

3rd John #1 “Introduction; John’s Friend, Pastor Gaius”

3rd John 1-6

John 17:17 Sanctify them by the truth; Your Word is truth.

Sanctify them means set them apart as different from the rest, the best way possible; ***by the truth*** means exclusively God’s way; **Your Word is truth** God’s Word is where truth is revealed.

There’s medical truth, financial truth and scientific truth but when we consider the Word of God, we have an altogether different category of truth; the absolute truth revealed by God, so it’s perfect truth without error.

Once we grow up spiritually; that isn’t the end of the line, it’s just the beginning of a glorious life.

Jesus is now requesting that the plan of God go into operation for the intensified stage of the angelic dispute by setting apart Church Age believers from the world system by means of their development of soul structures, built on God’s truth.

No unbeliever can produce this and no carnal believer can produce this; only the believer who functions in God’s truth consistently, day by day, can have experiential success in Satan’s world.

While God requires faithfulness from all believers, He requires much more faithfulness from pastor-teachers.

God doesn’t ask the pastor to be sensational or spectacular, just faithful and so, the key to being a pastor is found in one word: *persistent* because he must keep right on studying and teaching, no matter what.

Pastors who spend their time counseling individuals, deprive their entire congregations of the Word of God.

Divine faithfulness is the grace expression to the believer of God’s perfect character or essence.

Divine faithfulness is possible because of the propitiatory work of Christ on the cross that removed any compromise of God’s essence.

So, that faithfulness is the consistency of God’s character to do the same thing every time on the basis of Who and what Jesus Christ is.

Faithfulness is consistency and divine faithfulness has its counterpart with the believer.

Faithfulness is the consistency and stability of God or simply, God being God.

God cannot be inconsistent with His own essence, so He cannot destroy Himself as God by saying He won’t be God anymore and therefore, stop being God.

God cannot change His essence and therefore He can never be unfair to us.

Certainly an outward sign of an inward work of God in someone's life is that his attitude toward giving to the Lord's work gladly changes from drudgery to gracious, cheerful generosity; what God loves.

And Gaius is faithful in his giving; being calculated or systematic, so he doesn't just give when he's emotionally moved to do so because he's a mature believer who plans his giving ahead and he delivers on what he pledges.