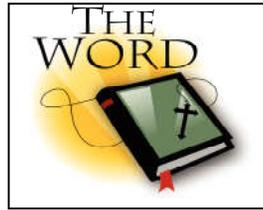


3RD JOHN 1:1-8

This is the third letter that we have which John the apostle penned. It is quite similar in many ways to his previous ones. Look for repeated themes.



¹ The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. ² Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

We don't know if the one addressed may be one of those referred to in other places in the New Testament (**Acts 19:29, 20:4; Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 1:14**) Gaius was a common name of the time. One thing for sure, this is someone John knew well and cared for very much.

What does John pray for his friend?

John next speaks about the joy that he has in the relationship with his friend. This is nothing new...

³ It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

How does this strike you?

John expounds further upon this in the following verses...

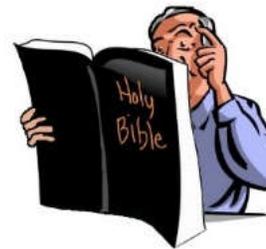
⁵ Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. ⁶ They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

⁷ It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. ⁸ We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

How does Gaius serve as a wonderful example to us here?

How might we do as he did today?

How does showing hospitality to missionaries make us to be co-workers in their ministry?



Points to Ponder

Can you imagine being held in such high regard by one of Christ's Apostle? What do you suppose it was about Gaius that earned him such a place in John's heart?

What gives you great joy?

What do you wish most of all for your children and grandchildren?

Do you consider yourself to be hospitable ?