



MASTER MENTORING

DON HAWKINS

(1 Kings 1—2)

Elijah had served God faithfully, and then he faithfully trained his replacement, Elisha. That training process is called “mentoring” or “discipling.” Spiritual mentoring is vital to the continuation of the Christian faith. It was the discipling of new believers by older believers that allowed Christianity to continue across centuries. Many Christians owe their mature faith to the mentoring of mature Christians who helped them grow spiritually.

Perhaps the best outline for discipleship was given by the Master Himself in John 17. In this chapter, Jesus gives a framework for the process of discipleship that can be broken down into six steps.

STEP 1: EXAMPLE

Jesus said, “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world” (John 17:6). In His work with the disciples, Jesus displayed God’s nature, character, and person. For example, Malachi 3:6 presents God as unchanging, “For I am the LORD, I do not change.” Jesus also demonstrated a consistency in word and action that went far beyond what any human being has ever shown. Furthermore, God is all-knowing, omniscient. Job described Him as having perfect knowledge (Job 37:16), and Isaiah affirmed that the God needs no teacher (Is. 40:13, 14). Throughout His ministry, Jesus demonstrated His knowledge of the human heart, of circumstances, and even of the future.

Paul also followed this pattern. While he was not perfect as was Jesus, he earnestly lived to serve God and urged Corinthian believers to imitate him (1 Cor. 4:16). Every successful mentor must begin at the same place: providing an example for those being disciplined.

STEP 2: EVANGELISM

For the first-century followers of Christ, faith in Him became the cornerstone on which all life and ministry were based. John 17 reveals the source of the faith that Peter and others came to express. Jesus said, “For I have given to them [the apostles] the words which You have given Me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me” (John 17:8).

Clearly the proclamation of the message of Jesus and the salvation He offered became the focal point of the ministry of these early Christians. Wherever they went, they spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Such sharing is the key way for the message of salvation to spread. People must first accept salvation before they can grow in the faith. Evangelism was an integral part of the process of discipling by Jesus and the first-century church. Every successful mentor is able to share the Good News of Christ.

STEP 3: INTERCESSION

In John 17:9 Jesus declared, “I pray for them.” Later in this chapter, He added, “I do not pray for these alone, but also for

those who will believe in Me through their word" (John 17:20). Jesus made it very clear that His ministry was, and continues to be, one of intercession for His followers (Rom. 8:34).

Jesus also prayed specifically. He prayed for His followers to be unified, protected, and sanctified (John 17:11, 15, 17). Every aspect of a believer's life—emotional, physical and spiritual—is covered in this intercessory prayer.

Every successful mentor must be committed to prayer—and particularly to intercessory prayer.

STEP 4: ENCOURAGEMENT

Working through "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life" (1 John 2:16), Satan seeks to trip us up daily. As our Great Shepherd, Jesus has committed Himself to protecting and encouraging us. In John 17:12, He said to the Father, "I kept them in Your name."

While mentors cannot provide the protection of an omnipresent Savior, part of their "keeping ministry" involves the role of encourager. Encouragement is one of the most essential ingredients for successful discipling. Like shepherds, mentors are called alongside the sheep to help them.

Verbal encouragement is key, but mentors can also encourage in other ways—such as taking time, sharing a meal, providing help, or even sharing a hug. Every successful mentor communicates that he or she will care for and stand by those who need help.

STEP 5: EDIFICATION

As He prepared to return to His Father in heaven, Jesus explained that He was providing a resource for the edification of His followers: "I have given to them the words which You have given Me" (John 17:8). Jesus communicated Scripture to His disciples during His teaching ministry. Ap-

proximately ten percent of what Jesus shared with His disciples was right from the Old Testament.

When it comes to discipling, there is no substitute for the Bible. It is the Word that brings change and growth to people's lives. In its most basic form, discipleship involves a relationship in which the Scripture is infused into a life to produce Christlike character. Every successful mentor continues to study God's Word to be able to teach others.

STEP 6: EXTENSION

In John 17:18, Jesus declared, "I also have sent them into the world." Jesus intended for His disciples to extend themselves by making other disciples. The goal of the mentoring process is to develop mature believers who then can mentor others. Paul wrote to Timothy, "The things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also" (2 Tim. 2:2). Every successful mentor has students who become mentors for others.

