

3 John Verse by Verse

Verse 6

1. In the last days, there will be an underground system of people who help the persecuted Jews and believers who are trying desperately to spread the truth of God. These kind and generous people will become known among the persecuted flock.
2. We see this here with Gaius. I believe Gaius is a picture of the undercover Jew in the last days that will help his brethren. Gaius was a Jew with a Roman name.
 - He had a testimony among brethren and strangers. He helped to bring them forward on their journey. In other words, he had helped them in their travels to get to the next place they needed to go.
 - This is why John desired that Gaius prosper materially (vs. 2) - so he could keep helping the cause of Christ and ministering to those in need. Gaius had been giving sacrificially and probably had little or nothing for himself.
3. In the last days, those who are ministering for the Lord will depend solely on the gracious hospitality and giving of people like Gaius. They will not have the mark of the beast and will not be able to buy or sell. Read Matthew 10:7-17.
 - This is why the Hebrew epistles are filled with exhortations about loving each other fervently (1 Peter 1:22). John taught that love is not a sentiment or a feeling, but love is an act of the will, a choice. 1 John 3:17-18
 - People had borne witness of Gaius' charity.
4. John encourages Gaius to "keep doing what you're doing," and then he adds "...*thou shalt do well.*"
5. This is interesting, because when we read Matthew 25:21, what does Jesus say to those who enter the kingdom? "**Well done, thou good and faithful servant...**"

Verse 7

1. These Jewish evangelists were on the move, spreading the truth of God. Why? "*For his name's sake.*" This is an expression that we see correlated with Israel over and over again. Psalm 23:3; Matthew 10:22, 19:29, 24:9; Luke 21:12-19
2. Their only motive was the cause of Christ. It was all for **His** name's sake!
3. This should be our motive in service. It is easy to allow personal agendas and self-glory to rise to the surface. The apostle Paul said that his only desire was for Christ to be magnified in his body. It is all about Jesus! Philippians 1:20-21
4. These Jewish evangelists took nothing of the Gentiles. In the last days, the Gentiles will bring persecution against the little flock of Israel. The believing remnant will be totally dependent on the gracious hospitality of people like Gaius.
5. Practical application: Christian, the devil's crowd isn't going to foot the bill to get the gospel out to this world. If God's truth is going to get out, it will be through the gracious giving of believers who love and appreciate God's love and grace.

Verse 8

1. *“We therefore ought to receive such...”*
2. When we compare this with Jesus’ words to the twelve in Matthew 10:40, we learn what a crucial thing this is. In the last days, to **not** receive one of Christ’s messengers is to turn away Christ and the Father.
3. John said that when you receive and help these ambassadors, you are a fellowhelper to the truth.
4. When you help those who are spreading the truth, you are helping the truth itself!
5. This is also true today. If truth has changed your life and if truth means something to you, you should have a strong desire to help that truth get out to others so their lives can be changed too.
6. If we had more people like Gaius filling churches today, the truth of God would advance so much faster and make greater inroads to the lost. The church desperately needs fellowhelpers to the truth.
7. Being a fellowhelper to God’s truth means that we put God’s priorities ahead of our own. It means that we constantly look for ways that we can give sacrificially to God’s work. Are you like Gaius? Are you a fellowhelper to the truth?