

January Theme: A New Creation
2 Corinthians 5:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 [ESV]
**17 Therefore, if anyone is
in Christ, he is a new
creation. The old has
passed away; behold, the
new has come.**

*This is a vintage barber
shop after shave
decanter.*



“A New Cologne or After Shave”

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 5:12-13

Perfume making dates to at least 4000 years BC. The earliest archeological evidence of a perfume industry comes from the Island of Crete and dates to 4000 BC. The Roman's took the art of creating aromas [perfume] to a high art form.

Throughout human culture the scents have been used to evoke emotions.

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The small glass Roman ampule with dropper dates to the 1st Century. It was used for oil based perfume.

Jan. 22, 2023

“A New Cologne or After Shave”

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 5:12-13

For many years I did not wear cologne or aftershave. I do not like wearing heavy scents. Recently I returned to wearing old fashion aftershaves that are mild but remind me of visiting a barbershop when I was a boy. When I splash them on I feel like a kid again sitting in the barber chair. Interestingly when I went online and read reviews about the 2 aftershaves I use I was surprised to find intense but diametrically opposed opinions on the smells. One described the smell of one as the fragrance of a “cat house” and a drunk tank. While another described it as “manly” and nostalgic.

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2 Corinthians 2:14-17 [ESV]

12 When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, 13 my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia.

14 But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in **triumphal procession**, and **through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere**. 15 For we are the **aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing**, 16 to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. **Who is sufficient for these things?** 17 For we are not, like so many, **peddlers of God's word**, but as **men of sincerity**, as **commissioned by God**, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.

“A New Cologne or After Shave”

2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 5:12-13

This panel from
a wall mural in
Pompeii shows
cupids
processing
perfume?



Roman events were perfumed with incense, unguents and flower pedals and water extractions of various spices. One of the earliest Roman writers shares several recipes for perfume. On entering Emperors palace guests were spritzed with “rose water” to make them smell better to the emperor.

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Roman Triumphal parades were scented with flower pedals, incense and unguents worn by the participants. The aromas were chosen by the celebrating victor. Those prisoners condemned to death were led in chains at the rear of the procession. To the victorious soldiers the smells of the parade were the smell of victory, to the condemned it was the smell of death.

Proverbs 27:9 [ESV]

9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, And the sweetness of a man's friend *gives delight* by hearty counsel.

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Most Romans carried an ampule of perfume on them for various reasons. It was believed that perfume could ward off disease. The Romans had complex formulas for perfumes. Perfumes were sold as oils and unguents [a mixture of scents with fats and waxes – like cold creams]. Most Romans favored lighter scents of flowers and herbs.

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It was not until the 1700s and the development of alcohol distillation that alcohol became the solvent for scents.

In Proverbs an honest loyal friend is compared to a perfume or unguent that delights. As Christians we need to be honest loyal friends who by our presence in the world bring delight to those who desire to find salvation.

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Genesis 8:20-22 [ESV]

20 Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and took some of every clean animal and some of every clean bird and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

21 And **when the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma**, the LORD said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the intention of man's heart is evil from his youth. Neither will I ever again strike down every living creature as I have done.

22 While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease."

“A New Cologne or After Shave”

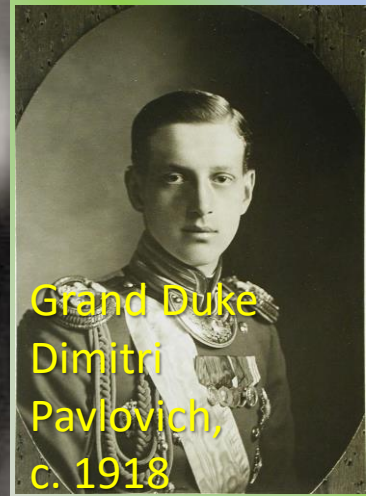
2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 5:12-13

The most successful perfume in history is Chanel No.5. It was the desire French couturier [clothing designer] Gabrielle Chanel to produce a “clean” scent for the modern woman. She was introduced by her lover Grand Duke Dimitri Pavlovich to a Russian perfumer Ernest Beaux. Who developed a number of scents, No. 5 was chosen. They approached a Jewish industrialist Pierre Wertheimer to produce the perfume in 1921.

