



From the Bishop's Heart

A Pastor's Joy

June 2016

Third John is a letter written to a friend, Gaius. In it John expresses the joy that is afforded a pastor to know that the truth being taught is not simply something to be intellectually embraced; it is the knowledge which fills the mind and is demonstrated in the life lived. He was pleased when he heard the report that indeed Gaius was walking in truth.

He also expresses the comprehensive care and love of a devoted pastor who is interested in both the physical and spiritual health of the believer. John prays that everything is going well with Gaius and that he is in good health of body, as it goes well with his soul.

What does it mean to have the "truth" in you? Two possibilities: a. It could refer to the abiding of Jesus in one's soul, as He is the truth; b. It could refer to the incorporation into our very heart and soul the teachings and principles of the gospel of Jesus.

A prosperous soul, then, is one in which one's heart and mind has opened itself to receive all that Jesus taught and one that is feeding daily on the Word of God.

For there to be prosperity, there must be progress. It is not enough to say "I have the truth in my soul." One must act upon the truth by living according to it, as exemplified by Jesus in His example and teachings. True blessedness comes in being a "doer" and not just a hearer.

Spiritual prosperity occurs as one feeds upon the truth of God found only in Jesus Christ, and lives his or her life in harmony with that truth. So Gaius prospered in his soul, and so can we!

May you continually bring joy to this pastor's heart as you walk in truth and prosper both in body and soul

The Mater's Pastor,
Bishop Dr. William M. & Lady Patricia J. Polley