

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN WALK IN TRUTH.

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SUNDAY MORNING, JUNE 23, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **3 JOHN 1:1-6**

3 John 1:4, I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message June 23, 2019

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. In our subject today we will take an in-depth look at the first century church.
- b. It will provide us with a marvelous insight as to how the activity of the first church is similar to activity of the church today.
- c. The interesting thing is this look will answer several questions and allow us to provide correction to some of the things that did not go well in the early church.
 1. How did the believers of the first century do their business?
 2. How were they holding out at the close of the first century?
 3. Did they all become martyrs for Christ?
 4. Was virtue displayed by every member throughout the church?
 5. Were they all worthy followers of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ?
 6. Were they all examples of the faith?
 7. We know there were literally millions of people who turned to Christ in the first three centuries. How did the average believer fair?
- d. I believe in this epistle, we will see several points of view as we deal with Gaius, Demetrius and Diotrephes.
- e. We will also go back and look at Demas whom Paul spoke of in **2 Timothy 4:10, *For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.***
- f. With that introduction let's look at the meat of message from God's Preserved Word today.

3. FIVE POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

1. **3 John 1:1, *The elder* unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.**
2. Here the apostle John does not refer to himself as an apostle although he had that credential.
3. He refers to himself as an elder.
4. This could quite possibly refer to his age, since John would be a senior citizen in his nineties at this particular time. We are introduced to the word elder in

both the old and New Testament. **Exodus 3:16**, *Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and seen that which is done to you in Egypt: Titus 1:5, For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:*

5. John is writing this letter to his friend named Gaius, whom he said he loved in the truth.
6. Notice he refers to Gaius as the well-beloved on four different occasions.
7. This means there was a bond of brotherly love that existed between these two men that was unbreakable.
8. We cannot help but to note the bond that brought them together was the truth of the Gospel.
9. Jesus said in **John 14:6**, *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
10. These two men accepted the Preserved Word of God, Deity of Christ and justification by faith; they were sound in their doctrine, they understood the virgin birth and miraculous conception of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Titus 2:1**, *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: John 7:17, If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*
11. They also understood the death of Christ, His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension into Heaven and they knew He was seated at the right hand of the Father.
12. As we think about these cardinal truths that existed in the early church of the first century, we know it also exists in a true New Testament church of today.
13. *This is the bond of our Christian love for those of us who know the truth and love the truth.*

b. I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper.

1. **3 John 1:2**, *Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*
2. There is no question about the great relationship between these brethren, because again we see the word "beloved."
3. John wants the very best for this man; Gaius.
4. *Not only to prosper financially, of which there is nothing wrong with as long as we handle our resources for the glory of God and avoid the love of money. 1 Timothy 6:10, For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
5. John also wanted him to prosper in health.
6. I believe *we need to pay close attention to the health of our bodies. 1 Corinthians 6:19, What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*
7. Many people do not regard their health until they lose it. We have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that the statements in **Isaiah 53 and 1 Peter 2:24**, *By His stripes we are healed and by His stripes we were healed*, contains not the slightest hint of healing of the body. It is the sin sick soul that is the

focus. Although **James** was written primarily to the twelve tribes of Israel that are scattered abroad, God permits us to make application to the church. **James 5:14**, *Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: This is not the olive oil that we purchase in the super market but is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. Notice it states that the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise them up. **James 5:15**, And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*

8. With respect to sickness and disease I find a tremendous amount of false doctrine in this arena. Lets summarize.
 - a. The misconception that God cannot (or will not) cause sickness is foreign to the King James Bible.
 - b. There are erroneous conclusions that all sin originates with the devil.
 - c. It is further concluded that God's will for the New Testament believer will never include sickness.
 - d. Many have died because they have been told they were healed and do not need a doctor's involvement with the respect to treatment or medication. So, they do nothing until the ailment brings death.
 - e. That physical healing of the body is a part of the atonement.
9. A careful study of God's Preserved Word indicates that thru the above statements false doctrine is being perpetuated.
 - a. Let's analyze three scriptural references that will refute the aforementioned false conclusions.
 - b. If one does not believe the scripture references from the King James Bible, I have no help for you.

1. Not all sickness is a result of sin, unbelieve are being out of the will of God. This first truth is from Jesus himself. **John 9:1-3**, And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. **2**, And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? **3**, Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.
 - a. Conclusion, This man was born blind so that the works of God could be seen by all.
 - b. Notice God was glorified because of this illness.
 2. The Lord can cause the sickness and death of a child because of the sin of the father. **2 Samuel 12:13-15**, And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die. **14**, Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also that is born unto thee shall surely die. **15**, And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.
 3. God can cause an incurable disease. **2 Chronicles 21:14-15,18**, Behold, with a great plague will the LORD smite thy people, and thy children, and thy wives, and all thy goods: **15**, And thou shalt have great sickness by disease of thy bowels, until thy bowels fall out by reason of the sickness day by day. **18**, And after all this the LORD smote him in his bowels with an incurable disease.
10. These three passages without a doubt clearly indicates the false teaching that God wants everyone healthy.
- a. The will of God even for the believer may include sickness.

