



Attitudes

## HOW TO HAVE A POSITIVE ATTITUDE

DANIEL LOVETT

(Micah 6:8)

**T**oo many Christians live lives of quiet desperation, always worrying and fretting. They pray, but God's peace never seems to come to their hearts. In short, they have such negative attitudes that they are helping no one and hurting themselves. So what can we do to exchange negative attitudes for positive ones? The prophet Micah provides three requirements in Micah 6:8 which, when acted upon, will have an enormous impact on attitude.

### ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT

The first step toward a positive attitude is to "do justly." We must be honest with ourselves and then live honestly. We must quit making excuses and start dealing with our own hearts and minds. We must admit and face up to our own problems. Problems begin on the inside. The heart of every problem is the problem of the heart. When we admit and confess what is in our hearts and minds we will have a positive attitude. "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. 'Eat and drink!' he says to you, but his heart is not with you" (Prov. 23:7).

The second step toward a positive attitude is to "love mercy." In other words, we need to learn to make things right. If there are problems between people, one person needs to take the initiative to make things right—being merciful and forgiving if that's needed. We cannot get along perfectly with everyone, but Paul admonished, "If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men" (Rom. 12:18). When we have right relationships with others we will have a positive attitude.

The third step toward a positive attitude is to "walk humbly" with God. We need to ask God to search our minds and hearts. Psalm 139:23, 24 says, "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my anxieties; and see if there is any

wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." The submissive mind puts Christ and others ahead of self (Phil. 2:4). Resentment, thoughts of bitterness, pride, or other negative attitudes will poison the heart and mind, and ultimately the whole attitude and personality. If God sees wrong thoughts and bad attitudes in our hearts and minds, He cannot give us His peace and joy. It takes faith to have a submissive mind, because humility is so contrary to the spirit of the world. Yet Jesus has said, "He who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matt. 23:11). When we have humble, submissive minds we will have a positive attitude.

When we start to develop harmful attitudes—being worried, critical, depressed, or discouraged—we must stop to examine ourselves. We must ask, "Do I have this attitude because I'm not being honest with myself? Am I blaming others for my problems? Am I holding a grudge and refusing to forgive or make things right? Am I being proud? Am I forgetting to think single-mindedly with Christ? Have I ceased having a submissive mind? Where along the line did I stop living for Christ?"

### DISCOVERING GOD'S WAY

Those Christians who cultivate a spiritual life will find that they develop a positive

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attitude. While so much of the world is wrapped up in possessions, entertainment, achievements, and other earthly enticements, believers already know that earthly things will never satisfy. That is full-time Christian living—having a positive attitude and a single mind with Christ to do what will be pleasing to Him.

Christians who spend time daily in God's Word and in prayer, who cast their cares upon the Lord, and who seek to obey His Word in all circumstances, will have the presence of God in their lives and the peace of God in their hearts. This will result in an "I can" attitude like the one Paul had when he wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13).

A bad attitude can become a way of life. Some people enjoy their bad attitudes—they get attention and sympathy, which inflates their egos. Like the Pharisees, they parade their problems and troubles in order to be seen by others. There is nothing wrong with people sharing their burdens with fellow Christians if their motives are right, but doing so to attract attention and sympathy is sinful.

A positive attitude comes not with freedom *from* problems and difficulties, but with freedom *in spite of* them. When Paul wrote Philippians, he didn't deny that he was in prison; his attitude toward his imprisonment, however, had set him free to continue to be all God wanted him to be. Our homes, our jobs, our situations, even our physical bodies with their frailties can all seem like prisons. We can still experience positive attitudes, however. Paul had learned that he could do all things through Christ—and so can we. We need to start each day with surrender to the Lord. We need to ask Him to help us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him. We need to stay close to Him daily. This will produce a positive attitude that results

in dynamic living for Christ, giving us a positive witness to each person with whom we come in contact throughout our day. Then we can be as the psalmist described it when he said, "They looked to Him and were radiant" (Ps. 34:5).

#### **FURTHER MEDITATION:**

Other passages to study about the issue of attitudes include:

- Joshua 14:10–12
- Acts 27:22
- Romans 15:5–7
- 2 Corinthians 10:5
- Galatians 6:9
- Philippians 2:5–11
- 1 Timothy 4:15, 16
- Hebrews 12:1, 2
- James 1:2–4

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To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on attitudes at Romans 12:1, 2 on page 1482. See also the personality profile of Michal on page 395.

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## GOD PLEADS WITH ISRAEL

- 6** Hear now what the LORD says:  
 "Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
 And let the hills hear your voice.  
<sup>2</sup> Hear, O you mountains, the LORD's complaint,  
 And you strong foundations of the earth;  
 For the LORD has a complaint against His people,  
 And He will contend with Israel.  
<sup>3</sup> "O My people, what have I done to you?  
 And how have I wearied you?  
 Testify against Me.  
<sup>4</sup> For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
 I redeemed you from the house of bondage;  
 And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.  
<sup>5</sup> O My people, remember now  
 What Balak king of Moab counseled,  
 And what Balaam the son of Beor answered him,  
 From Acacia Grove<sup>a</sup> to Gilgal,  
 That you may know the righteousness of the LORD."  
<sup>6</sup> With what shall I come before the LORD,  
 And bow myself before the High God?  
 Shall I come before Him with burnt offerings,  
 With calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup> Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
 Ten thousand rivers of oil?  
 Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
 The fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?