FINAL REVIEW

Jesus intended for every believer to be plugged into a vital, growing relationship with the Savior—being discipled and eventually reaching out to mentor others in the faith. By following the steps of John 17, all believers can successfully mentor others.

FURTHER MEDITATION:

Other passages to study about the issue of mentoring include:

- > Numbers 10:29-32
- > Matthew 10:24
- > Mark 1:16-18
- > 1 Corinthians 4:15-17
- > Titus 2:2-8
- > Philemon 8-16

To Learn More: Turn to the key passage note on mentoring at 2 Timothy 2:2 on page 1606. See also the personality profile of Elijah and Elisha on page 465.

Syria. ¹⁶Also you shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place. ¹⁷It shall be *that* whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill. ¹⁸Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

SOUL NOTE



A Still Small Voice (19:12) Elijah had just gained a great spiritual victory for Israel against the prophets of Baal (18:16-40). Elijah knew God intimately and served Him faithfully. After his great victory, however, Elijah felt alone and depressed, so God lovingly reached out to His servant. God had miraculously delivered fire from heaven; now God could speak in "a still small voice." God had worked national revival; He was also at work in individual lives, like Elijah's. God may perform great miracles; more often, however, He is quietly at work in the souls of His people.

Topic: Knowing God

PERSONALITY PROFILE



ELIJAH AND ELISHA: A TOUGH ACT TO FOLLOW

(1 KINGS 19:19)

The mantle (or cloak) that Elijah tossed over Elisha's shoulders carried heavy responsibility. Elijah had served God faithfully for many years as a prophet with an unpopular message. He had served God and the nation well, but in order for such service to continue, he needed to train a successor. God provided one in Elisha.

God told Elijah to anoint Elisha "as prophet in your place" (1 Kin. 19:16). Elijah lost no time finding Elisha, throwing his mantle on him, and then taking him along as prophet-in-training. Leaving home, Elisha literally burned his bridges behind him—slaughtering his twelve yoke of oxen and burning his farming equipment. Elisha took up the mantle and didn't look back. He followed Elijah and learned from him, realizing that he would one day replace the great prophet. Elijah became a faithful teacher and beloved mentor; Elisha became a willing and capable student.

The day of reckoning finally came. Even though Elisha had been well-trained, he did not look forward to losing his master and mentor. Elisha knew something big was about to happen, so he refused to leave his mentor's side. In fact, it seems that everyone knew that Elijah would soon be taken away, even the prophets at Jericho (2 Kin. 2:5). Before he was to go to heaven, Elijah asked what last act he could do for Elisha. The student wisely answered, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me" (2 Kin. 2:9). Elisha did not want more fame or more miracle-working power; he merely wanted to be able to serve well and to follow faithfully in his mentor's footsteps.

The mentoring relationship is not just for replacements—it also applies to all believers who share and teach the faith. New believers need to be trained in the basics of God's Word and in how to live for Him. Older and wiser believers can help them by taking seriously the role of mentor. Younger believers should find someone who can train them in the faith.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about mentoring on pages 430, 431. See also the key passage note at 2 Timothy 2:2 on page 1606.

ELIJAH ASCENDS TO HEAVEN

2 And it came to pass, when the LORD was about to take up Elijah into heaven by a whirlwind, that Elijah went with Elisha from Gilgal. ²Then Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Bethel."

But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they went down to Bethel.

³Now the sons of the prophets who were at Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?"

And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁴Then Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to Jericho."

But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So they came to Jericho.

⁵Now the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho came to Elisha and said to him, "Do you know that the LORD will take away your master from over you today?"

So he answered, "Yes, I know; keep silent!"

⁶Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here, please, for the LORD has sent me on to the Jordan."

But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you!" So the two of them went on. ⁷And fifty men of the sons of the prophets went and stood facing them at a distance, while the two of them stood by the Jordan. ⁸Now Elijah took his mantle, rolled it up, and struck the water; and it was divided this way and that, so that the two of them crossed over on dry ground.

⁹And so it was, when they had crossed over, that Elijah said to Elisha, "Ask! What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?"

Elisha said, "Please let a double portion of your spirit be upon me."

¹⁰So he said, "You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken

from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so." ¹¹Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

¹²And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he saw him no more. And he took hold of his own clothes and tore them into two pieces. ¹³He also took up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood by the bank of the Jordan. ¹⁴Then he took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, and said, "Where is the LORD God of Elijah?" And when he also had struck the water, it was divided this way and that; and Elisha crossed over.