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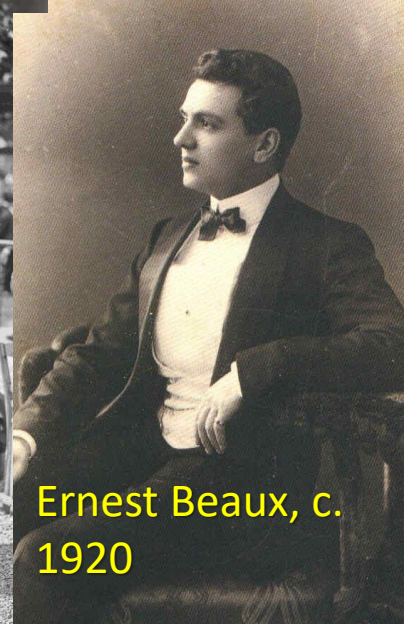
Gabrielle Chanel,
1920



Grand Duke
Dimitri
Pavlovich,
c. 1918



Pierre
Wertheimer,
1924



Ernest Beaux, c.
1920

These pictures all date from the decade of the 1920s, these 4 people are responsible for Chanel No.5.

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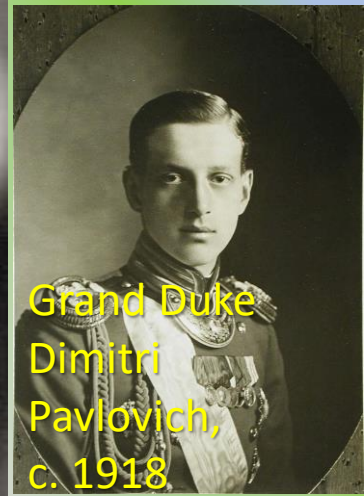
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Miss Chanel, was born into a poor French family, her mother took in washing and Gabrielle particularly drawn to the smell of freshly washed skin. When her mother died she was sent to live in a Catholic orphanage. She began her career as a clothing model and progressed to a designer. By 1920 she had several boutiques in various European cities. The perfume was originally conceived as a premium for her best customers.

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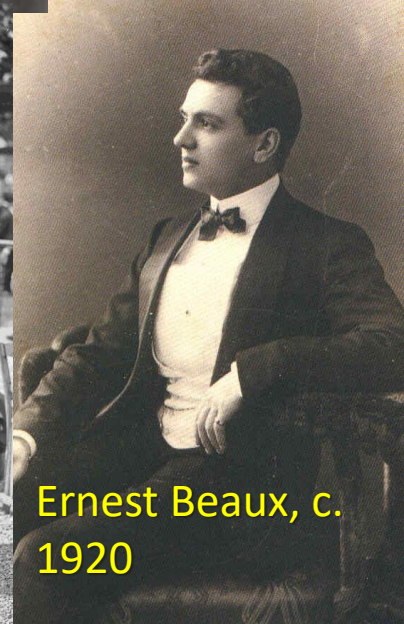
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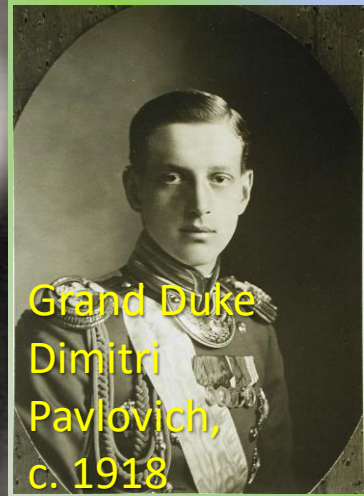
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Ernest Beaux was of a French emigrant family in Russia. He had become a favorite of the Czar's family. He also desired a crisp scent reminiscent of the Artic air. He depended heavily on alkaloids for his scent reminiscent of fresh air and freshly washed skin. The perfume by the mid 1920s was a hit. Its popularity only continued to grow.