- <sup>8</sup> He has shown you, O man, what is good;  
 And what does the LORD require of you  
 But to do justly,  
 To love mercy,  
 And to walk humbly with your God?

## PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL'S INJUSTICE

- <sup>9</sup> The LORD's voice cries to the city—  
 Wisdom shall see Your name:  
 "Hear the rod!  
 Who has appointed it?  
<sup>10</sup> Are there yet the treasures of wickedness  
 In the house of the wicked,  
 And the short measure *that is* an abomination?  
<sup>11</sup> Shall I count pure *those* with the wicked scales,  
 And with the bag of deceitful weights?  
<sup>12</sup> For her rich men are full of violence,  
 Her inhabitants have spoken lies,  
 And their tongue is deceitful in their mouth.  
<sup>13</sup> "Therefore I will also make *you* sick by striking you,  
 By making *you* desolate because of your sins.  
<sup>14</sup> You shall eat, but not be satisfied;  
 Hunger<sup>a</sup> shall be in your midst.  
 You may carry *some* away,<sup>b</sup> but shall not save *them*;  
 And what you do rescue I will give over to the sword.

6:5 <sup>a</sup>Hebrew *Shittim* (compare Numbers 25:1; Joshua 2:1; 3:1) 6:14 <sup>a</sup>Or *Emptiness* or *Humiliation* <sup>b</sup>Targum and Vulgate read *You shall take hold*.

## SOUL NOTE



**Live and Love** (6:6–8) "How can I approach God?" This question is buried deep in everyone's soul. The Judeans asked a similar question: "With what shall I come before the LORD?" They wanted to know what offerings they should bring. In answer, however, Micah pointed directly at their hearts. Did they uphold God's justice in their communities? Did they show God's mercy to the disadvantaged? Had they humbly offered their lives to the Lord? God didn't want their offerings; He wanted their lives. God still wants hearts that love Him and hands that serve in His name. **Topic: Attitudes**

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<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?"<sup>a</sup>

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him?"<sup>a</sup>

<sup>36</sup>For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

#### LIVING SACRIFICES TO GOD

**12** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. <sup>2</sup>And

do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

#### SERVE GOD WITH SPIRITUAL GIFTS

<sup>3</sup>For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. <sup>4</sup>For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, <sup>5</sup>so we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and individually

11:34 <sup>a</sup>Isaiah 40:13; Jeremiah 23:18 11:35 <sup>a</sup>Job 41:11

#### KEY PASSAGE



Attitudes

### THE CHOICE

(12:1, 2)

People's attitudes reflect their perspective on life. And attitudes are formed in the mind—every attitude begins with a choice to look at the world in a certain way. Therefore, people can change their attitudes.

Believers must not be "conformed to this world," allowing the world's outlook to rule them, entice them, or decide their attitudes. Instead, Paul says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." With a transformed mind, we can allow God to help us choose to have attitudes that are honoring to Him. He helps us to stay positive in any situation, as we see His plan unfold.

Those who struggle with negative attitudes should renew their mind and choose attitudes that honor and reveal God's work in their lives. God's Word is the best place to start.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about attitudes on pages 1174, 1175. See also the personality profile of Michal on page 395.

#### SOUL NOTE



**Living Sacrifices** (12:1, 2) The Jews had a system of sacrifices, prepared by God and recorded in the Law of Moses, by which their sins were forgiven. Paul used that picture to describe how believers should live, offering *themselves* to God as living sacrifices. Thus they could be transformed by the Holy Spirit and have renewed minds. This transformation and renewal helps God's people know His good, acceptable, and perfect will. We are promised that we can know God's will for us when making tough decisions. We must humbly pray and seek His guidance, knowing that He will answer. **Topic: Decision Making**

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ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with gladness. <sup>13</sup>And so it was, when those bearing the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, that he sacrificed oxen and fatted sheep. <sup>14</sup>Then David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was wearing a linen ephod. <sup>15</sup>So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting and with the sound of the trumpet.

<sup>16</sup>Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart. <sup>17</sup>So they brought the ark of the LORD, and set it in its place in the midst of the tabernacle that David had erected for it. Then David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD. <sup>18</sup>And when

David had finished offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts. <sup>19</sup>Then he distributed among all the people, among the whole multitude of Israel, both the women and the men, to everyone a loaf of bread, a piece of meat, and a cake of raisins. So all the people departed, everyone to his house.

<sup>20</sup>Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, "How glorious was the king of Israel today, uncovering himself today in the eyes of the maids of his servants, as one of the base fellows shamelessly uncovers himself!"

