

Sermon Notes

2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 NRSV | Written by Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson

This is the fifth in our fall preaching series on Second Corinthians. Paul had more problems with this church than all the others he started (and served) combined. However, through the conflict and hurt, the Good News of the Gospel is still displayed, and character is forged through fire. We spent two weeks in chapters 8 & 9 to be able to talk about generosity and giving, and now we are back at the end of chapter 2 where the tension is still evident between Paul and the people he is called to serve. How should he respond to the attacks surrounding his authority and his credentials? In Philippians 3, Paul offers his pedigree and resume. Here, he takes a different tack.

1. I talked about the idea that human beings experience the world through our senses. Which sense (vision, hearing, tastes, touch, smell) is strongest for you? Which sense triggers the most memories? Share a time when hearing or seeing or smelling something triggered a memory for you.
2. In response to the conflict between these two parties, Paul takes an interesting strategy in 2 Cor. 2:14-3:3. In verse 14a, (the first part of the verse), he shares that all of us are on display for our faith. We can't hide. We are on a runway before the world, whether we want to be or not. Why do you think Paul starts his argument there? What advantage do you think he has over his opponents on this point?
3. Paul goes on to say in verse 14b (the rest of the verse) through vs. 16 that, as Christians, we take on the aroma of Christ. What do you think he means? What does that aroma smell like?
4. I shared three stories about smells revealing where someone had been or what they were doing or where they were employed. Who are some people in your life who have the sweet smell of Christ? How has that "smell" been revealed to you?
5. How does verse 17 add to Paul's argument?
6. In 2 Cor. 3:1-3, Paul says he has no letters of recommendation for them. He only has the lives of the members of the congregation: the people he has mentored and prayed for and taught and loved. How does the student reveal the teacher? The child the parent(s)? The church the pastors (and ultimately Christ)?
7. What do you think people learn about Jesus from your life (public display, scent, actions, and attitudes)?
8. What new perfume or fragrance or letter are you adding to your life? How does the Holy Spirit help that happen? (Reading Scripture, joining a small group, taking on some new discipline, praying, serving, etc.?)

.....

Financial Update as of Nov 2, 2025		Births and Deaths
2025 Annual Budget	\$ 14,203,292	Audrey Halvorson passed away Oct 29.
Actual Income to Date	10,145,231	More information at memorials.mdpc.org .
Needed to Meet 2025 Budget	4,058,061	



MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

Women's Spiritual Retreat

Sat, Nov 15 | 9am-3:30pm | Brookwood Comm.
Guided by the Spirit and led by faithful teachers Beth Case and Teri Adair, we will explore Scripture and reflect on how God's mighty presence brings restoration, purpose, and peace. Learn more and register at delight.mdpc.org.

Young Adults Friendsgiving

Sat, Nov 15 | 6-9pm | MDPC
A night of comfort food, heartfelt conversations, and shared gratitude as we hear personal faith stories from a few young adults in their 20s & 30s. Details and RSVP: yaevents.mdpc.org

Apply to Become a Stephen Minister

Applications due in Dec | Training starts Jan 13
Do others turn to you in times of need? Do you have a compassionate heart and a listening ear? Consider becoming a Stephen Minister, providing confidential one-to-one Christian care. To learn more, visit stephentraining.mdpc.org.

BLESS Friday Is Almost Here!

Fri, Nov 28
Be part of the annual tradition of turning a day of shopping into a day of service! To see a list of project suggestions, visit blessfriday.mdpc.org.



Give Online
give.mdpc.org

To view all events, visit events.mdpc.org.

New Member Classes

Fri PM and Sat AM, Nov 21 and 22
Curious about MDPC? This class is a laid-back way to learn what we believe, meet others, and see if this might be your church home. No pressure, just connection! Learn more and sign up at newmembers.mdpc.org.

Christmas for Kids

Delivery Deadline: Fri, Dec 5
Provide Christmas gifts for the siblings of the students at Small Steps Nurturing Center! Sponsors provide three wrapped gifts for a sponsored child. The suggested donation is \$75 per child. Please purchase according to your budget. See children's wish lists and sign up at cfk.mdpc.org.

Spread a Little Christmas Cheer...

Sun, Dec 7 | 3:30-5:30pm | Fellowship Hall
by volunteering at the Family Christmas Festival! We need adults and teens to help with festive crafts, games, and more. Contact Keri Mosk, kmosk@mdpc.org, for more information.

