MAS Mentoring

First Term: Meeting One

Preparation

- Read chapter one in *The Holiness of God* by R.C. Sproul and answer the questions at the end of the chapter.
- Look over any assignments that may need to be discussed with your mentor.
- Read the section of **Devotion**. Be prepared to discuss thoughts about the subject.
- If you have anything personal you would like to discuss, what might that be?
- Your mentor may ask if you have any specific prayer needs. Is there something you desire prayer for.

Meeting

1. Open with prayer.
2. Ask them, "Is there anything you want to make sure we talk about today"?
3. Discuss *The Holiness of God*. Share with each other your answers from the chapter.
4. Discuss with them **Devotion** (see below). Do they have a daily practice? If so, what do they tend to "do"? Perhaps you can share your practice. You can also ask, "Is there any way I can be of assistance"?
5. Ask them if there is anything specific you could be praying for?
6. Close in prayer. Either one of you can pray.

Devotion

For this academic year (this includes four terms), the focus is on the knowledge and worship of God. Of course, the focus should always be there. For the seminary experience, we will emphasize two things here: One, we are reading Sproul's book, "The Holiness of God." Two, we are encouraging each student to have a daily rhythm of being in God's Word and taking time to pray. Now, this may look different for each person regarding when, where, and how long, and it does not have to be identical each day. The intention is to practice it daily.

The practice may be new for some (perhaps you too) whereas others may already have this as a regular routine. And, practices may look different. One person may be at their "study" quietly meditating, another taking a walk (listening to Scripture) and someone else having

that time with another person. There is not a one size fits all. The point is taking time to meet with God.

It is important to understand these two “disciplines” are designed to encourage and nurture the relationship with our God. Of course, we recognize His Spirit is at work in us, so we believe this is not all up to us. Our God has begun a good work in us (Phil. 1:6) and he continues his work according to his good pleasure. (Phil. 2:13) It is also important to understand the “disciplines” do not merit favor with God. We already have his favor, because we are in Christ. So, God does not love us anymore if we do take the time, nor does He promise to eliminate trials from our lives, because we are meeting with him.

Part of what we want to stay away from is a type of legalism. The intent is to meet with God but there may be days (for whatever reason) that does not happen. The point is we are not keeping score here and more importantly, we don’t believe God is either. No. We approach it this way. The Father is there to commune with you and if you miss the time, our God is not scolding you. He wants to be with you and we rejoice we can take the time, when we do.

Also, we recognize the time with God is not limited to **Devotion**. People will often say, I talk to (or with) God throughout my day. I’m not limited to a specific time.” Absolutely. Still, we are going to encourage a specific time of **Devotion**.

On a practical level, there are plenty of helps and resources out there. We encourage people to find what is “comfortable” for them. What helps them? Also, if people are not used to a regular time, we encourage them to start small. For instance, even five minutes a day would be a good start.

In meeting with your mentor, feel free to share your thoughts here. You can also share challenges. In conclusion, there are some who feel “guilty” or condemned, because they have found these spiritual disciplines to be difficult. The vision for this is a student will find a regular rhythm and God will use it to draw the student towards more intimate, loving relationship.