<sup>21</sup>So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I

#### PERSONALITY PROFILE



##### Attitudes

### MICHAL—WATCH YOUR ATTITUDE

(2 SAMUEL 6:16)

The qualities about David that first caught Michal's attention and captured her heart were the same qualities that she came to resent. David was handsome, heroic, and had a heart for God. Perhaps Michal misunderstood the kind of single-minded devotion David had toward God as nothing more than an endearing trait she hoped one day would be centered on her. If David killed the giant Goliath for God, what might he do for a lover?

When news of his daughter's love for the shepherd-hero reached the king's ears, Saul was already scheming to eliminate David. He set a trap for David using his own daughter as the prize (1 Sam. 18:17–29). David met the challenge, however, and received Michal's hand in marriage.

The young couple had few days of happiness. After all, the father of the bride kept trying to kill the groom. When Michal helped her husband escape from a deadly ambush her father arranged, Saul punished her by giving her to another man (1 Sam. 25:44). David eventually got her back (2 Sam. 3:14–16), but by then she was merely one of several wives he had collected. Michal had to accept yet another disappointment in life.

Resentment and bitterness in Michal finally erupted on the day the ark of the covenant was brought into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6:1–23). David led the parade, leaping and dancing in his joy before God, as Michal watched him from a palace window. She considered his behavior excessive and unnecessary and confronted him with shameful derision. Her pent-up frustrations may have been understandable, but her timing and target were tragic. Instead of gaining her husband's attention, she demeaned his faith and was punished by God for it.

Injustices and hardships that come our way cannot excuse bad attitudes. We are responsible for our responses. When we entrust our lives to God, we will still face pain, but He helps us to keep the pain from giving us a bad attitude toward life.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about attitudes on pages 1174, 1175. See also the key passage note at Romans 12:1, 2 on page 1482.

furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. <sup>9</sup>And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." <sup>10</sup>Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. <sup>11</sup>And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. <sup>12</sup>But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

#### THE SEVENTH PLAGUE: HAIL

<sup>13</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh, and say to him, 'Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews: "Let My people go, that they may serve Me, <sup>14</sup>for at this time I will send all My plagues to your very heart, and on your servants and on your people, that you may know that *there is none like Me in all the earth.* <sup>15</sup>Now if I had stretched out My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, then you would have been cut off from the earth. <sup>16</sup>But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth. <sup>17</sup>As yet you exalt yourself against My people in that you will not let them go. <sup>18</sup>Behold, tomorrow about this time I will cause very heavy hail to rain down, such as has not been in Egypt since its founding until now. <sup>19</sup>Therefore send now and gather your livestock and all that you have in the field, for the hail shall come down on every man and every animal which is found in the field and is not brought home; and they shall die.'"

<sup>20</sup>He who feared the word of the LORD among the servants of Pharaoh made his servants and his livestock flee to the houses. <sup>21</sup>But he who did not regard the word of the LORD left his servants and his livestock in the field.

<sup>22</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand toward heaven, that there may be hail in all the land of Egypt—on man, on beast, and on every herb of the field, throughout the land of Egypt." <sup>23</sup>And Moses stretched out his rod toward heaven; and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire darted to the ground. And the LORD rained hail on the land of Egypt. <sup>24</sup>So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, so very heavy that there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. <sup>25</sup>And the hail struck throughout the whole land of Egypt, all that *was* in the field, both man and beast; and the hail struck every herb of the field and broke every tree of the field. <sup>26</sup>Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel *were*, there was no hail.

<sup>27</sup>And Pharaoh sent and called for Moses and Aaron, and said to them, "I have sinned this time. The LORD is righteous, and my people and I *are* wicked. <sup>28</sup>Entreat the LORD, that there may be no *more* mighty thundering and hail, for *it is* enough. I will let you go, and you shall stay no longer."

<sup>29</sup>So Moses said to him, "As soon as I have gone out of the city, I will spread out my hands to the LORD; the thunder will cease, and there will be no more hail, that you may know that the earth is the LORD's. <sup>30</sup>But as for you and your servants, I know that you will not yet fear the LORD God."

<sup>31</sup>Now the flax and the barley were struck, for the barley *was* in the head and the flax *was* in bud. <sup>32</sup>But the wheat and the spelt were not struck, for they *are* late crops.



#### SOUL NOTE

**Don't Fight God (9:12)** If God "hardened" Pharaoh's heart, was the hapless leader just a pawn in God's plan? Not at all! He was the ruler of Egypt. God did not take control of Pharaoh's will and force his decisions. This man was responsible for his own actions. As God appealed to him to release the Israelites, Pharaoh became even more determined to keep them in bondage. What resulted was a contest of wills—Pharaoh's against God's. Eventually God won, and Pharaoh's will was broken. Fighting against God is a losing proposition. It will only exhaust you, deplete your energies, and mess up your life. **Topic: Attitudes**

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#### BITTER WATERS MADE SWEET

<sup>22</sup>So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea; then they went out into the Wilderness of Shur. And they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. <sup>23</sup>Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah.<sup>a</sup> <sup>24</sup>And the people complained against Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" <sup>25</sup>So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet.

There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them, <sup>26</sup>and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

<sup>27</sup>Then they came to Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees; so they camped there by the waters.

