

LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION

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On this occasion, the 25th anniversary of The Master's Seminary, I want to commend you, John, for your leadership and dedication. TMS is a first-class educational institution which is making such a difference in countless lives! With over a thousand graduates, you have truly reproduced yourself in the men who have come in and through the school, and they are now faithfully laboring under your tall shadow. They have imbibed the seminary's theological commitments, as well as its practical philosophy of ministry, which has served to launch them into ministries all over the world! Speaking as just one student, who was an eyewitness to your leadership and perseverance during the initial formation of The Master's Seminary, I express my gratitude to God for your steadfastness in Christ. You and all of the capable professors, administrators, and staff, have done so much in helping to equip the next generation for the global spreading of the gospel, and I am sincerely grateful to God for your dedication and service to so many of us.

During this milestone time of reflection, I would like to acknowledge the impact you've personally made in my life and ministry during these last 25 years. I want to pinpoint your own particular diligence and faithfulness in leading TMS over these years. Your role as President was foundational in helping to shape and mold me into who I am today as the Pastor-Teacher of The Bible Church of Little Rock, in Little Rock, Arkansas. Both your leadership at the seminary and your role as Pastor-Teacher of Grace Community Church, allowed me to see you as an accomplished theologian—leading an institution of young men who were eager, aspiring preachers—as well as a successful local church pastor, expositionally proclaiming the Word of God in a most faithful and God-honoring way. During my time at TMS/GCC, I often saw the clear evidence of God's grace at work through you in leading the seminary and pastoring Grace Church.

I could only slightly envision what the Lord was doing through your starting The Master's Seminary back in the fall of 1986. But now, 25 years later, I can see that your desire for the training of multitudes of young men for pastoral ministry is now having a worldwide impact for the sake of the kingdom of Christ! I am truly thankful and overwhelmed by the goodness of God to you and your personal response to His kindnesses. I can say without hesitation that I was one of those beneficiaries of the Lord's abundant mercy during my time there, and I have you—by the grace of God—to chiefly thank for this wonderful

blessing. For any fruit I've experienced in ministry here in Little Rock, I can trace it back to your powerful influence upon me. I note with praise to God the words of Hebrews 13:7—"Remember those who led you, who spoke the word of God to you; and considering the result of their conduct, imitate their faith." I could only wish that one day it would be said of me that I imitated your faith.

On a very personal note, I also want to say a word to you about your role as a father-figure in my life. As a young man who did not grow up with a father in the home, you have been used by the Lord in becoming like my own Dad. You and I have always been able to discuss anything and everything, from the latest theological and ministerial issues of the day to current national and international events, as well as to our common lives as husbands and fathers. You have been a model husband and father, even though I know that in these areas of seeking to follow you, I fall woefully short.

I love you and pray that the Lord will bring you much joy as you reflect on the 25th anniversary of The Master's Seminary!