LIKES PLEASING SMELLS ALSO?

GOD ENJOYS THE SMELL OF ALTAR OFFERINGS. WE FIND THE FIRST REFERENCE TO THIS IN GENESIS 8:21 WHERE WE READ THAT “THE LORD SMELLED THE

SOOTHING AROMA” OF NOAH’S SACRIFICE AND DETERMINED NEVER AGAIN TO FLOOD THE EARTH. IN FACT, WE FIND THE PHRASE “SOOTHING AROMA,” OR “SWEET SAVOR,” IN SCRIPTURE FORTY-TWO TIMES. AS A PART OF THE TABERNACLE GOD CALLED FOR AN ALTAR OF INCENSE. IN EXODUS 30:7-8 HE INSTRUCTS AARON TO “BURN FRAGRANT INCENSE ON IT; HE SHALL BURN IT EVERY MORNING WHEN HE TRIMS THE LAMPS. AND WHEN AARON TRIMS THE LAMPS AT TWILIGHT, HE SHALL BURN INCENSE. THERE SHALL BE PERPETUAL INCENSE BEFORE THE LORD THROUGHOUT YOUR GENERATIONS.” LIKEWISE, GOD INDICATED THAT HE DESIRED INCENSE WITH THE GRAIN AND MEAT OFFERINGS GIVEN TO HIM (SEE LEVITICUS 6:15 AND NUMBERS 28:2).

WHEN GOD IS ANGRY WITH HIS PEOPLE AND HANDS THEM OVER FOR JUDGMENT, HE REFUSES TO BE SOOTHED BY THE PEOPLE’S FRAGRANT OFFERINGS. IN LEVITICUS 26:31 GOD SAYS, “I WILL LAY WASTE YOUR CITIES AS WELL AND WILL MAKE YOUR SANCTUARIES DESOLATE, AND I WILL NOT SMELL YOUR SOOTHING AROMAS.” BY CONTRAST, GOD’S PLEASURE AND ACCEPTANCE IS INDICATED BY THE PHRASE “AS A SOOTHING AROMA I WILL ACCEPT YOU” IN EZEKIEL 20:41.

THE APPEASEMENT OF GOD’S RIGHTEOUS WRATH IS ACCOMPLISHED BY AN ATONING SACRIFICE. THE OLD TESTAMENT PRIESTS OFFERING OF INCENSE WAS “TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR ISRAEL, ACCORDING TO ALL THAT MOSES THE SERVANT OF GOD HAD COMMANDED.” (1 CHRONICLES 6:49.) IN EPHESIANS 5:2 CHRIST’S SACRIFICE FOR US ON THE CROSS IS DESCRIBED AS THAT OF GIVING HIMSELF UP FOR US, “AN OFFERING AND A SACRIFICE TO GOD AS A FRAGRANT AROMA.”

FINALLY, OUR WORK FOR GOD IS REFERRED TO BY MEANS OF ITS FRAGRANCE. II CORINTHIANS 2:14 SAYS, “BUT THANKS BE TO GOD, WHO ALWAYS LEADS US IN TRIUMPH IN CHRIST, AND MANIFESTS THROUGH US THE SWEET AROMA OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM IN EVERY PLACE.” OUR EVANGELISM SMELLS GOOD TO GOD! FURTHERMORE, PAUL REFERS TO THE PHILIPPIANS GRACIOUS GIFTS FOR HIS MISSIONARY MINISTRY AS “A FRAGRANT AROMA, AN ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE, WELL PLEASING TO GOD.” (PHIL. 4:18).

NEXT TIME YOU SMELL SOMETHING REALLY GOOD THINK ABOUT HOW GOD ENJOYS AROMA THERAPY.

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE