

3 Johns Study Series
Study #7: True Prosperity and GPS
3 John 1:1 - 13
Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Today will be our conclusion of 3 Johns study series. 3rd John is also a very short book with only one chapter. Let us continue our study in the books of 3 John and learn a powerful lesson that we need to understand and apply in the last days.

Remember the book of 2 John was a letter that was written to the elect lady and her children to keep the commandments of God and walk in the Truth of Jesus Christ.

3 John is also a letter written to one of the faithful. Let's explore this letter and learn valuable lessons that we must implement in our lives.

How does John introduce his letter and who did he specifically write this letter to?

3 John 1:1

1 The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

John specifically wrote this letter to Gaius, a faithful follower and believer of the TRUTH. Also it is apparent that Gaius was not only faithful to Christ, but was a committed saint to the mission of Christ.

At the introduction of John's letter, what was his desire for Gaius?

3 John 1:2

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

Prosper (Greek) = euodoō [yoo-od-o'-o]

From a compound of G2095 and G3598; to help on the road, that is, (passively) succeed in reaching; figuratively to succeed in business affairs: - (have a) prosper (-ous journey). - Strong's

God wants all his people to possess true health and spiritual prosperity. Health and spiritual prosperity will be freely given to God's faithful who love Jesus, are obedient to His truth, love others, share the everlasting gospel, and are ambassadors of the kingdom of Heaven.

The world believes that prosperity is having wealth, power, more stuff, and popularity. This is fake prosperity and all these things will fade away. The "prosperity gospel" that many of the televangelist preach on TV is false, not according to the prosperity that God has for His people.

What instructions and promises does God give His people in order to have true health and spiritual prosperity?

Deuteronomy 28:1-13

1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

3 Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.

4 Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

5 Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

6 Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out.

7 The LORD shall cause thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways.

8 The LORD shall command the blessing upon thee in thy storehouses, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto; and he shall bless thee in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and walk in his ways.

10 And all people of the earth shall see that thou art called by the name of the LORD; and they shall be afraid of thee.

11 And the LORD shall make thee plenteous in goods, in the fruit of thy body, and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy ground, in the land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers to give thee.

12 The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:

This is true prosperity for the faithful people of God!

Deuteronomy 29:9

9 Keep therefore the words of this covenant, and do them, that ye may prosper in all that ye do.

Exodus 15:26

26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

The world does not have true prosperity. The prosperity that God gives His people is true prosperity that last forever!

1 John 2:17

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

Life without Christ is empty and in vain!

Jesus says in

John 15:5

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

Life is just a vapor and pointless for those who reject Jesus and His Words.

How short is life compared to eternity? It is just a vapor or smoke in the wind!

James 4:14

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

1 Peter 1:24-25

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Isaiah 40:6-8

6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

All the wealthy men of the earth that so many admire today will be gone tomorrow! Remember the young rich man had every thing that everybody admired and coveted. He was the talk of town, very popular and well liked. He was the type that had millions of followers on his tweet and facebook page. The rich young ruler was only prosperous according to the world's standards.

James 1:10-11, 15

10 But the rich, in that he is made low: because as the flower of the grass he shall pass away.

11 For the sun is no sooner risen with a burning heat, but it withereth the grass, and the flower thereof falleth, and the grace of the fashion of it perisheth: so also shall the rich man fade away in his ways.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Go back to 3 John

What excited John about Gaius the most?

3 John 1:3-4

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.

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

Not only was John excited about Gaius walking in truth, but also his people (my children) that he ministered to in the past. There is no greater JOY for any faithful minister to see those who converted to the truth and walk in the truth! This is what it is all about.

What is Heaven's reaction about those who repent from sin and walk in the truth of Jesus Christ?

Luke 15:7

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

What was Gaius well known for among the church brethren?

3 John 1:5-7

5 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:

7 Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles.

Gaius was well known for his faithfulness in ministering to his brethren and strangers. As a result they gave witness of Gaius' love for God and others, that was heard among those in the church.

Thou bring forward (Greek) = "to send forward, that is, escort or aid in travel: - accompany, bring (forward) on journey (way), conduct forth."