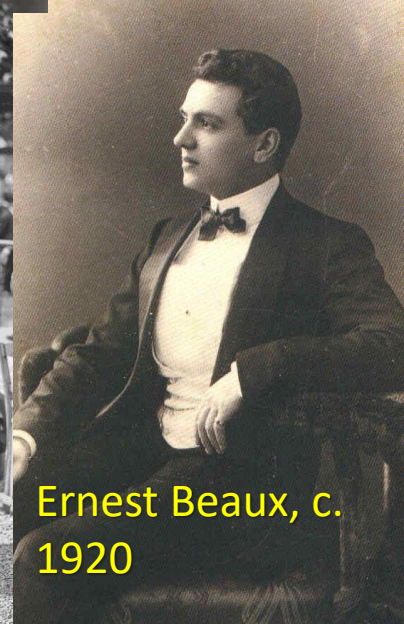
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Song of Songs 1:1-3 [ESV]

1 Solomon's Song of Songs.

2 Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth—for your

love is more delightful than wine. 3 Pleasing is the

fragrance of your perfumes; your name is like perfume poured out. No wonder the maidens love you!

Song of Songs 5:13 [ESV]

13 His cheeks are like **beds of spices, mounds of sweet-smelling herbs.** His lips are lilies, **dripping liquid myrrh.**

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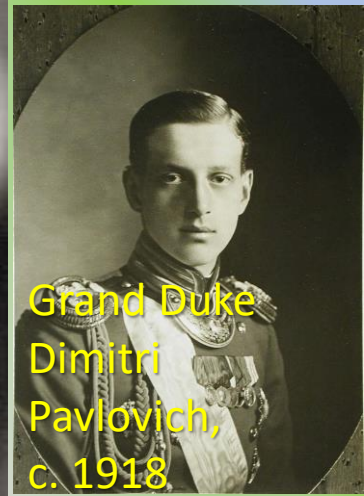
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Scents are evocative and produce the most vivid memories. Research by ad companies indicate that about 75% of our memories are triggered by smell. Our emotional response can be dramatic. Memories can also trigger a false sense of smell if they are vivid enough. People often believe they smell the aromas of a memory

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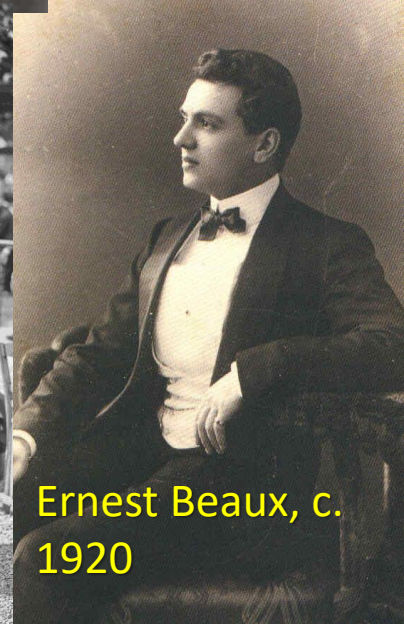
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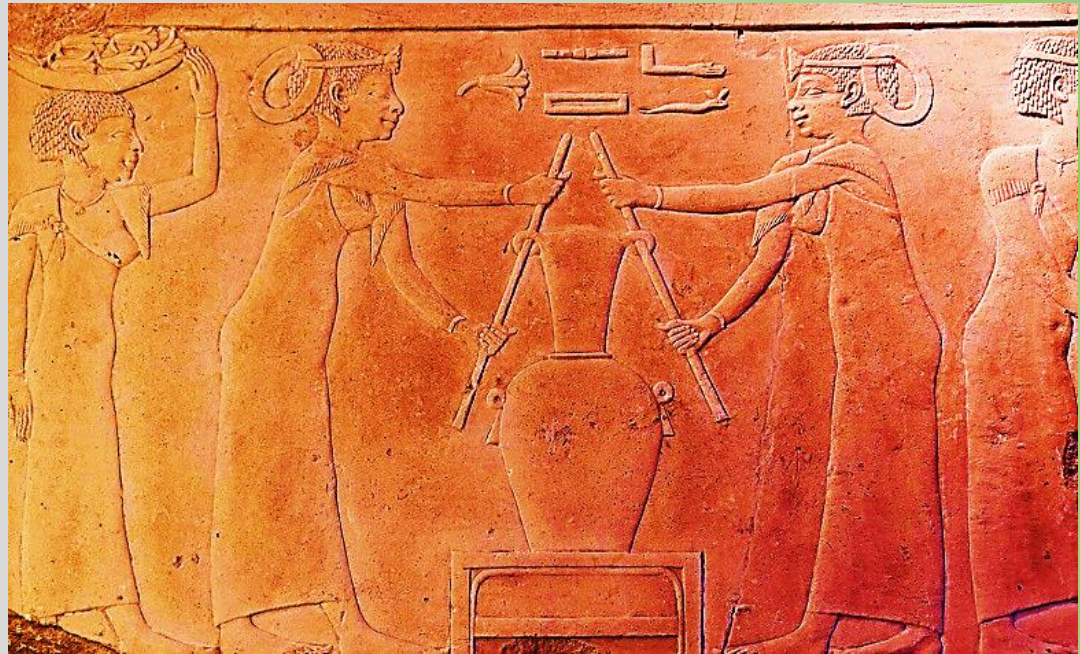
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This frieze from an Egyptian tomb shows women pressing flower pedels to produce perfume.



