**Postcard Epistle Series July 24, 2022**

**Living in Truth - 3 John 1:1-8**

Background of 3 John

* Written to: Gaius
  + Very common name in the 1st century
  + Gaius is mentioned 4 times in the New Testament   
    (Acts 19:19, Acts 20:4, Romans 16:23, 1 Corinthians 1:14)
  + It seems impossible to know if any of these men are the one to whom John was writing

Gaius: Living in the Truth 3 John 1:1-4

* Commended for not only being a beloved brother   
  but for his **persistent** and ongoing life by the truth
  + Truth = Jesus Christ (see John 14:6)
  + Truth = Word of God (see John 17:17)

What is truth?

* **Relative** truth
  + The truth is different based on the person, time, situation, life, and perspective of the observer
* **Objective** truth
  + There is only one truth and it is knowable, consistent, and repeatable

Gaius: Living in the Truth

* He was guided by Jesus Christ in **His actions**
* He was guided by the word of God in **His faith**
  + Both are accurate ways to summarize how John described his beloved friend
* Means ultimately to:
  + **Know** the truth
  + Internalize it by and through **faith**
  + To commit to daily **live by it**

Truth = Personal GPS

1. **Science and scientific** “proofs”
   * I will only believe and live by that which science dictates
2. **Philosophy**
   * I will put everything in life through a metaphysical grid
3. **Culture**
   * I will only live by what culture dictates is normal
4. **Personal**
   * I will decide what is right for me based on the situation
5. **The Bible**
   * I will only live by what it teaches as God’s truth, ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ

Gaius’s Conduct is Commended

* He was “faithful” in His work for the Lord
  + Can there be any better way to encourage a Christian?
* He welcomed “strangers”
  + See Matthew 25:31-46 – ‘the least of these’
* He **loved** the church
  + His actions were obvious before the whole church
* He **provided for the needs** of those who came to him
  + “send them on their way in a manner worthy of God”

**What does this mean for us?**

* Are you, like, Gaius, devoted to living in the truth?
  + Do you know the truth?
  + Do you believe the truth?
  + Do you live by the truth?

What is my truth? What is my personal GPS?

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  + Internalize it by and through **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
  + To commit to daily **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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* + I will put everything in life through a metaphysical grid

3. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* + I will only live by what culture dictates is normal

4. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* + I will decide what is right for me based on the situation

5. **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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