At the time of Gaius, it was not uncommon for others to ask for directions as they journeyed from town to town. They did not have GPS. Before GPS many people were able to use a map to get to the general location but they needed detailed information to how to get to their destination.

When a traveler asked Gaius for directions, he was the type that gave detailed information in which the traveler made their destination with no problem. Gaius was the type of person who gave those taking a journey all they needed like food and water. He gave enough that they would not have to get any help from anyone else, such as the Gentiles. There were times that he would lead some to follow him so travelers could get to their destination safely.

Not only was Gaius successful in giving direction to travelers, he was successful in giving directions to others about Jesus and His everlasting covenant that leads to the everlasting kingdom.

Are you on the journey to the Heavenly Canaanland? We must use and follow the direction of God's Positioning System, The HOLY WORD, to successfully make it! We will soon be there. Don't take your eyes off God's directions. If you do, you will be lost and never make the desired destination of Heaven.

If you follow the footsteps of Jesus, you will NEVER get lost and make it to the Heavenly kingdom!

1 Peter 2:21

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

Some may not be good at giving directions like they had in the past, but are you giving others the directions to the kingdom of God? This should be our main work especially as we near the end of the world. Are you giving them all they need?

What was the potential of those that Gaius gave spiritual directions to in the gospel truth?

3 John 1:8

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

All those who follow God's Position System in the truth are ALL potential workers of the TRUTH. This is the power of ministering to others and sowing the seed of the Word. There will be some who will make it their work duplicate what they have learned from your personal ministry.

The faithful who make it their life work to minister and show God's directions are ordained by God to be His official guide to direct people to Heaven!

John 15:16

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have **chosen you**, and **ordained you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Ordain (Greek) = "to set, put, place." - Thayer's Greek dictionary.

God will give you everything you need to faithfully give directions to others to the Heavenly kingdom. And to spiritually feed those who have decided to take the journey.

Near the end of the letter John mentions a church leader who was puffed up with pride and attacked John.

3 John 1:9-10

9 I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

10 Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church.

John wrote to the church, but it appears that Diotrephes did not allow the letters to be given the church. Diotrephes was a church leader that was puffed up with pride and in the past attacked and kicked out of the church!

Why was hated John by Diotrephes? Because he was giving the truth.

In the last days those who claim the second coming of Jesus but do not follow God's directions will persecute the faithful.

What does Jesus say about this?

Matthew 24:44-51

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

45 Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

46 Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

47 Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

48 But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

49 And shall begin to smite his fellow servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

50 The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

51 And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Notice that the evil servant was talking and professing about the second coming of Jesus, but he did not really believe it in his heart. He believed that Jesus coming is delayed. He began to smite or beat the faithful fellowservants and eat and drink with the drunken.

In the last days, those who once believed in the three angel's message, will say in their heart the Lord is delaying His coming, smite YOU. They will be drunk on the wine of Babylon!

“As the storm approaches, a large class who have professed faith in the third angel's message, but have not been sanctified through obedience to the truth, abandon their position and join the ranks of the opposition. By uniting with the world and partaking of its spirit, they have come to view matters in nearly the same light; and when the test is brought, they are prepared to choose the easy, popular side. Men of talent and pleasing address, who once rejoiced in the truth, employ their powers to deceive and mislead souls. They become the most bitter enemies of their former brethren. When Sabbathkeepers are brought before the courts to answer for their faith, these apostates are the most efficient agents of Satan to misrepresent and accuse them, and by false reports and insinuations to stir up the rulers against them.” {Ellen White, Great Controversy 608.2}

Don't you know there are many who preach the second coming of Jesus but in their hearts they say He will delay. They are blind to end time prophecies that reveal Jesus. They want to eat and drink with the world. They want to mix the world and the truth of God's Word. They are drunk with the wine of Babylon!

The latest example, the Seventh day Adventist (General Conference) continues to have ecumenical relationship with those in Babylon and many of their churches and schools are very worldly.