#### BREAD FROM HEAVEN

**16** And they journeyed from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came to the Wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they departed from the land of Egypt. <sup>2</sup>Then the whole congregation of the children of Israel complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>And the children of Israel said to them, "Oh, that we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the pots of meat and when we ate bread to the full! For

you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger."

<sup>4</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you. And the people shall go out and gather a certain quota every day, that I may test them, whether they will walk in My law or not. <sup>5</sup>And it shall be on the sixth day that they shall prepare what they bring in, and it shall be twice as much as they gather daily."

<sup>6</sup>Then Moses and Aaron said to all the children of Israel, "At evening you shall know that the LORD has brought you out of the land of Egypt. <sup>7</sup>And in the morning you shall see the glory of the LORD; for He hears your complaints against the LORD. But what are we, that you complain against us?" <sup>8</sup>Also Moses said, "This shall be seen when the LORD gives you meat to eat in the evening, and in the morning bread to the full; for the LORD hears your complaints which you make against Him. And what are we? Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD."

<sup>9</sup>Then Moses spoke to Aaron, "Say to all the congregation of the children of Israel, 'Come near before the LORD, for He has heard your complaints.' " <sup>10</sup>Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.

<sup>11</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>12</sup>"I have heard the complaints of the children of Israel. Speak to them, saying, 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. And you shall know that I am the LORD your God.' "

<sup>13</sup>So it was that quails came up at evening and covered the camp, and in the morning the

**15:23** <sup>a</sup>Literally Bitter

#### SOUL NOTE



**Lost in the Desert (16:1-3)** Wandering in the vast Sinai wilderness, the Israelites soon forgot God's miraculous power and began to complain about their lack of food and water. Although they had witnessed God's power, they still moaned at their inconveniences. Their problem wasn't the wilderness; it was their attitude. "Your complaints are not against us but against the LORD," Moses and Aaron reminded them (16:8). "Wilderness" experiences will make or break a person. The difference is in the attitude. **Topic: Attitudes**

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died in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword, that our wives and children should become victims? Would it not be better for us to return to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup>So they said to one another, "Let us select a leader and return to Egypt."

<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

<sup>6</sup>But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, *who were* among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; <sup>7</sup>and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. <sup>8</sup>If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'<sup>a</sup> <sup>9</sup>Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they *are* our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

<sup>10</sup>And all the congregation said to stone them with stones. Now the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of meeting before all the children of Israel.

#### MOSES INTERCEDES FOR THE PEOPLE

<sup>11</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses: "How long will these people reject Me? And how long will they not believe Me, with all the signs which I have performed among them? <sup>12</sup>I will strike them with the pestilence and disinherit them, and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

<sup>13</sup>And Moses said to the LORD: "Then the Egyptians will hear it, for by Your might You brought these people up from among them, <sup>14</sup>and they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land. They have heard that You, LORD, *are* among these people; that You, LORD, are seen

face to face and Your cloud stands above them, and You go before them in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night. <sup>15</sup>Now if You kill these people as one man, then the nations which have heard of Your fame will speak, saying, <sup>16</sup>'Because the LORD was not able to bring this people to the land which He swore to give them, therefore He killed them in the wilderness.' <sup>17</sup>And now, I pray, let the power of my Lord be great, just as You have spoken, saying, <sup>18</sup>'The LORD is longsuffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation.'<sup>a</sup> <sup>19</sup>Pardon the iniquity of this people, I pray, according to the greatness of Your mercy, just as You have forgiven this people, from Egypt even until now."

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said: "I have pardoned, according to your word; <sup>21</sup>but truly, as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD— <sup>22</sup>because all these men who have seen My glory and the signs which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have put Me to the test now these ten times, and have not heeded My voice, <sup>23</sup>they certainly shall not see the land of which I swore to their fathers, nor shall any of those who rejected Me see it. <sup>24</sup>But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it. <sup>25</sup>Now the Amalekites and the Canaanites dwell in the valley; tomorrow turn and move out into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea."

#### DEATH SENTENCE ON THE REBELS

<sup>26</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>27</sup>"How long shall I bear with this evil

14:8 <sup>a</sup>Exodus 3:8 14:18 <sup>a</sup>Exodus 34:6, 7



#### SOUL NOTE

**Won't They Ever Learn?** (14:1-4) Chronic complainers gripe about anything and everything. The Israelites had grumbled against God and Moses ever since leaving Egypt (see, for example, Ex. 15:24; 16:3; 17:2; Num. 11:1, 4), and they would continue to complain (Num. 16:3, 41; 20:2, 3; 21:5). In every circumstance, we have a choice: We can complain, or we can trust God's ability to handle any situation. Complaining means inaction; faith means moving ahead with God. Trusting Him with our problems is the first real step in overcoming them. **Topic: Attitudes**



them, and the LORD is among them. Why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the LORD?"

<sup>5</sup>So when Moses heard it, he fell on his face; and he spoke to Korah and all his company, saying, "Tomorrow morning the LORD will show who is His and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to Him. That one whom He chooses He will cause to come near to Him. <sup>6</sup>Do this: Take censers, Korah and all your company; <sup>7</sup>put fire in them and put incense in them before the LORD tomorrow, and I shall be that the man whom the LORD chooses is the holy one. You take too much upon yourselves, you sons of Levi!"