¹⁵Now when the sons of the prophets who were from Jericho saw him, they said, "The spirit of Elijah rests on Elisha." And they came to meet him, and bowed to the ground before him. ¹⁶Then they said to him, "Look now, there are fifty strong men with your servants. Please let them go and search for your master, lest perhaps the Spirit of the LORD has taken him up and cast him upon some mountain or into some valley."

And he said, "You shall not send anyone."

¹⁷But when they urged him till he was ashamed, he said, "Send them!" Therefore they sent fifty men, and they searched for three days but did not find him. ¹⁸And when they came back to him, for he had stayed in Jericho, he said to them, "Did I not say to you, 'Do not go?'"

ELISHA PERFORMS MIRACLES

¹⁹Then the men of the city said to Elisha, "Please notice, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord sees; but the water is bad, and the ground barren."

SOUL NOTE



Sell Out (2:6) The relationship between Elijah, the elder prophet, and Elisha, the prophet-in-training, exemplifies the influence of a strong mentor. When Elijah asked Elisha, "What may I do for you, before I am taken away from you?" (2:9), Elisha knew what he wanted. He had seen what God had done through Elijah, and Elisha wanted God to use him even more. A life lived for God will inspire others to be sold out for God as well. Invest in someone else what God has entrusted to you.

Topic: Mentoring

JOSIAH REIGNS IN JUDAH

22 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath. ²And he did *what was* right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

HILKIAH FINDS THE BOOK OF THE LAW

³Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying: ⁴"Go up to Hilkiah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people. ⁵And let them deliver it into the hand of those doing the work, who are the overseers in the house of the LORD; let them give it to those who *are* in the house of the LORD doing the work, to repair the damages of the house—⁶to carpenters and builders and masons—and to buy timber and hewn stone to repair the house. ⁷However there need be no accounting made with them

of the money delivered into their hand, because they deal faithfully."

⁸Then Hilkiah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it. ⁹So Shaphan the scribe went to the king, bringing the king word, saying, "Your servants have gathered the money that was found in the house, and have delivered it into the hand of those who do the work, who oversee the house of the LORD." ¹⁰Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.

¹¹Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes. ¹²Then the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor^a the son of Michaiah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying, ¹³"Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the

22:12 ^aAbdon the son of Micah in 2 Chronicles 34:20

SOUL NOTE



Just One Child (22:1, 2) After the evil reigns of Manasseh and Amon, Josiah became king. Josiah saw the evil legacy left by his grandfather and father, and apparently wanted to rule differently. Somehow Josiah learned about God and chose to serve Him. Perhaps he had learned about God from the godly people in the land. Maybe it was his mother, Jedidah, mentioned here. Someone told this young boy the truth about God, and during his years as king he turned the nation around. We never know how our lives might affect one child who may grow up to serve the Lord.

Topic: Mentoring

SOUL NOTE



Back in Line (22:11) When the Book of the Law was rediscovered in the temple and read to King Josiah, the king "tore his clothes," showing his extreme sorrow over how far the nation had strayed from God's commands. He also realized how angry God must have been at the nation (22:13). Josiah repented for himself and on behalf of the nation, and then acted immediately to bring them back to God. When we are made aware of sin, we should act immediately—repenting and turning our lives around in order to get back in line with God's will. **Topic: Repentance**

David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹*This is a faithful saying:*

- For if we died with *Him*,
We shall also live with *Him*.
¹² If we endure,
We shall also reign with *Him*.
If we deny *Him*,
He also will deny us.
¹³ If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

APPROVED AND DISAPPROVED WORKERS

¹⁴Remind *them* of these things, charging *them* before the Lord not to strive about words to no profit, to the ruin of the hearers. ¹⁵Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. ¹⁶But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. ¹⁷And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, ¹⁸who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some. ¹⁹Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ^a depart from iniquity."

2:19 ^aNU-Text and M-Text read *the Lord*.

KEY PASSAGE



Mentoring

PASS IT ON

(2:2)

God worked through the many teachers in the early church, protecting His message so that it did not get changed or garbled as it was passed from person to person, from one generation to the next. The early believers had no written New Testament, but they depended on the spoken gospel message as it was taught to them by others. The process is called mentoring, or discipling, and through it God's message is taught to people who in turn will teach others.