- b. The King James Bible refutes the theory that all sickness occurs as a result of being outside the will of God.
- c. Let's review seven reasons for sickness.
1. For God's glory, **John 11:1-4**, Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**, (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) **3**, Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. **4**, When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.
 2. Because of sin. **Romans 1:21-28**, Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22**, Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **23**, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. **24**, Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: **25**, Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. **26**, For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: **27**, And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. **28**, And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;
 3. Rejection of the truth. **2 Chronicles 26:18-21**, And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God. **19**, Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. **20**, And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. **21**, And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land.

4. For the work of Christ. **Philippians 2:25-30**, Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. **26**, For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. **27**, For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. **28**, I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. **29**, Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: **30**, Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.
5. To teach humility. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. **8**, For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. **9**, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. **10**, Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.
6. To teach a lesson. **Acts 13:11**, And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.
7. God's testing and glory. **Job 2:3, 5-8**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. **5**, But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. **6**, And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. **7**, So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. **8**, And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.
11. It is evident from scripture, that God can and will use sickness for his glory.
 - a. Any person or group that claims God will never includes sickness in the life of a believer simply does not know the Bible.
 - b. The body of Christ must be cautious not to believe something because it seems logical.
 - c. Sometimes the most logical conclusions are nothing more than satan's lies.

- d. **Isiah 55:8**, *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.*
 - e. **2 Corinthians 2:14**, But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
 - f. **Colossians 2:8**, Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
 - g. **Acts 17:11**, These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
 - h. Bottom line New Testament believer know your Bible.
 - i. **2 Timothy 2:15**, Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
12. Notice John wanted this brother's soul to prosper as well.
 13. This simply means that he wanted him to sink deep into the Word of God and dig out the nuggets. **2 Timothy 3:16**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
 14. The only thing that will allow our soul to remain healthy and prosper is the Preserved Word of God. **2 Timothy 2:15**, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*
 15. Good health is one thing physically, but spiritual health is also very important.
 16. The Bible tells us in **2 Peter 3:18**, *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*
 17. As we have said on many occasions; justification is instantaneous but sanctification is progressive. **John 14:20**, *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.* Ye in me means justification and I in you means sanctification.
- c. **I rejoice greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee.**
- a. **3 John 1:3**, For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, *even as thou walkest in the truth.*
 - b. During the first century, there were many people traveling around day by day, teaching and preaching the Word of God.
 - c. They were doing missionary work, if you please.
 - d. Gaius would open his home and entertain them.
 - e. This action was very prominent in the early church because they lacked the accommodations we have today.
 - f. They were taking care of the evangelist and missionaries.
 - g. This man was so gracious in his approach until John commends him for the fact that the brethren testified of him.
 - h. "When the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."
 - i. We must be very careful to make sure that our doctrine is correct and when it is then our walk will be correct. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall*

know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

- j. We have so many saints today who are feasting not on the bread of life, but feasting on fragments; their experience is more important than the Preserved Word of God. **Titus 1:9**, *Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.*

- k. They use commentaries that have been developed by men and refer to it as the Word of God. The Holy Spirit does not bear witness to anything other than the whole truth. **Acts 20:26**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men* **Acts 20:27**, *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

- l. We have to dig deep in God's Word; not only teach it but make sure that we rightly divide the Word of Truth.

d. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

- 1. **3 John 1:4**, *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*
- 2. John expands the message from a personal view of Gaius to you and me.
- 3. He is saying he has great joy when we walk in the truth.
- 4. Chesswood Baptist Church is a place where God has ordained the preaching of the truth of Jesus Christ and to declare the whole counsel of God. **Acts 20:26-27**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27, For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*
- 5. Everyone who enters these doors will hear from the pulpit the nuggets of God's Word rightly divided. **1 Corinthians 2:4**, *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: 1 Corinthians 2:13, Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*
- 6. We are going to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.
- 7. John is commending us in advance for preaching the Word.
- 8. The Bible tells us to preach the Word; to be instant in season and out of season. **2 Timothy 4:2**, *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.*

e. Thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren.

- 1. **3 John 1:5-6**, *Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6: Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:*
- 2. This man, Gaius, was evidently one of the children that John had brought to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
- 3. **His conduct conforms to His doctrine.**
- 4. *It is marvellous when our conduct conforms to true doctrine.*
- 5. John commends him in this verse and in **verse 8** having received and entertained the teachers of the Word of God. **8**, *We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.*
- 6. In the second epistle John had already warned us against false teachers, and

- in the third epistle he encourages Gaius as a believer, having received the true brethren that were making known the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. We must be careful what we support because when we support ministries we become a partner of those ministries. **2 John 1:11**, *For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*
 8. I believe many people are off base when they bypass the local church.
 9. Scripturally, we should be part of a Bible believing local church. **Hebrews 10:25**, *Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*
 10. Having fulfilled our responsibility to the local church, supporting other ministries, may be a very wise thing to do.
 11. Notice again **Verse 6**, *Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well:*
 12. These brethren were returning from their trip and were giving Gaius such high marks because he had not only entertained them but he was a generous man in support of the church and their work.
 13. *"Whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort,"* - He is saying if you help those who are giving out the Preserved Word of God and are walking in the truth you are building rewards because all of us who are believers will go to the Judgment Seat of Christ.
 14. We will be judged not for our sins but for our stewardship. **2 Corinthians 5:10**, *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know Jesus as your personal Saviour?
- b. If you do not; today is your day of salvation. **2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- c. Come to the side of the Crucified Christ.
- d. The Bible say in **Matthew 11:28-29**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- e. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- f. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- g. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10, For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. Would you please stand?

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