<sup>8</sup>Then Moses said to Korah, "Hear now, you sons of Levi: <sup>9</sup>Is it a small thing to you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to Himself, to do the work of the tabernacle of the LORD, and to stand before the congregation to serve them; <sup>10</sup>and that He has brought you near to Himself, you and all your brethren, the sons of Levi, with you? And are you seeking the priesthood also? <sup>11</sup>Therefore you and all your company are gathered together against the LORD. And what is Aaron that you complain against him?"

<sup>12</sup>And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, but they said, "We will not come up! <sup>13</sup>Is it a small thing that you have brought us up out of a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, that you should keep acting like a prince over us? <sup>14</sup>Moreover you have not brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey, nor given us inheritance of fields and vineyards. Will you put out the eyes of these men? We will not come up!"

<sup>15</sup>Then Moses was very angry, and said to the LORD, "Do not respect their offering. I

have not taken one donkey from them, nor have I hurt one of them."

<sup>16</sup>And Moses said to Korah, "Tomorrow, you and all your company be present before the LORD—you and they, as well as Aaron. <sup>17</sup>Let each take his censer and put incense in it, and each of you bring his censer before the LORD, two hundred and fifty censers; both you and Aaron, each with his censer." <sup>18</sup>So every man took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it, and stood at the door of the tabernacle of meeting with Moses and Aaron. <sup>19</sup>And Korah gathered all the congregation against them at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. Then the glory of the LORD appeared to all the congregation.

<sup>20</sup>And the LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying, <sup>21</sup>"Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment."

<sup>22</sup>Then they fell on their faces, and said, "O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and You be angry with all the congregation?"

<sup>23</sup>So the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>24</sup>"Speak to the congregation, saying, 'Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.'"

<sup>25</sup>Then Moses rose and went to Dathan and Abiram, and the elders of Israel followed him. <sup>26</sup>And he spoke to the congregation, saying, "Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins." <sup>27</sup>So they got away from around the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the door of their tents, with their wives, their sons, and their little children.

<sup>28</sup>And Moses said: "By this you shall know that the LORD has sent me to do all these works, for I have not done them of my own

#### SOUL NOTE

**Don't Be Stubborn!** (16:12) Dathan and Abiram stubbornly refused to discuss their differences with Moses. How different the outcome might have been if they had been willing to listen to Moses. Instead, they let their pride get in the way and stubbornly refused to listen to Moses as God's appointed leader. A strong will can be a valuable asset if it grows out of the character strength of commitment. But stubbornness arising from a wrong attitude and selfishness is a great liability.

**Topic: Attitudes**

do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

<sup>6</sup>But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." So Samuel prayed to the LORD. <sup>7</sup>And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them. <sup>8</sup>According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day—with which they have forsaken Me and served other gods—so they are doing to you also. <sup>9</sup>Now therefore, heed their voice. However, you shall solemnly forewarn them, and show them the behavior of the king who will reign over them."


<sup>10</sup>So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who asked him for a king. <sup>11</sup>And he said, "This will be the behavior of the king who will reign over you: He will take your sons and appoint them for his own chariots and to be his horsemen, and some will run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup>He will appoint captains over his thousands and captains over his fifties, will set some to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and some to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup>He will take your daughters to be perfumers, cooks, and bakers. <sup>14</sup>And he will take the best of your fields, your vineyards, and your olive groves, and give them to his servants. <sup>15</sup>He will take a tenth of your grain and your vintage, and give it to his officers and servants. <sup>16</sup>And he will take your male servants, your female servants, your finest young men,<sup>a</sup> and your donkeys, and put them to his work. <sup>17</sup>He will take a tenth of your sheep. And you will be his servants. <sup>18</sup>And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the LORD will not hear you in that day."

<sup>19</sup>Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us, <sup>20</sup>that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

<sup>21</sup>And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he repeated them in the hearing of the LORD. <sup>22</sup>So the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed their voice, and make them a king."

And Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Every man go to his city."

#### SAUL CHOSEN TO BE KING

 There was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power. <sup>2</sup>And he had a choice and handsome son whose name was Saul. There was not a more handsome person than he among the children of Israel. From his shoulders upward he was taller than any of the people.

<sup>3</sup>Now the donkeys of Kish, Saul's father, were lost. And Kish said to his son Saul, "Please take one of the servants with you, and arise, go and look for the donkeys." <sup>4</sup>So he passed through the mountains of Ephraim and through the land of Shalisha, but they did not find them. Then they passed through the land of Shaalim, and they were not there. Then he passed through the land of the Benjamites, but they did not find them.

<sup>5</sup>When they had come to the land of Zuph, Saul said to his servant who was with him, "Come, let us return, lest my father cease caring about the donkeys and become worried about us."

<sup>6</sup>And he said to him, "Look now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable

8:16 <sup>a</sup>Septuagint reads cattle.