Although Paul was nearing the end of his earthly life, his ministry would continue because he had mentored Timothy. Eventually Timothy would die too, so he would need to commit the message "to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." In that way, the message would move across the world and across the centuries. We are believers today because faithful people have been teaching others for hundreds of years. We must mentor others so the message continues. God has given us that responsibility.

To Learn More: Turn to the article about mentoring on pages 430, 431. See also the personality profile of Elijah and Elisha on page 465.

SOUL NOTE



Truth Teaching (2:15) Paul warned Timothy that false teachers would attempt to distort the gospel message. The best weapon against false teaching is the truth of God's Word—in the hands of diligent workers who have no need to be ashamed of it or their handling of it. Believers who are "rightly dividing the word of truth" know God's Word, understand its meaning, and teach it correctly. The truth of God's Word has not changed from Timothy's day to today. We ought to diligently study the Bible so that we can know and share its truths with others correctly. **Topic: Truth**

TWO SILVER TRUMPETS

10 And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ²"Make two silver trumpets for yourself; you shall make them of hammered work; you shall use them for calling the congregation and for directing the movement of the camps. ³When they blow both of them, all the congregation shall gather before you at the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁴But if they blow *only* one, then the leaders, the heads of the divisions of Israel, shall gather to you. ⁵When you sound the advance, the camps that lie on the east side shall then begin their journey. ⁶When you sound the advance the second time, then the camps that lie on the south side shall begin their journey; they shall sound the call for them to begin their journeys. ⁷And when the assembly is to be gathered together, you shall blow, but not sound the advance. ⁸The sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow the trumpets; and these shall be to you as an ordinance forever throughout your generations.

⁹"When you go to war in your land against the enemy who oppresses you, then you shall sound an alarm with the trumpets, and you will be remembered before the LORD your God, and you will be saved from your enemies. ¹⁰Also in the day of your gladness, in your appointed feasts, and at the beginning of your months, you shall blow the trumpets over your burnt offerings and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; and they shall be a memorial for you before your God: I *am* the LORD your God."

DEPARTURE FROM SINAI

¹¹Now it came to pass on the twentieth day of the second month, in the second year, that the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle of the Testimony. ¹²And the children of Israel set out from the Wilderness of Sinai on

their journeys; then the cloud settled down in the Wilderness of Paran. ¹³So they started out for the first time according to the command of the LORD by the hand of Moses.

¹⁴The standard of the camp of the children of Judah set out first according to their armies; over their army was Nahshon the son of Amminadab. ¹⁵Over the army of the tribe of the children of Issachar was Nethanel the son of Zuar. ¹⁶And over the army of the tribe of the children of Zebulun was Eliab the son of Helon.

¹⁷Then the tabernacle was taken down; and the sons of Gershon and the sons of Merari set out, carrying the tabernacle.

¹⁸And the standard of the camp of Reuben set out according to their armies; over their army was Elizur the son of Shedeur. ¹⁹Over the army of the tribe of the children of Simeon was Shelumiel the son of Zurishaddai. ²⁰And over the army of the tribe of the children of Gad was Eliasaph the son of Deuel.

²¹Then the Kohathites set out, carrying the holy things. (The tabernacle would be prepared for their arrival.)

²²And the standard of the camp of the children of Ephraim set out according to their armies; over their army was Elishama the son of Ammihud. ²³Over the army of the tribe of the children of Manasse was Gamaliel the son of Pedahzur. ²⁴And over the army of the tribe of the children of Benjamin was Abidan the son of Gideoni.

²⁵Then the standard of the camp of the children of Dan (the rear guard of all the camps) set out according to their armies; over their army was Ahiezer the son of Ammishaddai.

²⁶Over the army of the tribe of the children of Asher was Pagiel the son of Ocran. ²⁷And over the army of the tribe of the children of Naph-tali was Ahira the son of Enan.

