

1. THIS IS A VERY PERSONAL LETTER THAT JOHN IS WRITING TO A DEAR FRIEND IN THE FAITH. JOHN IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS "THE ELDER" BECAUSE OF PERSECUTION. THE NAME GAIUS IS A VERY COMMON NAME AT THAT TIME, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT FOR THE AUTHORITIES TO FIND THAT PARTICULAR PERSON. MISSIONARIES TODAY HAVE TO USE THIS SAME TECHNIQUE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS.

2. GAIUS IS MENTIONED BY PAUL IN ACTS, 1<sup>ST</sup> CORINTHIANS AND ROMANS. SAME PERSON AS HERE? WE'RE NOT SURE.

3. JOHN IS WRITING THIS LETTER TO ENCOURAGE HIM AS CHRISTIAN BROTHER WHO STANDS IN THE TRUTH. THE LETTER IS TO US ALSO WHO STAND IN THE TRUTH. THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL AGAINST THOSE WHO WOULD PERVERT ITS TRUTH. IN THAT DAY, THE "GNOSTICS" WHO DENIED THE HUMANITY OF JESUS CHRIST. TODAY AGAINST THOSE WHO EITHER DENY ITS TRUTH OR WOULD PERVERT IT FOR THEIR OWN BENEFIT. PREACHERS, ARE WE IN IT FOR THE "INCOME" OR THE OUTCOME?

4. THE WORD PROSPER IN VERSE TWO MEANS LITERALLY TO HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY. TODAY WE WOULD SAY, "I HOPE THINGS GO WELL FOR YOU". ONE COMMENTARY SAYS THAT "PROSPER" AND "BE IN HEALTH" WERE COMMON TERMS USED IN LETTER WRITING IN THAT DAY. SO, WHO EVER THE SPECIFIC GAIUS WAS, JOHN THOUGH HIGHLY OF HIM AND WANTED THE BEST FOR HIM.

5. JOHN IS SENDING BEST WISHES AND BLESSINGS TO GAIUS. IT IS NOT A GUARANTEE OF WEALTH OR HEALTH FOR HIM OR ANY OTHER CHRISTIAN. JESUS TOLD US IN THIS WORLD WE WILL HAVE TRIBULATION, BUT BE OF GOOD CHEER, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.

6. TO WALK IN THE TRUTH MEANS THAT WE ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THE TRUTH WE HAVE RECEIVED, THAT WE ARE SAVED AND ARE LIVING ACCORDING TO THAT TRUTH.