#### SOUL NOTE



**Copycat** (8:22) God had been Israel's sovereign leader, but the people wanted a human king, refusing to heed Samuel's warnings (8:10–22). So God told Samuel to do as they asked. The people desired a king because they wanted to be like other nations (8:5, 20). God had brought the Israelites into their land so they would be distinct from those nations, so this was a step in the wrong direction. To compromise our faith by desiring to be like the world is to lose our distinctness as God's people. **Topic: Attitudes**

doorkeepers who had sought to lay hands on King Ahasuerus. <sup>3</sup>Then the king said, "What honor or dignity has been bestowed on Mordecai for this?"

And the king's servants who attended him said, "Nothing has been done for him."

<sup>4</sup>So the king said, "Who is in the court?" Now Haman had just entered the outer court of the king's palace to suggest that the king hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him.

<sup>5</sup>The king's servants said to him, "Haman is there, standing in the court."

And the king said, "Let him come in."

<sup>6</sup>So Haman came in, and the king asked him, "What shall be done for the man whom the king delights to honor?"

Now Haman thought in his heart, "Whom would the king delight to honor more than me?" <sup>7</sup>And Haman answered the king, "For the man whom the king delights to honor, <sup>8</sup>let a royal robe be brought which the king has worn, and a horse on which the king has ridden, which has a royal crest placed on its head. <sup>9</sup>Then let this robe and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that he may array the man whom the king delights to honor. Then parade him on horseback through the city square, and proclaim before him: 'Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!'"

<sup>10</sup>Then the king said to Haman, "Hurry, take the robe and the horse, as you have suggested, and do so for Mordecai the Jew who sits within the king's gate! Leave nothing undone of all that you have spoken."

<sup>11</sup>So Haman took the robe and the horse, arrayed Mordecai and led him on horseback through the city square, and proclaimed before him, "Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delights to honor!"

<sup>12</sup>Afterward Mordecai went back to the

king's gate. But Haman hurried to his house, mourning and with his head covered. <sup>13</sup>When Haman told his wife Zeresh and all his friends everything that had happened to him, his wise men and his wife Zeresh said to him, "If Mordecai, before whom you have begun to fall, is of Jewish descent, you will not prevail against him but will surely fall before him."

<sup>14</sup>While they were still talking with him, the king's eunuchs came, and hastened to bring Haman to the banquet which Esther had prepared.

#### HAMAN HANGED INSTEAD OF MORDECAI

**7** So the king and Haman went to dine with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup>And on the second day, at the banquet of wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request, up to half the kingdom? It shall be done!"

<sup>3</sup>Then Queen Esther answered and said, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. <sup>4</sup>For we have been sold, my people and I, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. Had we been sold as male and female slaves, I would have held my tongue, although the enemy could never compensate for the king's loss."

<sup>5</sup>So King Ahasuerus answered and said to Queen Esther, "Who is he, and where is he, who would dare presume in his heart to do such a thing?"

<sup>6</sup>And Esther said, "The adversary and enemy is this wicked Haman!"

So Haman was terrified before the king and queen.

<sup>7</sup>Then the king arose in his wrath from the banquet of wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stood before Queen Esther,



#### SOUL NOTE

**Let Others See God (6:6)** When King Ahasuerus couldn't sleep, he read a history book. That's when he discovered that Mordecai had at one time saved the king's life. The king wanted to show due honor to Mordecai. Like King Ahasuerus, we ought to honor those who have been a blessing in our lives, no matter how small the deed or the sacrifice. Like Mordecai, we ought to help others, not out of selfish motivation or from seeking praise. Rather, we need to remember that our motive is that others may see God working in our lives. **Topic: Attitudes**

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#### ESTHER SAVES

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GOD PLEADS WITH ISRAEL

**6** Hear now what the LORD says:

"Arise, plead your case before the mountains,  
And let the hills hear your voice.  
Hear, **O you mountains, the LORD's**  
complaint,  
And you strong foundations of the earth;  
For the LORD has a complaint against His  
people,  
And He will contend with Israel.

"O My people, what have I done to you?  
And how have I wearied you?  
Testify against Me.  
For I brought you up from the land of  
Egypt,  
I redeemed you from the house of  
bondage;  
And I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and  
Miriam.  
O My people, remember now  
What Balak king of Moab counseled,  
And what Balaam the son of Beor  
answered him,  
From Acacia Grove<sup>a</sup> to Gilgal,  
That you may know the righteousness of  
the LORD."

With what shall I come before the LORD,  
And bow myself before the High God?  
Shall I come before Him with burnt  
offerings,  
With calves a year old?  
**7** Will the LORD be pleased with thousands  
of rams,  
Ten thousand rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my  
transgression,  
The fruit of my body for the sin of my  
soul?

**8** He has shown you, O man, what is  
good;  
And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with your God?

PUNISHMENT OF ISRAEL'S INJUSTICE

**9** The LORD's voice cries to the city—  
Wisdom shall see Your name:

"Hear the rod!  
Who has appointed it?

**10** Are there yet the treasures of  
wickedness  
In the house of the wicked,  
And the short measure *that is an*  
abomination?

