

3rd John # 4 “Faithful and not so Faithful”

3rd John 9-10

In 3rd John 1-4, the apostle John’s emphasis is on walking in the truth and John loves that about any member of his congregation or anyone in the body of Christ for that matter.

That’s why he says he loves his dear friend *in the truth* and it’s the truth that makes Gaius, John’s dear friend.

John’s a mature believer who loves everyone, especially the Lord’s own but remember; although we’re called upon to unconditionally impersonally love our brothers and sisters, we are not required to have or make friends with anyone because personal love relationships are optional.

The difference between a growing believer in the spiritual life, who has true peace, contentment and happiness and a believer who’s stagnant or retrogressing in arrogance, fear and anxiety is obvious.

The winner believer will be rewarded at the Bema Seat Judgment because he chose to live his life with eternity in mind, making him extremely successful in his spiritual life on earth. *But the loser believer, by his own choice, will not receive his full complement of rewards which remains on account for him from eternity past.*

And the difference between winner and loser is their attitude toward the Truth.

2,000 yrs ago, the Truth was put on trial and condemned by people who hated truth and loved lies.

The Truth endured six bogus trials in one day; three from the religious Jews and three from the secular Romans.

The Truth was judged by six groups of well-educated men who could not answer the question: “What is truth?”

The definition of truth is the Word of God and it’s absolute truth, not relative truth.

Gaius had a positive attitude toward the truth of God's Word by learning, understanding, believing and applying it, so he’s advancing in his spiritual life.

And John responded to Gaius’ love for and application of the Truth by expressing his attitude with an action of love for the royal family of God in compliance with Jesus’ command.

Gaius is constantly applying biblical truth to his experience, so he walks by power of the Holy Spirit and by means of the Truth.

He’s had a character transformation that can only be accounted for because of his encounter with the Truth.

Gaius is biblically-oriented, so he’s a biblical thinker with the mind of Christ who knows he is what he is by the grace of God so he can’t help but have hospitality and generosity for God’s family.

Arrogance is the most basic and worst of the mental attitude sins and it always has a counterpart.

Long before Lucifer's arrogance showed, his attention lust showed.

As Lucifer ventured around Heaven, every angel was impressed with his beauty and he heard of this impressiveness long before his arrogance ever showed up.

Arrogance, the original sin of Satan is unwarranted self-respect; high esteem for self and making an issue out of yourself.

Arrogance is originally an angelic sin and the greatest of all creatures, Satan himself, fell in this manner.

Arrogance is also a human mental attitude sin; yet it never stands alone, it becomes a part of a counterpart.

Arrogance is always joined or connected with some other sin.

The arrogance in sin often hides itself when there is no pressure but as soon as there is pressure, up pops the counterpart, whatever it may be: jealousy, cowardice, slander, judging, vindictiveness, etc.

Often the reason we have a recession or a depression is because government officials interfere with the economy.

Divine law says that in the economy, free enterprise must prevail and wherever you have a recession under free enterprise, it is to eliminate the unfit and to improve the quality of services rendered.

It is impossible for a believer with his sin nature to execute the plan of God for the Church, so therefore, God has provided the means of executing His plan, purpose and will through His grace policy.