The production of perfume is believed to have begun as a part of religious rituals. The anointing oil of the priests in the Old Testament was actually a type of perfume with a specific formula forbidden in Mosaic Law to copy for personal use. It symbolized the presence of the Holy Spirit. Much of the perfume technology that the Israelites used developed from the Egyptians.

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This Egyptian woman from 1300 BC wears cone shaped object on her head. This is common in Egyptian paintings, for almost 2000 years especially paintings of public events. It was not until recently when a mummy was discovered with one of these wax cones still in tact on her head that its purpose was discovered. It was a hollow receptacle for perfumes mixed with oils and fats called an “unguent” and layered into the cone. The heat of the person’s body would melt the unguent which slowly soaked into the hair and perfumed the body. Both men and women wore these at festive occasions.



**This painting dates to
1300 BC**

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The perfuming of Egyptians by the “cone” method seems to have been practiced especially during funeral rites. Some believe it was practiced to cover the smells of the the embalming process. As Christians our lives are lived not in an attempt to cover over death but as an expression of the life of Christ in us. In a sense we are the anointing oil of Christ in the world spreading the fragrance of His Holy Spirit in the world.



**This painting dates to
1300 BC**

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Ephesians 5:1-2 [ESV]

1 Therefore be imitators of God,
as beloved children. 2 And walk in
love, as Christ loved us and gave
himself up for us, a **fragrant
offering** and sacrifice to God.

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Spikenard oil is extracted from the roots of the *Nardostachys grandiflora* flower, a member of the honeysuckle family. This plant only grows in the Himalayas of India and is seriously endangered due to overharvesting. It was the most expensive perfuming element in the ancient world, imported from India 1 LB was worth 1 year of a laborer's wages. It is mentioned in Song of Songs and the Gospels [Mary the sister of Lazarus anointed Jesus with it]. Song of Songs 1:12; 4:13-14; Mark 14:3; John 12:3
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**Nardostachys
grandiflora –
“Spikenard”**

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This was the most costly gift that Mary and the woman in Mark could bestow on Jesus. It was preparation for his burial. Nard [Spikenard] was an ingredient in expensive perfumes. It was used sparingly for this reason, but for Jesus Mary lavishly poured it out. We spend our lives lavishly honoring Christ. It is an act of sacrifice.



**Nardostachys
grandiflora –
“Spikenard”**

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2 Corinthians 5:12-13 [ESV]

12 We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. 13 For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.

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This panel from a wall mural in Pompeii shows cupids processing perfume?



Scents were extracted by means of heated oil or water. In some cases the spices were crushed in water and oil was poured over the water and the pot was buried to the neck in heated sand to evaporate the water through the oil infusing the scent in the oil. Glands of animals were crushed to extract some scents while flower petals and herbs were laid on tallow to absorb their scents into the fat. Incense was made by mixing various herbs and resins with flour and making it into cakes to form slow burning incense.

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**We are not the scent or aroma,
we are merely the medium of
the aroma.**

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2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 5:12-13**

**When we become a
new creation, it will
have an impact on
those around us.**



**This is a vintage barber
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decanter.**