Adventists, Witches, Pagans, Catholics and Protestants Engage in Interreligious Unity and Solidarity, Andy Roman, Advent Messenger, October 1, 2019

“On September 3 to 21, 2019 different faith groups, including Seventh-day Adventists and Wiccans, came together to unite in the ‘name of peace.’ The event was sponsored by the Church of Scientology in Los Angeles and consisted of 4 different interfaith sessions culminating in an ecumenical march for ‘unity and solidarity.’”

Religions Unite in the Name of Peace, Scientology News Room, September 2, 2019

“This week’s forum featured faiths born in the Americas: Aztec religion [pagan], the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Church of Scientology, the Agape Church and Christian Science. Traditional Aztec dancers began the program by blessing the Church and those attending....

Part 2: Saturday, 8 September: Middle-Eastern Religions—Islam, Bahá’í, Judaism, Zoroastrianism;
Part 3: Saturday, 14 September: European Religions—the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, Wicca [Witches and Occult], the Presbyterian Church, the Lutheran Church; Part 4: Saturday, 21 September: Eastern Religions—Sikhism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Falon Gong, the Unification Church, Jainism. **The program culminates Sunday, September 22, with an interfaith solidarity march.**”

Promotes The Beast -

Stop Hating Everything the Pope Likes, Spectrum Magazine, Courtney Ray, October 3, 2019

Courtney Ray, MDiv, PhD is a clinical psychologist and ordained minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

What did John tell Gaius to do concerning **Diotrephes**?

3 John 1:11

11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Other than Gaius who else does John commend in the letter?

3 John 1:12

12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.

Demetrius was another faithful saint of God who walked in the truth and gave the truth.

How does John end his letter to Gaius?

3 John 1:13-14

13 I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee:

14 But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.

Prophetic update:

Kanye West's claims conversion... His Sunday Services are mainly a free concert featuring popular worldly music rhythms with some added words that mentions Christ. This is blasphemy and Babylon. This is the same one who sold his soul to devil.

Kanye West Sunday "sabbath promotion" through latest music release entitled, "Jesus Is King."

Kanye West has a new song called 'Closed on Sunday' that heavily references Chick-fil-A
Business Insider, Kate Taylor Oct 1, 2019.

" 'Closed on Sunday, you my Chick-fil-A' the song begins, according to recordings and reporting by people in the audience at listening parties. The phrase repeats again and again as the hook of the song."

"Closing our business on Sunday, the Lord's Day, is our way of honoring God and showing our loyalty to Him," Chick-fil-A's founder, Truett Cathy, wrote in his book "Eat Mor Chikin: Inspire More People."

Notice on the Kanye West's album "Jesus is King" cover, notice that the person that suppose to be Jesus has a sun behind his head. The reality is that this is a depiction of the pagan sun worship. This is same depiction of Jesus of the Catholic Church – sun behind head.

This is a depiction of a false christ.

Pompeo meets pope to discuss religious freedom, Middle East Christians – Catholic Herald, Matt Hadro, October 3, 2019

According to State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus, during the October 3 meeting in Vatican City, the two “reaffirmed” the commitment of the US and the Holy See “to advancing religious freedom around the world, and in particular, protecting Christian communities in the Middle East.”

The meeting followed a Wednesday session between Pompeo and Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin to mark the 35th anniversary of formal diplomatic relations between the U.S. and the Holy See.”

Appeal – Warning....

“Satan is continually seeking to overcome the people of God by breaking down the barriers which separate them from the world. Ancient Israel were enticed into sin when they ventured into forbidden association with the heathen. In a similar manner are modern Israel led astray. "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Corinthians 4:4. All who are not decided followers of Christ are servants of Satan. In the unregenerate heart there is love of sin and a disposition to cherish and excuse it. In the renewed heart there is hatred of sin and determined resistance against it. When Christians choose the society of the ungodly and unbelieving, they expose themselves to temptation. Satan conceals himself from view and stealthily draws his deceptive covering over their eyes. They cannot see that such company is calculated to do them harm; and while all the time assimilating to the world in character, words, and actions, they are becoming more and more blinded.

Conformity to worldly customs converts the church to the world; it never converts the world to Christ. Familiarity with sin will inevitably cause it to appear less repulsive. He who chooses to associate with the servants of Satan will soon cease to fear their master. - Great Controversy p. 508.