

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

Pastor Howard Daniel, Jr.

4357 US Hwy 59 South

P.O. Box 343

Livingston, Texas 77351

936-327-8870



MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**BELOVED, I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER
AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY MORNING, AUGUST 22, 2021

SCRIPTURE READING: **3 JOHN 1:1-8**

3 John 1:2, Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

1. BACKGROUND

- a. Please refer to the August 22, 2021 Evening Message for the Background.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. In our text today we will take an in-depth look at the first century church.
- b. It will provide us with a marvellous insight as to how the activity of the first church is like 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 fare?
- 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 this Introduction let's look at the meat of message and God's Word today.

3. SEVEN 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 wellbeloved 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:**
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. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

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. Deuteronomy 8:18, But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.**
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? Proverbs 17:22, A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.**
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: The oil 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. Notice John wanted this brother's soul to prosper as well.
9. This simply means that he wanted Timothy to sink deep into the Preserved 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:**
10. The only thing that will allow our soul to remain healthy and prosper is the 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. 2 Timothy 3:15, And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.**
11. Good health is one thing physically, but spiritual health is also very important.
12. 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.**
13. 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.

1. 3 John 1:3, **I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.**
2. During the first century, there were many people traveling around day by day, teaching and preaching the Preserved Word of God.
3. They were doing missionary work, if you please.
4. Gaius would open his home and entertain them.
5. This action was very prominent in the early church because they lacked the accommodations we have today.
6. They were taking care of the evangelist and missionaries.
7. This man was so gracious in his approach until John commends him for the fact that the brethren testified of him.
8. **"When the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth."**
9. 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. Titus 2:1, But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:**
10. 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.**
11. 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 20:26-27, 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.**
12. We must dig deep into God's Preserved 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. **Romans 10:15, And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!**
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 Word of God and are walking in the truth you are building a reward 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.**

f. Taking nothing of the Gentiles.

1. **3 John 1:7, Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.**
2. As indicated before, the Gentiles were considered sinners which was a synonymous term during that time.
3. The Gospel message went to both the Jew and the Gentiles; both had to be converted. **Romans 1:16, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**
4. Do you know what you are supporting?
5. We must be very careful of who and what we support.
6. If we don't, we will find ourselves building on the foundation wood, hay and stubble rather than gold, silver and precious stone.
7. John is saying that true men of God would take nothing of the Gentiles.
8. True men of God will take nothing from unbelievers.
9. This is where I draw my theory that God's people should be supporting the local church. **1 Corinthians 16:2, Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.**
10. This is why we don't go out and solicit from unbelievers in order to support the work of God.
11. God's work must go forth and God's people should be the ones to shoulder that responsibility.
12. The local church should be supported by tithes and offerings from God's people. **2 Corinthians 9:7, Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.**
13. Many of you know that I believe the New Testament form of giving is as the Lord has prospered us. **1 Corinthians 16:2, Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.** This verse does not permit any of us to take God's tithes and offerings and give it to someone other than the

local church. It might make us feel good, but I will guarantee you it will not gender rewards at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Although the individual might be well-deserving and have a bona fide need, **tithes and offerings go to the local church.**

14. With that in mind, **if the believer will take care of God's business then God will take care of the believer.** **Matthew 6:33, *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*** **Luke 6:38, *Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***
15. **"Taking nothing from the Gentiles"**- is a very important and appropriate phrase.
16. We are not to ask unbelievers to support the work of God.
17. An example of that is when the ark went through the wilderness; it was carried by the Israelite priest.
18. They could not even put it on a cart; it had to be carried by the priest.
19. Every believer this day and time is a priest because Jesus had made us so; therefore, we go directly to the High Priest and ask Him for whatever we need in order to support the work of God. **Revelation 5:10, *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***

g. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.

1. **3 John 1:8, We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.**
2. John is saying we must distinguish the difference between those who are teaching truth and those who are teaching error.
3. We should not partner with those who teach false doctrine.
4. **We need to be very discerning that we don't close out real men and women of God because we have been bitten before.**
5. We must understand the kindred spirit between Christian brothers and sisters. **Romans 8:16, *The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:***
6. We had a missionary from the Philippines in our church some time ago.
7. I did not know this brother or his wife when they first came.
8. I found out there was a kindred spirit between us the moment we waked into each other's presence.
9. God's work should be supported by God's people, and we must reach out to those who are trying to get the Word of God out to a lost and dying world. **I want to commend the late Johnny Flanagan and Nelda for their many years of service for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

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 says 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?

www.chesswoodbaptist.org

