

## III John – The Generosity of Gaius III Jn. 5-8

### Introduction:

John has told Gaius that he is rejoicing greatly at his faithfulness (III Jn. 2-4). Now we are reading about how he was faithful and the things that he did to be faithful (III Jn. 5-8).

- I. Gaius was extremely hospitable to both brethren and strangers (III Jn. 5-6a).
  - A. Gaius did not show partiality when doing good.
    1. He was faithful and did good to both brethren and strangers.
    2. These brethren and strangers would apparently be missionaries that were previously unknown to Gaius.
    2. It was these that he was good to that came and reported to John about his faithfulness (III Jn. 3).
  - B. We, just as Gaius did, need to do good to others.
    1. We are commanded to do good.
      - a. Mt. 7:12 - Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.
      - b. Gal. 6:9 - And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.
    2. God is not going to forget the good that we do.
      - a. Heb. 6:10 - For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.
      - b. When Christ is depicting the judgment scene, He talks about doing good.
        - 1) Mt. 25:34-40 - Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: {35} for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; {36} I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." {37} Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? {38} When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? {39} Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" {40} And the King will answer and say to them, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."
        - 2) Jesus goes on to tell of those who did not do these things and the punishment that they will receive.

- 3) It is not that by doing these things we will earn heaven, but without doing such things we cannot get to heaven.
- C. When we do good, we are not to show partiality or favoritism.
1. Notice the illustration that James gives us (Js. 2:1-4).
    - a. We are to treat everyone in the same manner, whether we know them or not.
    - b. James concludes this thought with a reminder that if we show partiality, we sin.
    - c. Js. 2:9 - but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors.
  2. God does not show favoritism towards us.
    - a. Mt. 5:45 (Jesus talking about loving our enemies) - for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.
    - b. Rom. 2:11 (Salvation) - For there is no partiality with God.
- D. Gaius had done good both to the brethren and to strangers; we should do the same.

## II. Gaius also encouraged them on their way (III Jn. 6b-7).

- A. Notice the custom of the first century.
1. If you had guests in your home, you would escort that guests a great distance when they left your home.
  2. In some cases you would travel for about half of the journey of your guests.
  3. Not only would you go with them, but you would also provide for their needs along the way.
- B. Because Gaius was helping these missionaries, they had no need to take anything from the Gentiles.
1. This would allow these missionaries to preach freely to the Gentiles without having to ask for monetary help along the way.
    - a. It was the Gentiles to whom these missionaries would be going.
    - b. It is extremely difficult to convert someone when you are asking them for money at the same time.
    - c. When Gaius supported them, he kept these missionaries from having to ask for money or provisions along the way.
  2. Gaius understood the importance of their work and did not want it to be hindered in any way.
- C. The reason that Gaius could help them as he did was because they “went forth for His name’s sake.”
1. These missionaries were not teaching of their own authority.
  2. They were preaching and teaching in the name of Christ.

- D. We, today, need to understand the importance of helping those that are spreading the gospel of Christ.
1. Preaching the gospel is the most important job one can have.
    - a. It is more important than a doctor, or even being the President of the United States.
    - b. The saving of souls is the most important thing we can be a part of.
  2. We are commanded to spread the gospel.
    - a. **Mk. 16:15** - And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."
    - b. We see this command being followed throughout the book of Acts.
  3. Those that preach the gospel should also live by it.
    - a. **Gal. 6:6** - Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.
    - b. **I Cor. 9:14** - Even so the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should live from the gospel.
    - c. **Lk. 10:7** (Christ when sending out the twelve) - And remain in the same house, eating and drinking such things as they give, for the laborer is worthy of his wages.
    - d. **I Tim. 5:17-18** - Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. {18} For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."
  4. We should do our best to help those who are spreading the word of God.
    - a. We encourage those who want to preach to do so.
    - b. We pray for them and the work that they will be doing.
    - c. We support them financially when we have an opportunity to do so.

### III. Gaius was an encouragement for others to do the same as he had done (III Jn. 8).

A. John had noticed the example that Gaius was setting for the church.

This is an example that we can follow.

B. We cannot underestimate the power of good examples.

1. There are great examples throughout the Bible.
2. There are great examples all around us.
3. We need to follow these examples.
  - a. **I Cor. 11:1** - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
  - b. **Eph. 5:1** - Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.
4. There are bad examples everywhere around us.
  - a. **I Cor. 15:33** - Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."
  - b. We need to avoid such influences.

C. We all need the kind of encouragement that Gaius offered.

1. We are all encouraged when we understand the fact that we are not alone.
2. We have friends in this world who will help us to be faithful.
  - a. **Ecc. 4:9-12** - Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. {10} For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up. {11} Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; but how can one be warm alone? {12} Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
3. We also know that God is there for us.
  - a. **Heb. 13:5** - For He Himself has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."

**Conclusion:**