

BOOK OF STUDY: THE LETTER TO GAIUS BY APOSTLE JOHN (3RD JOHN)

Text: 3John 1- 14

AIM: To spur our hearts and equip us towards encouraging and supporting ministers of the gospel and missionaries working with us

INTRODUCTION

The letter to Gaius was written to introduce some missionaries who have some work to carry out within the proximity of the Church where Gaius was probably the bishop. There are indications in the letter that there have been a stiff opposition to the missionaries by one Diotrephes who imposes himself as a leader. This has greatly hindered the work of the Lord. This study will expose us to the right attitude and practical ways of supporting missionaries and the ministers of the gospel.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

1. a. What is GOD'S desire as seen in v.2? what is the relationship between physical prosperity and soul prosperity?
b. Read v.3-5: What are the evidences that shows Gaius is making spiritual progress?
2. a. John instructed that Gaius receive and help the missionaries on their journey (See v.6). Read v.7-8 and discuss what compelling motive John gave in this instruction.
b. In what practical ways can we help missionaries and ministers working with us?
3. a. Contrast between Gaius attitude and Diotrephes (v.9). What is the implication of Diotrophe's attitude? (See v.10). How do we avoid or deal with attitude like that of Diotrephes in our fellowship?
b. Read v. 12: why is it important we leave a good impression on those who come our way, especially missionaries and ministers who work with us?

CONCLUSION

Evidently, Gaius disposition to the missionaries stems from his personal spiritual progress. When we have leaders that are spiritually progress, the work of God in their hands will progress. A poor spiritual life, and contentious spirit will only hinder the work. Gaius attitude toward the gospel stirred the Apostle to pray for his material and health progress. Supporting the Lord's work brings prosperity in our wealth, health and soul. How much are you doing for the gospel with what you have now?