

## ILLUSTRATED MESSAGE

**TITLE:** Air Freshener

**OBJECT:** Air Freshener

**DOCTRINE:** Sanctification

### STORY WITH THE OBJECT

I used to live in the country, and during planting season, the farmers used manure to fertilize their fields. The manure smelled really bad, so I used an air freshener to cover up the smell. Of course, the air freshener did not get rid of the cause of the smell, the manure; it just temporarily covered up the bad odor.

### TRANSITION TO THE SPIRITUAL

Just like the farmers fill their fields with manure, we fill our lives with spiritual manure (or sin) that stinks. Then we try to cover up the smell by doing good works (like spraying air freshener), but the "manure" (sin) is still there.

### THE PROBLEM (LAW)

The sin you commit against God stinks. Every lie you tell carries a foul odor; and every lustful or hateful thought is a stench to God. Imagine that foul odor growing on you year after year as you continually rebel against God.

### THE CONSEQUENCES (ETERNITY)

When you stand before God in judgment, and He smells all of that manure (sin) in your life, the door to heaven will be closed to you. A holy God cannot allow a filthy person into His presence. You will have to go to a place that your filthiness deserves, hell.

### THE SOLUTION (CROSS)

You need a way to get rid of the manure instead of just temporarily covering up the smell. Christ lived His life without sin, without once rebelling against God. Therefore, He had a life without "manure/sin." With His death on the cross, He now offers to cleanse you of your sin (manure) so that you can be holy and pure before God.

### THE CALL (REPENTANCE AND FAITH)

So turn your back on the sin (manure) in your life, and call on Christ to forgive you and cleanse you. Give Christ control of your life. Then He will replace the stink of sin with His beautiful fragrance of purity.