

GOSPEL of *Grace*
FELLOWSHIP

3 John 1-8

Love and Support the Truth

by Bob DeWaay

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John's Love for Gaius

3 John 1-2 (NASB)
The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.

- "pray" here is *eukomai* = "wishes well"
- "prosper" is *euodoo* = "travels well"
- Verse 2 has been misused as an absolute promise of health and wealth

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John Rejoices in Truth

3 John 3, 4 (HCSB)
For I was very glad when some brothers came and testified to your faithfulness to the truth—how you are walking in the truth. I have no greater joy than this: to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

- Gaius was faithful in belief and practice
- Gaius walking in truth is in strong contrast to those who had defected (2 John 7)

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What John Did NOT Rejoice In

- Numerical church growth
- Having a man-determined “vision”
- “Doing church for the unchurched”
- A church “relevant to felt needs”
- A church that is exciting
- A church with celebrity status
- See Revelation 2:1-3:22

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3

Support Faithful Christians

3 John 5, 6 (HCSB)

Dear friend, you are showing faithfulness by whatever you do for the brothers, especially when they are strangers. They have testified to your love in front of the church. You will do well to **send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God**

- **These brothers were welcomed by Gaius though previously unknown to him**

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Coworkers With the Truth

3 John 7, 8 (HCSB)

since they set out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from pagans. Therefore, we ought to support such men so that we can be **coworkers with the truth.**

- **“Accepting” is *lambano* and “support” is *hupolambano***
- **We must distinguish between the true and the false in what we support**

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5

Implications and Applications

- Well-wishing produces neither absolute promises nor guilt
- Faithfulness to the truth is more important than what is typically valued

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6

Misery Plus Guilt Harms

Job 4:7, 8 (NASB)

“Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright destroyed? According to what I have seen, those who plow iniquity and those who sow trouble harvest it.”

(Job’s ‘comforter’ Eliphaz)

- Job’s children had perished (Job 1:18,19)
- Job lamented his horrible misery but had no answer (Job chapters 6, 7)

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We Must Trust God

Job 42:2, 7b (NASB)

“I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.” (Job)

The LORD said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, because **you have not spoken of Me what is right as My servant Job has.**”

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We Must Value What God Does

1 Corinthians 1:21-23 (NASB)

For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but **we preach Christ crucified**, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

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9

The Wisdom of God

1 Corinthians 1:24, 25 (NASB)

But to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and **the wisdom of God**. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

- **Jesus proved God's power and wisdom by dying on the cross and bodily rising again as He predicted!**

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10
