

A PORTRAIT OF FAITHFULNESS

III John 5-8

Introduction:

- A. Gaius loved the truth.
 - 1. "the truth that is in thee." vs. 3
 - 2. The truth should be in us, like our souls.

- B. Gaius walked in the truth.
 - 1. "thou walkest in the truth.
 - 2. If we profess we must walk worthy of it.

- C. Gaius worked faithfully.
 - 1. "thou doest faithfully."
 - 2. The faithful servant gets the reward.

- D. Faithfulness is the crucial test of one's depth of commitment. Matt. 13: (sower)
 - 1. We may love the truth and forsake it. 20-21
 - 2. One may walk in truth and forsake it. 22-23
 - 3. The faithful go on and on.

I . FAITHFULNESS IS NOT BUILT ON FRIENDSHIP. VS 5

- A. "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren and to strangers."
 - 1. "my dear friend, you are acting faithfully in doing what you can for these fellow - Christians, strangers though they are to you."
 - 2. Gaius had one aim, to help men preach.

- B. If we base our faithfulness in service to God on friendship to men, our service is not to God, but to men.

II . FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST HONORS HIS CHURCH. VS. 6

- A. "which have borne witness of thy charity before the church."
 - 1. Gaius loved the work and the workers.
 - 2. The church saw his love at work.

- B. "whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well."
 - 1. Give them the kind of start God would give.
 - 2. It was a good thing to do.

I I I . FAITHFULNESS IS NOT BASES ON RETURN FAVORS. VS. 7

- A. "because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles."
 - 1. "they have started out for His sake."
 - 2. "taking nothing from the people of the world."

- B. Jesus taught us faithfulness without hope of reward.
 - 1. Luke 14:12-14.
 - 2. "for they cannot recompense thee."

FAITHFULNESS MAKES US PARTNERS WITH GOD. VS. 8

- A. "We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth."
 - 1. fellowhelpers = working together in conjunction, a co-worker.

- B. We should be faithful until death.
 - 1. Rev. 2:10 "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."