Volunteers (ages 14 and up) Needed

We need your help in preschool and elementary Sunday School! Join us once a month to help young children grow in their faith. Training and materials provided. Email Keri Mosk for more information: kmosk@mdpc.org



Mon, Nov 10 • 9:30-11am

VETERANS COFFEE AND CONNECTION

CALLING ALL VETERANS!

Join us in the parlor for coffee and pastries, a devotional from Pastor Alf, and connection with other veterans.



Sun, Nov 16 • 10:45-Noon • MDPC Playground

Hey dads — this one's for you! Bring the family and join us for a relaxed hangout with snacks, drinks, and plenty of time to connect with other dads while the kids play.

No agenda, no sign-up, no pressure — just an easy, low-bar way to meet other MDPC dads and build some community along the way.

As you enter worship, we kindly ask that you silence your cell phones.



8:30 BLENDED SERVICE

GATHERING

Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
*Worship Songs	Everlasting God Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty	
*Confession & Assurance Prayers of the People		Rachel Poysky
Worship Song	Man of Sorrows	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
---------	---	---------------

RESPONDING

Song of Response	You Will Be Saved	
------------------	-------------------	--

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

.....

9:45 CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

GATHERING

*Call to Worship		Michael Middleton
*Worship Songs	Freedom in This House Battle Belongs	

*Confession & Assurance		Amanda Shockley
Presentation of Student Bibles		Keri Mosk & Mayra Arellano
*Worship Song	What a Beautiful Name	

HEARING THE WORD

Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 NRSV	Alf Halvorson
---------	---	---------------

RESPONDING

Song of Response	You Will Be Saved	
------------------	-------------------	--

SENDING

*Doxology		OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Musicians: Asher Pudlo, drums | Chris Parrott, guitar | Uvaldo Callejas, bass
JJ Blanco, keys | Michael Middleton & Meliza Gómez, worship leaders

*Please stand, if comfortable.

Would you like to get in touch with one of our Pastors? Feel free to reach out!
Visit staff.mdpc.org for contact information and ministry areas.

11:15 TRADITIONAL SERVICE

GATHERING

Prelude	The Lord Heard My Cry	Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Call to Worship		Rachel Poysky
Choral Introit	God of Majesty and Glory	James Biery (b. 1956)
*Hymn of Praise	Lead On, O King Eternal	Vs. 1, 2, 3 #447 LANCASHIRE
*Confession and Assurance of Pardon		Rachel Poysky
*Affirmation of Faith from United Church of Canada		

*Congregational Response	Gloria Patri	#579 GLORIA PATRI
Anthem	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	arr. Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Presentation of Student Bibles		Keri Mosk & Mayra Arellano
--------------------------------	--	----------------------------

HEARING THE WORD

Anthem of Preparation	There Is a Balm in Gilead	arr. Bruce Saylor (b. 1946)
Message	Beautifully Broken 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 NRSV	Alf Halvorson

RESPONDING

*Hymn of Response	Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart	Vs. 1, 3, 4 #326 MORECAMBE
-------------------	--------------------------------------	--------------------------------

SENDING

*Doxology	Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow	#592 OLD 100TH
*Benediction		Alf Halvorson

Postlude	March	Louis Lefébure-Wély (1817-1869)
----------	-------	---------------------------------

Musicians: Cassandra Black, soloist | MDPC Sanctuary Choir
Charles Hausmann, Traditional Worship Director | Kathryn White, organist

.....

THIRD GRADE BIBLE RECIPIENTS

9:45 Service	Hallie Catherine Freer	Valentino Seckinger Papa
Madison Aikins	Gwenyth Fulthorpe	Marcos Robert Perez
Parker Beasley	Nora Lynn Graeve	Harper Ann Saxe
Bennett William Beckwith	Eli Burk Henderson	Ryan Elizabeth Saxe
Easton Beitler	June Hubley	Ryan Tanous
Norah Mae Brock	Sutton Jean Keller	Blake Tantillo
Dale Inger Carlson	Eleanor Limbacher	
Neil Childers	Mackenzie Kate Mora	11:15 Service
Crawford Eckhardt	Matthew Moreira	Blake Haas
Madeline Ehorn	Molly Mueck	Cameron J. Krause
Kendall Beth Fedorko	Charlotte Paige Needham	Carter Peska



This Thanksgiving, ESB and MDPC Fuente Food Pantries will feed over 1,000 families struggling with food insecurity - and you can help!

Pick up shopping bags & lists on campus. Please return filled bags by next Sunday, Nov 16.

Learn more: meals.mdpc.org