²⁸Thus was the order of march of the chil-

SOUL NOTE



Let Others Help (10:29-31) When Moses led the people of Israel through the wilderness, he utilized a combination of divine and human guidance. He followed the cloud of the Lord's presence (9:15-23; 10:34), and he invited Hobab, who knew about surviving in the wilderness, to act as a guide (10:29-31). Moses realized the value of human resources to help him accomplish a divinely appointed task. In the same way today, God teaches us His truth through His Word, but He also uses significant others to help us apply that truth to our daily lives. As you serve God, make use of the resources He gives you. **Topic: Mentoring**

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A GREAT MULTITUDE FOLLOWS JESUS

⁷But Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the sea. And a great multitude from Galilee followed Him, and from Judea ⁸and Jerusalem and Idumea and beyond the Jordan; and those from Tyre and Sidon, a great multitude, when they heard how many things He was doing, came to Him. ⁹So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude, lest they should crush Him. ¹⁰For He healed many, so that as many as had afflictions pressed about Him to touch Him. ¹¹And the unclean spirits, whenever they saw Him, fell down before Him and cried out, saying, "You are the Son of God." ¹²But He sternly warned them that they should not make Him known.

THE TWELVE APOSTLES

¹³And He went up on the mountain and called to Him those He Himself wanted. And they came to Him. ¹⁴Then He appointed twelve,^a that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach, ¹⁵and to have power to heal sicknesses and^a to cast out demons: ¹⁶Simon,^a to whom He gave the name Peter; ¹⁷James the son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, to whom He gave the name Boanerges, that is, "Sons of Thunder"; ¹⁸Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Cananite; ¹⁹and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him. And they went into a house.

A HOUSE DIVIDED CANNOT STAND

²⁰Then the multitude came together again, so that they could not so much as eat bread. ²¹But when His own people heard about this,

they went out to lay hold of Him, for they said, "He is out of His mind."

²²And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebub," and, "By the ruler of the demons He casts out demons."

²³So He called them to *Himself* and said to them in parables: "How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵And if a house is divided against itself, that house cannot stand. ²⁶And if Satan has risen up against himself, and is divided, he cannot stand, but has an end. ²⁷No one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house."

THE UNPARDONABLE SIN

²⁸"Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; ²⁹but he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation"—³⁰because they said, "He has an unclean spirit."

JESUS' MOTHER AND BROTHERS SEND FOR HIM

³¹Then His brothers and His mother came, and standing outside they sent to Him, calling Him. ³²And a multitude was sitting around Him; and they said to Him, "Look, Your mother and Your brothers^a are outside seeking You."

³³But He answered them, saying, "Who is

^{3:14} ^aNU-Text adds *whom He also named apostles*. ^{3:15} ^aNU-Text omits *to heal sicknesses and*. ^{3:16} ^aNU-Text reads *and He appointed the twelve: Simon*. ^{3:32} ^aNU-Text and M-Text add *and Your sisters*.



SOUL NOTE

Follow the Leader (3:13–19) Jesus poured His most intense time and teaching into twelve disciples who would carry on His ministry after He was gone. Jesus mentored His followers, teaching them the truth and strengthening their faith.

These men were not perfect, but because of their love for and faith in Jesus, they went on to turn the world upside down. Likewise, new believers need training so that they can grow strong in their faith. As we share our faith and as people come to salvation, we must be committed to mentoring them so that they can grow strong in the faith.

Topic: Mentoring

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TRAINED BY SAVING GRACE

¹¹For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹²teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works.

¹⁵Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. ⁴But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, ⁵not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

⁸This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men.

GRACES OF THE HEIRS OF GRACE

3 Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work, ²to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all humility to all men. ³For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various

AVOID DISSENSION

⁹But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless. ¹⁰Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition, ¹¹knowing that such a person is warped and sinning, being self-condemned.

SOUL NOTE



Watched (2:7, 8) As the leader of the church in Crete, Titus was to be a positive example to all the believers, showing a "pattern of good works," always teaching sound doctrine, and always speaking sound words. He also had to teach the Christian men and women how to live for God (2:1-6) so that they, in turn, could be examples to others. Christians are always being watched—younger believers are learning about maturing in the faith by watching more mature believers. We ought to be positive examples to others in our words and in our actions. After all, we are Christ's representatives. **Topic: Mentoring**

SOUL NOTE



Indisputable (3:9-11) In his warning about false teachers, Paul told Titus to reject the divisive people and to "avoid foolish disputes" with them about issues that had nothing to do with salvation in Christ. Paul warned Titus against getting involved in quarrels over petty issues, and, when such debates arose, Titus was to rebuke the false teachers for their divisiveness. Divisive people insist on their own opinions without knowing God's Word. They stir up conflict that can divide the church. Such behavior must be stopped. Differences of opinion and style are inevitable in the church and can be healthy, but severe conflict over petty issues should have no place in the fellowship. **Topic: Conflict**