SCCC- GOOD NEWS REFRESHES OUR SOULS

S – Scriptures

"But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus," II Corinthians 7: 6

C – Consideration

The Apostle wrote the second letter, expressing as a preacher of the gospel, his outside struggles, hardships and distresses; in beatings, imprisonments and riots; in hard work, sleepless nights and hunger; then he pointed out his inner battles explaining how he presented Christ to the world, "in purity, understanding, patience and kindness; in the Holy Spirit and in sincere love; in truthful speech and in the power of God; with weapons of righteousness in the right hand and in the left;" And, how he had to deal with contrast in response of his preaching, "…through glory and dishonor, bad report and good report; genuine, yet regarded as impostors." Paul then moved from his general mission to a personal and direct talk to this church, trying to open their eyes to remember his time with them, "Make room for us in your hearts. We have wronged no one, we have corrupted no one, and we have exploited no one. I do not say this to condemn you; I have said before that you have such a place in our hearts that we would live or die with you. I have spoken to you with great frankness; I take great pride in you. I am greatly encouraged; in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds."

C – Commitment

How easy it is for us to forget good things that someone sent by God has done on our behalf. And, worse, is that sometimes we treat them as enemies when we hear and believe the gossip against them. I see in this passage this type of behavior against the Apostle. Paul was suffering in his soul as he had to deal with slander and ingratitude from a church that he had founded years before. In his first letter he had addressed to them, they were divided, and didn't show spiritual growth at all. However, in his despair, Titus, one of the members of the apostolic band, came from Corinth with a report that was more value to Paul than thousands of pounds of gold, as follows, "But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus, and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever." This was all he needed to know to forget his pain and to rejoice to see their spiritual growth demonstrated by the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The good report had blessed his troubled soul!

C – Call

Lord, thank You for Your word that always teaches me. In my journey as a Christian, I have heard and sometimes believed slander against brothers. Other times, I was accused of things that I never did. Give me wisdom and discernment not to fall into the sin of taking my sincere

brothers as enemies and to forgive and to trust in You when they would treat me as their enemies. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.