

THE MAN WHOM JOHN LOVED

III John 1-4

Introduction:

- A. John has written a general epistle, a letter to the elect lady, now to a certain Gaius.
 - 1. The truth is not in the recipient.
 - 2. The truth is in the content.

- B. This man is not an officer in the church.
 - 1. He is not a pastor.
 - 2. He is not, by reference, a deacon.
 - 3. He is a man who loved the truth.

I . JOHN LOVED THIS MAN. VS. 1

- A. "The elder unto the well beloved Gaius."
 - 1. The pastor, the preacher.
 - 2. John the beloved to Gaius, well beloved.

- B. "Whom I love in the truth."
 - 1. Not a mere sentimental attachment.
 - 2. You love the truth, I love the truth.
 - 3. Do not love in the flesh, but in the truth.

II . JOHN PRAYED FOR HIM. VS. 2

- A. "Beloved, I wish above all things."
 - 1. wish = to speak out, to pray.
 - 2. all things = more than anything else.

- B. "that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."
 - 1. prosper = to be led in a good way, to be lead along a good road, to get along well.
 - 2. health = to be well, to be in good health.
 - a. John certainly wouldn't write to him and say, "I'm praying that you will loose everything and be sick."

3. Jesus taught us to pray, "and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."
4. This is hardly enough scripture for us to take literally and build a gymnasium.
5. Gaius had a healthy soul.

I I I . THIS MAN AND THE TRUTH. VS. 3

- A. "for I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified."
 1. He was known as a man of truth.
 2. testified = to be a witness.

- B. "the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in truth."
 1. "truth in him."
 2. "walked in truth."

I V . THIS MAN WAS A SOURCE OF GREAT JOY. VS. 4

- A. "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."
 1. He did not rejoice that he prospered.
 2. Surely would have mentioned it.

- B. What would bring joy to us?
 1. To hear of God's work progressing.