

WHEN YOUR SPIRIT IS WITHOUT REST

TERRY CODLING
2 CORINTHIANS 2:12 - 3:6

When Paul couldn't find Titus at Troas he made searching for Titus the priority over preaching the gospel. He changed his plans and went immediately to Macedonia instead of taking advantage of the "open door" situation the Lord gave him. Paul's explanation was that his soul was not at rest and so he was not free to give full attention to the gospel ministry until he reconnected with Titus.

- How aware are you of your spiritual condition right now? Are you at rest and free to minister? Why or why not?
- What brings a condition like a restless spirit to your attention?
- How do you determine when your spirit's direction is worth acting on?

When your spirit has no rest, remember that...you have the knowledge of Christ, you are commissioned by Christ and you are competent/sufficient in Christ for the ministry of the gospel.

- What does Paul imply by saying the apostles are the "aroma of Christ"? Why does their fragrance remind some of life and others of death?
- Where do you see people reacting positively to the spiritual aroma of your life in Christ? (2 Cor 2:15) What can you do to keep your life "smelling good" to God?
- Have you ever quit sharing God's word because of negative reactions? How can you handle negative reactions to your spiritual aroma in a better way? (2 Cor 4:16-18)
- What is a "peddler of God's word" and why does Paul say he's not like one of them? What motivates a peddler of the word? What motivates you to share God's word with others?
- What qualities of your gospel presentation can help you demonstrate sincerity and that you speak in Christ? (2 Cor 2:17)
- Knowing that God makes you sufficient for ministry, who will you present the gospel to (or continue to disciple) with more confidence? (2 Cor 3:4-6)