

THE LIFE OF A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN: GAIUS

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INTRODUCTION:

1. We are so thankful to God for all the faithful examples we have in the Bible that we can emulate!
 1. Romans 16; Philemon, etc.
2. The Bible encourages us to imitate faithful examples:
 1. 1 Corinthians 4:16, "Therefore I urge you, imitate me."
 2. 1 Corinthians 11:1, "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
 3. Philippians 3:17, "Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern."
 4. 3 John 11, "Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good..."
3. Today, we will discuss the faithful example of our beloved brother in Christ – Gaius!
4. I was tempted to speak on Demetrius, but I delivered a lesson here about him back in August of 2013 (11 years ago).
5. Let us read 3 John.
6. In this lesson we will discuss the following points:
 1. I will mention a few things about the letter
 2. I will also mention some lessons from the life of Gaius we can learn
 3. The practical application of our lesson: The blessings of being a good example.
7. As we learn these things, let me encourage us...
 1. To be doers of God's Word and not hearers only (James 1:22).
 2. To allow this lesson to sink into our ears (Luke 9:44).
8. With this in mind, let us get to our lesson.

THE LETTER OF THIRD JOHN.

1. A letter written by the Apostle John (Policarp).
2. A letter of 15 verses.
3. Letter written at about 91 AD when Gnosticism was being propagated by some who denied the Deity and the incarnation of Christ.
4. Letter written to a beloved and faithful brother in Christ – *Gaius*.
 1. In the NT several brethren were named Gaius (Acts 19:29; Romans 16:23; 1 Corinthians 1:14).
 2. Some suggest that the Gaius from Romans 16:23 may be the one mentioned by John in 3 John.
 3. We may not know if this Gaius mentioned in 3 John is the same as the other ones discussed elsewhere.
 4. One thing we can know for sure is that we can enter heaven without knowing for sure who the one mentioned in 3 John.

5. This is a letter of contrast: Good brethren and Bad brethren (**Positive: Example:** John, Gaius, Demetrius | **Negative Example:** Diotrephes. Someone suggested 3 John to be two great mountains and a swamp.
6. The purpose of this letter, in my opinion, is to show what a true Christian must be – This is shown in the lives of Gaius and Demetrius!

LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF GAIUS

What can we learn from his life?

1. Gaius was a Christian who was loved by others (1-2)

1. *“Beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: Beloved, I pray that you prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (1-2).*
2. He lived so faithfully that it was not difficult for the brethren to love him dearly!
3. Are we loved by others?
4. Do we cause others to love us dearly?

2. Gaius was a Christian with a great reputation (3)

1. *“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth” (3).*
2. Every child of God must strive to cultivate a great reputation among others!
3. Timothy enjoyed a great reputation in many places (Acts 16:1-2; Phil. 2:19-20).
4. Gaius lived his life in such a way as to cause others to speak well of him.
5. Gaius did not live like the Jews mentioned in Romans 2:24, who, by their evil example, caused the name of God to be blasphemed.
6. Through our good example and reputation, we can cause God to be glorified (Matthew 5:16).

3. Gaius was a Christian who walked in the truth (3-4)

1. *“For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (3-4).*
2. What does it mean to walk in the truth? It means to walk according to the commandments of God.
3. Gaius was a doer of God’s Word.
4. He allowed the Word to transform his life (purpose of Bible – Transformation).

4. Gaius was a Christian who brought joy to others (4)

1. *“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth” (v. 3).*
2. Are you a Christian who brings joy to others? Are we living our lives in such a way as to cause others to rejoice?
3. It is so refreshing to see how faithful Christians Walk in the truth!
4. *“Some cause happiness wherever they go; others whenever they go” (Oscar Wilde).*

5. **Illustration:** Preacher who had a terrible attitude of arrogance who was not welcome to preach in other congregations.
5. **Gaius was a Christian who was not a respecter of people. He did good to all. He was a great supporter of the Cause of Christ! (5-8)**
 1. *“Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, because they went forth for His name’s sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that they may become fellow workers for the truth” (vss. 5-8).*
 2. Gaius did good to all brethren, including those who maybe he did not know personally!
 3. We are commanded to do good to all men, especially those of the household of God (Gal. 6:10).
 4. Gaius’ faith was the true faith that James talks about in chapter 2 and that all of us must have. We are not to show favoritism!
 5. There are many Christians today who are doing good to all brethren, especially those whom they do not know personally!
 6. We need to be in the business of becoming fellow workers for the truth.
 7. We need to support the cause of Christ! Thank you for what you do for BTSOP!
6. **Gaius was a Christian who practiced brotherly love (6)**
 1. *“Who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,” (v. 6).*
 2. Gaius not only was loved by the brethren, but he also loved the brethren!
 3. We are commanded to practice love for one another (John 13:34-35).
 4. Gaius learned from Jesus and the Apostle John to show love for one another!
 5. Have we learned to show love for our brethren? How much do we love our spiritual family in Christ?
7. **Gaius was a Christian who did not follow bad examples (9-10).**
 1. *“I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church” (vss. 9-10).*
 2. John did not have to worry about Gaius imitating the bad example of Diotrephes!
 3. Gaius understood that Christ is the one who deserves the preeminence (Col. 1:18; John 3:30).
 4. Gaius did not mistreat his spiritual family in Christ!
 5. Gaius did not make use of malicious words! (Eph. 4:29).
 6. Gaius loved the brethren! (v. 6).
 7. As Christians, we need to strive to always imitate good examples, and avoid at all costs the evil ones!

8. Gaius was a Christian who encouraged others to be good examples (12)

1. I am confident that Demetrius was a good example because Gaius was a great example to him!
2. Through our good example, we can encourage others to live faithfully!

WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS OF LIVING OUR LIVES SUCH AS THE ONE GAIUS LIVED?

1. God is glorified!
2. The brethren are not mistreated!
3. The church becomes spiritually strong!
4. The work of the church will be supported!
5. The world will know we are true disciples of Christ!
6. The brethren are encouraged to live faithfully!
7. We will avoid going into eternal punishment!
8. We will make it to heaven!

CONCLUSION:

1. Gaius was a great example...
 - a. Of what it means to be loved.
 - b. Because of his great reputation.
 - c. Because he walked in truth.
 - d. Because he brought joy to others.
 - e. Because he was a great supporter of the truth.
 - f. Of what it means to practice brotherly love.
 - g. Because he did not imitate bad examples.
 - h. Because through his good example he encouraged others to live faithfully.
9. The church needs more faithful Christians such as Gaius!