



International Bible Lesson

International Bible Study Commentary

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Live Faithful to the Truth 3 John 1:1-15

For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth (3 John 1:3—KJV).

For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, that is, how you are walking in truth (3 John 1:3—NASB).

I was overjoyed when some of the friends arrived and testified to your faithfulness to the truth, namely how you walk in the truth (3 John 1:3—NRSV).

Where did the Apostle John find his greatest joy? In 3 John 1:4, John wrote to Gaius, “I have no greater joy than this, to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” John wrote to Gaius because he had learned of Gaius’ faithfulness to the truth and how he spoke and practiced the truth. Throughout history, truth has often been difficult to find and even more difficult to learn from those we expect to tell the truth. Those who will say and do anything to achieve their goals will sometimes disregard the truth and fail to live as truthful people. In places where truthfulness is rare and where some people will not tell the truth but obviously and habitually tell lies and intentionally mislead people, what can the followers of Jesus Christ do? They must do what John commended. They must walk faithfully and according to the truth. They must practice living in the reality, in the world, that God has made. They must always say what they know to be true and do what they know to be right. Jesus’ followers must never tell lies. They must prayerfully follow the Holy Spirit to learn when to speak and when to remain silent. Jesus always spoke the truth, so He warned His followers in Matthew 7:6, “Do not

give what is holy to dogs; and do not throw your pearls before swine, or they will trample them under foot and turn and maul you.” In other words, do not throw your life away needlessly: those who are wise learn when to say nothing.

Thinking Further

1. Give some reasons John loved Gaius.
2. Why do you suppose it was well with Gaius’ soul?
3. What gave John “no greater joy”?
4. How did “the friends” conduct their ministry?
5. When we support true Christian workers, what do we become?

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