**11** Shall I count pure *those* with the wicked  
scales,  
And with the bag of deceitful  
weights?

**12** For her rich men are full of violence,  
Her inhabitants have spoken lies,  
And their tongue is deceitful in their  
mouth.

**13** "Therefore I will also make you sick by  
striking you,  
By making you desolate because of your  
sins.

**14** You shall eat, but not be satisfied;  
Hunger<sup>a</sup> shall be in your midst.  
You may carry some away,<sup>b</sup> but shall not  
save them;  
And what you do rescue I will give over  
to the sword.

**6:5** <sup>a</sup>Hebrew *Shittim* (compare Numbers 25:1;  
Joshua 2:1; 3:1) **6:14** <sup>a</sup>Or *Emptiness* or  
*Humiliation* <sup>b</sup>Targum and Vulgate read *You shall*  
*take hold*.

SOUL NOTE



**Live and Love** (6:6–8) "How can I approach God?" This question is buried deep in everyone's soul. The Judeans asked a similar question: "With what shall I come before the LORD?" They wanted to know what offerings they should bring. In answer, however, Micah pointed directly at their hearts. Did they uphold God's justice in their communities? Did they show God's mercy to the disadvantaged? Had they humbly offered their lives to the Lord? God didn't want their offerings; He wanted their lives. God still wants hearts that love Him and hands that serve in His name. **Topic: Attitudes**

**15** "You s  
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<sup>38</sup>Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

<sup>39</sup>And He spoke a parable to them: "Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? <sup>40</sup>A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. <sup>41</sup>And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the plank in your own eye? <sup>42</sup>Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the plank that is in your own eye? Hypocrite! First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck that is in your brother's eye."

#### A TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT

<sup>43</sup>"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. <sup>44</sup>For every tree is known by its own fruit. For *men* do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. <sup>45</sup>A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart<sup>a</sup> brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."

#### BUILD ON THE ROCK

<sup>46</sup>"But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say? <sup>47</sup>Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: <sup>48</sup>He is

6:45 <sup>a</sup>NU-Text omits *treasure of his heart*.



Judgmentalism

#### KEY PASSAGE

### PASSING JUDGMENT

(6:37)

There's a paper-thin line between **making right judgments and judgmentalism**.

We face it in our lives all the time: When others are critical of us, we may feel

that they are being judgmental; when we are critical of others, however, we feel that we are engaging in right judgment.

Jesus told His followers not to judge others. These commands do not mean that believers are not to use discernment in making decisions or evaluating what people do. Rather, He is urging us not to pass sentence on the actions and attitudes of others without first looking at ourselves. A person with a judgmental and condemning spirit constantly looks down on others—even other believers. That harms and hinders the entire church.

Believers and churches must make strong judgments when dealing with sin and false doctrine. But regarding minor disagreements, Jesus urges love and forgiveness so that His work on earth will not be hindered.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about judgmentalism on pages 1324, 1325. See also the personality profile of Aaron and Miriam on page 185.



#### SOUL NOTE

**Overflowing** (6:38) The words "give, and it will be given to you" follow Jesus' words urging His followers not to judge or condemn others, but rather to forgive.

People who have gracious and compassionate spirits, refusing to judge and condemn, will find gracious attitudes and compassion returned toward them.

People who forgive easily will find that they are forgiven their own offenses. The measure with which we give determines the measure with which we receive. **Topic: Attitudes**

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#### JESUS HEAL

**7** Now w in the Capernaum vant, who ready to di he sent eld with Him t when they earnestly, s should do our nation.

<sup>6</sup>Then Je was already rion sent fri do not treat that You sh fore I did come to Ye vant will e placed unde me. And I s another, 'C vant, 'Do t

<sup>9</sup>When J veled at h the crowd have not fo rael!" <sup>10</sup>And the house been sick.<sup>4</sup>

#### JESUS RAIS OF NAIN

"Now it went into disciples <sup>12</sup>And whe behold, a only son o And a larg <sup>13</sup>When th on her and

came down to the saints who dwelt in Lydda. <sup>33</sup>There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years and was paralyzed. <sup>34</sup>And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. <sup>35</sup>So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord.

#### DORCAS RESTORED TO LIFE

<sup>36</sup>At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. <sup>37</sup>But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. <sup>38</sup>And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. <sup>39</sup>Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them. <sup>40</sup>But Peter put them all out, and knelt down and prayed. And turning to the body he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. <sup>41</sup>Then he gave her his hand and lifted her up; and when he had called the saints and widows, he presented her alive. <sup>42</sup>And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed on the Lord. <sup>43</sup>So it was that he stayed many days in Joppa with Simon, a tanner.

#### CORNELIUS SENDS A DELEGATION

**10** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, <sup>2</sup>a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the

people, and prayed to God always. <sup>3</sup>About the ninth hour of the day he saw clearly in a vision an angel of God coming in and saying to him, "Cornelius!"

<sup>4</sup>And when he observed him, he was afraid, and said, "What is it, lord?"

