

Walking in the Truth

3 John / August 14, 2021

Greeting (1-4)

The elder,

to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in **the truth**.

Dear friend, I pray you may prosper concerning everything and be healthy, just as your soul prospers.

For I rejoiced exceedingly when the brothers came and testified to your **truth**, just as you are walking in **the truth**.

I have no greater joy than this: that I hear my children are walking in **the truth**.

Gaius' Support for the Missionaries 5-8

Dear friend, you act faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers, even though they are strangers.

They have testified to your love before the church; you will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

For they have gone out on behalf of the name, accepting nothing from the pagans.

Therefore we ought to support such people, so that we become fellow workers with the truth.

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:14-19, ESV)

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. (2 Corinthians 8:1-5, ESV)

Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer deserves his wages." (1 Timothy 5:17-18, ESV)

Diotrephes Causes Trouble 9-11

I wrote something to the church, but Diotrephes, who wants to be first among them, does not acknowledge us.

Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to the deeds he is doing,

- disparaging us with evil words.
- And not being content with these, he does not receive the brothers himself, and
- he hinders those wanting to do so and
- throws them out of the church.

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

Greatest in the Kingdom

And he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.

But behold, the hand of him who betrays me is with me on the table. For the Son of Man goes as it has been determined, but woe to that man by whom he is betrayed!"

And they began to question one another, which of them it could be who was going to do this. A dispute also arose among them, as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest.

And he said to them, "**The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. But not so with you.** Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But I am among you as the one who serves. "You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."

Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death."

Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me." (Luke 22:19-34, ESV)

Character Qualifications for Leaders

For an overseer, as God's steward, must be above reproach. He must not be arrogant or quick-tempered or a drunkard or violent or greedy for gain, but hospitable, a lover of good, self-controlled, upright, holy, and disciplined. He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.

For there are many who are insubordinate, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision party. **They must be silenced, since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach.** (Titus 1:7-11, ESV)

Calling Out Names in Public

Hymenaeus and Philetus: But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. (2 Timothy 2:16-18, ESV)

Demas: Do your best to come to me soon. For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. (2 Timothy 4:9-10, ESV)

Alexander: Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. (2 Timothy 4:14-15, ESV)

Peter: But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy. But when I saw that their conduct was not in step with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas before them all, "If you, though a Jew, live like a Gentile and not like a Jew, how can you force the Gentiles to live like Jews?" (Galatians 2:11-14, ESV)

Cain: We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother's righteous. (1 John 3:12, ESV)

Ananias and Sapphira: But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property, and with his wife's knowledge he kept back for himself some of the proceeds and brought only a part of it and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? (Acts 5:1-3, ESV)

Demetrius has been testified to by all, even by the truth itself. And we also testify to him, and you know that our testimony is true.

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Philippians 4:14-20, ESV)

Conclusion and Final Greeting 13-15

I have many things to write to you, but I do not want to write to you by means of ink and pen. But I hope to see you right away, and to speak face to face. Peace be to you. **The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.**

1. I commend to you our sister **Phoebe**, a servant of the church at Cenchreae, that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.
2. Greet **Prisca and Aquila**, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. Greet also the church in their house.
3. Greet my beloved **Epaenetus**, who was the first convert to Christ in Asia.
4. Greet **Mary**, who has worked hard for you.
5. Greet **Andronicus and Junia**, my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.
6. Greet **Ampliatius**, my beloved in the Lord.
7. Greet **Urbanus**, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.
8. Greet **Apelles**, who is approved in Christ.
9. Greet those who belong to the family of **Aristobulus**.
10. Greet my kinsman **Herodion**.
11. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of **Narcissus**.
12. Greet those workers in the Lord, **Tryphaena and Tryphosa**.
13. Greet the beloved **Persis**, who has worked hard in the Lord.
14. Greet **Rufus**, chosen in the Lord; also his **mother**, who has been a mother to me as well.
15. Greet **Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas**, and the **brothers** who are with them.
16. Greet **Philologus, Julia, Nereus** and his **sister**, and **Olympas**, and all the **saints** who are with them.
17. Greet **one another** with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:1-16, ESV)