

"Just Be Faithful"

3John 1:5 - "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest ..."

Introduction: No longer writing as an apostle, but as an elder, John addresses this letter, not to the church as such, but to **a faithful man in the church** for the comfort and encouragement of those who were standing fast.

John is encouraging a man called **Gaius** to continue walking in the truth. He gives this man a great compliment in that he commended him for his faithfulness. He did not just praise his faithfulness but in how he was faithful.

Gaius was faithful in whatsoever he did, not just in the big things, not just the noted things, but in everything. I wonder if this could be said of each of us, faithful in everything that we do. The greatest need of our day is faithfulness, it seems to be a virtue that has ceased in our Christian community. I have noticed a great change in our churches over many years and it is not for the good of our faith. I have witnessed faithfulness being replaced with excuses or an air of laxness. It makes no sense to me how people can be more faithful to the recreation center than to their church.

The second man John writes about is named **Diotrephes**. Diotrephes had rejected John's letters and apostolic authority. He had been guilty of mistreating God's servants. So, John writes a letter to Gaius, who was perhaps the outstanding Christian in the church, warning him about the danger of Diotrephes.

The third man referenced in this book is **Demetrius**. Look at verse 12 in our text. John says, "Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea and we also bear record..." After meeting Diotrephes, Demetrius is a breath of fresh air.

While these 3 men of 3 John may not be as famous as say Curly, Larry, and Moe, the truth is that they have a lot more to teach us than the Stooges. Let's look at primarily at **Gaius** and the **Faithfulness** he showed.

I. **GAIUS**

- A. He was faithful to the truth. vs. 1, *The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.* In other words, he was a fundamentalist.
- B. He was spiritual. vs. 2, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.* John was complimenting his spiritual health and wishing for him comparable physical health.

- C. He had a good testimony. vs. 3, *For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.* Notice especially that the *...brethren...testified of the truth.* He had the right kind of testimony, and it was obvious to all.
- D. He believed the truth. In vs. 3, notice the words, *...the truth that is in thee...*
- E. He not only believed the truth, but he lived it. In vs. 3, Notice the words, *...even as thou walkest in the truth.* His walk was consistent with his talk. His life was consistent with his belief.
- F. He was a joy and comfort to his pastor. vs. 4, *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.* This is the greatest joy of the true pastor, to watch his people grow and walk in the truth of God.
- G. He was faithful. vs. 5, *Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers;*
- H. He treated other church members properly. In vs. 5, notice the words, *...thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren...* He promoted unity among the saints. He helped to edify the Christian brethren.
- I. He was hospitable. In vs. 5, Notice the words, *...and to strangers.*
- J. He helped others. vs. 6, *Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:* He was a constant help, thinking of others and supplying or providing for their needs.
- K. He was part of the pastor's work. vs. 8, *We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.* Here John was talking about helping the preachers. He was admonishing Gaius that when he helped the preacher, he became part of his ministry. This is certainly true. When our pastor preaches to people around the country, the members of the church are certainly part of that ministry. In fact, everything the pastor does for God is made possible by the faithfulness and help of the church members. Hence, every member has part in all the work of God's man.

1 - The Requirements Of Faithfulness..... Expected

2 - The Report Of Faithfulness..... Documented

3 - The Resolve Of Faithfulness Committed

4 - The Rewards Of Faithfulness..... Contented