So he said to him, "Your prayers and your alms have come up for a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup>Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. <sup>6</sup>He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea." He will tell you what you must do. <sup>7</sup>And when the angel who spoke to him had departed, Cornelius called two of his household servants and a devout soldier from among those who waited on him continually. <sup>8</sup>So when he had explained all these things to them, he sent them to Joppa.

#### PETER'S VISION

<sup>9</sup>The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. <sup>10</sup>Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance <sup>11</sup>and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. <sup>12</sup>In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. <sup>13</sup>And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat."

<sup>14</sup>But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

<sup>15</sup>And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." <sup>16</sup>This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

10:6 <sup>a</sup>NU-Text and M-Text omit the last sentence of this verse.

#### SOUL NOTE



**A Work of Heart** (9:26, 27) No wonder the believers in Jerusalem were afraid of Paul—they knew the terror he had inflicted on the church (9:1, 2). His alleged conversion may have seemed like a sneaky way to find them out. When Barnabas went with Paul and verified his story, however, the believers accepted Paul as a brother in Christ. Barnabas, whose name means "Son of Encouragement" (4:36), lived up to his name by his positive attitude. Fellow believers need encouragement (1 Thess. 3:2–5). What can you do to be a "Barnabas" toward others? **Topic: Attitudes**



the flesh is more needful for you. <sup>25</sup>And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, <sup>26</sup>that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

#### STRIVING AND SUFFERING FOR CHRIST

<sup>27</sup>Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation,<sup>a</sup> and that from God. <sup>29</sup>For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, <sup>30</sup>having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

#### UNITY THROUGH HUMILITY

**2** Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, <sup>2</sup>fulfill my joy by being like-minded,

having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Let nothing *be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

#### THE HUMBLING AND EXALTED CHRIST

<sup>5</sup>Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup>but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1:28 <sup>a</sup>NU-Text reads *of your salvation*.

#### SOUL NOTE



**Pride Problems (2:1-4)** Paul stresses spiritual unity in the body of Christ. Selfish ambition and conceit bring discord, which draws people's focus away from Christ and toward themselves and their desires. Genuine humility, however, builds and strengthens the body of believers. Being humble involves having a true perspective about ourselves (Rom. 12:3), "lowliness of mind," and looking out for the interests of others. Believers must lay aside any pride or selfishness, always treating people with respect. In that way, we will be following the example of Christ, who selflessly gave His life for us (2:8). **Topic: Pride**

#### SOUL NOTE



**A Hearty Welcome (2:2-4)** Philippi was a cosmopolitan city whose church reflected great diversity of backgrounds and social status. With so many lifestyles and attitudes represented, unity must have been difficult to maintain. Paul encouraged the believers to guard against any selfishness, prejudice, or jealousy that might lead to division. This holds true as the church continues to reach out to all walks of life. We must remember not to prejudge, but rather, to welcome new believers with open minds and genuine interest, taking positive steps toward building unity in Christ. **Topic: Attitudes**

LIGHT BEA

<sup>12</sup>There are ways open now much own salvation is God who do for His

<sup>14</sup>Do all disputing. and harm the midst of tion, among world, <sup>16</sup>He may rejoice run in vain

<sup>17</sup>Yes, and drink offered your faith.

<sup>18</sup>For the sake joy with a

TIMOTHY C

<sup>19</sup>But I tell you aged when one like-minded your state. things which know his pr his father b <sup>23</sup>Therefore as I see how Lord that I

EPAPHRODIT

<sup>25</sup>Yet I call you Epaphroditus and fellow the one who was longing cause you b



resumé fa eternity— Jesus as o our accep

pearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, *but are* of no value against the indulgence of the flesh.

there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.

#### NOT CARNALITY BUT CHRIST

**3** If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup>Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. <sup>3</sup>For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup>When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. <sup>6</sup>Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, <sup>7</sup>in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them.

<sup>8</sup>But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth. <sup>9</sup>Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds, <sup>10</sup>and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, <sup>11</sup>where

#### CHARACTER OF THE NEW MAN

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, as *the* elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; <sup>13</sup>bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another: even as Christ forgave you, so you also *must do*. <sup>14</sup>But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. <sup>15</sup>And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. <sup>16</sup>Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. <sup>17</sup>And *whatever* you do in word or deed, *do* all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

#### THE CHRISTIAN HOME

<sup>18</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

#### SOUL NOTE



**Mindset** (3:2) As believers we should set our minds (our focus and priorities) "on things above, not on things on the earth." This does not mean refusing to hold a job or care for one's family; instead, it means that believers have a different attitude in all that they do. Because we love God and want to live for

Him, we center our lives on Christ. When we set our minds on things above, we begin to see life from God's perspective. So we work and serve to please Christ. **Topic: Attitudes**

#### SOUL NOTE



**Overcomers** (3:5, 6) Believing sets us free from legalism, but we still have to be careful to stay away from certain activities that are against God's will for us.

These verses describe some of those sinful desires that believers should "put to death." Sexual sins, evil desires, and covetousness (a form of idolatry) should have no place in a believer's heart. It takes a conscious daily decision to say no to these sinful temptations and rely on the Holy Spirit's power to overcome them. **Topic: Addictions**