

Chapter 18 WALKING IN THE TRUTH

3 John 3-6

"For I rejoiced greatly when the 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. Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, who have borne witness of your love before the church."

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We see that this is a letter from the Apostle Paul to a man called Gaius, and, in just six verses, we see a picture of the life being lived by this man.

In verse 2, we read that his 'soul prospers', speaking of a life that is consistent in spiritual growth, for the next verse tells us that Gaius 'walks in the truth' and the truth is 'in him'. The Lord Jesus, who is Truth, dwells in his heart and we read that he is following the word and the ways of the Lord Jesus in the joyfulness of willing obedience. Believing the truth, his heart is set to **WALK IN THE TRUTH**.

We may ask, in what way did Gaius 'walk in the truth'? What does this mean in practice? We only have to look at verse 5, which reads, *"You do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers"*.

Perhaps we might use the words 'steadfastly', 'consistently' and 'unwaveringly' to more fully express the word "faithfully", surely speaking of single-minded devotion and application to the will of God in practice. *"For the brethren and for strangers"* clearly indicates that the

same compassionate caring was active in the life of Gaius for all with whom he came into contact.

Is that not a portrait of a disciple given in these few words? Did not the Lord Jesus also do faithfully whatever He did for the brethren and strangers?.

Maybe Gaius never did anything that would be considered to be spectacular, dynamic, out of the ordinary, but, simply in quiet, unobtrusive faithful service, he gave of himself to whatever need was to hand, no doubt in the ordinary areas of the daily lives of people.

We, too, may be living quiet, unobtrusive lives. How encouraging to us to do faithfully whatever God brings to hand in our day, for hasn't He chosen to record the faithfulness of Gaius in His Word, for all time, thereby demonstrating that such is pleasing to Him.

The willing, helping hand, or just the word of encouragement and support that Gaius extended wherever the opportunity was given, made an impact in his community. The love of Christ in him became evident to others in that simple caring and serving. The Lord Jesus Christ was glorified as others saw what the love of God in a man can bring forth, the love that He Himself *"....poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* (Romans 5:5).

Prayer:

Dear Father, please daily strengthen my faith and faithfulness to fulfil whatever is your desire in each of the days You grant to me. Keep me WALKING IN TRUTH in the joy of loving You and walking with You.

