

### 3 John: Walking in the Truth

Psalm 26:2-3 ❖ 3 John 1-8

“All the way my Savior leads me; what have I to ask beside?  
Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my guide?  
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here my faith in Him to dwell!  
For I know whate’er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.”

(Fanny Crosby, 1875)

#### Who Was John?

What are the common denominators among your good friends?

Even \_\_\_\_\_ needed good friends. His best friends were Peter, James and John. \_\_\_\_\_ was the only disciple who was at Jesus’ \_\_\_\_\_, and Jesus trusted him so much that He told him to take care of His \_\_\_\_\_. (John 19:25-27)

John was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the twelve disciples and lived the \_\_\_\_\_. He was a \_\_\_\_\_. His father was Zebedee, and his mother was Salome, the sister of Jesus’ mother Mary, thus making John and Jesus first \_\_\_\_\_.

John and his older brother James were \_\_\_\_\_, who worked with their father. It was a prosperous business since they had \_\_\_\_\_ men.

In his \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus, the Gospel of John, he never referred to himself by name, using instead the moniker “the disciple whom Jesus \_\_\_\_\_” five times.

John also wrote four other books in the New Testament: \_\_\_ John, \_\_\_ John, \_\_\_ John, and Revelation.

John was an \_\_\_\_\_ man when he wrote his three \_\_\_\_\_ letters from Ephesus, which is modern-day \_\_\_\_\_, sometime between 85 and 95 AD.

#### Circuit Riders

In John’s day and for many centuries after, the gospel was spread from place to place by \_\_\_\_\_ preachers. Christians would take them into their \_\_\_\_\_ and, after a time of \_\_\_\_\_, they would send them on to the next town with provisions for their journey.

3 John was written, because some traveling \_\_\_\_\_ sent by John to one of the churches in Turkey had been rejected by a dictatorial leader, who even went so far as to \_\_\_\_\_

members who had showed \_\_\_\_\_ to those John had sent.

My preacher grandfather told me about \_\_\_\_\_ with his preacher father in North Mississippi and North Alabama by horse and \_\_\_\_\_ or by \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1920’s. In 1986, when I preached my first sermon in one of those churches, there were people in the congregation who had been \_\_\_\_\_ by my great grandfather.

#### Your Faithfulness to the Truth

John began this letter by commending his “dear \_\_\_\_\_ Gaius, whom I love in the \_\_\_\_\_, because you continue to walk in the \_\_\_\_\_” (vv. 1-3).

“In fact”, John wrote, “I have no greater \_\_\_\_\_ than to hear that my \_\_\_\_\_ are walking in the \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 4).

A good definition of “walking in the truth” is “loving what \_\_\_\_\_ loves and hating what \_\_\_\_\_ hates” or as Paul wrote in Romans 12:9 “hate what is \_\_\_\_\_ and cling to what is \_\_\_\_\_.”

While serving at FPC’s Soup Kitchen one Sunday last month, I met an older Nigerian man, who asked if I knew about Mary Slessor, the Scottish Presbyterian \_\_\_\_\_ who went to Nigeria in 1876.

America is a \_\_\_\_\_ field. Some folks you and I know need to hear the Gospel, which is: G \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_ and  
G \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Our Faithfulness to the Truth

The circuit riders today “who go out for the sake of the \_\_\_\_\_” (v. 7) are both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ missionaries.

The circuit riders today are also \_\_\_\_\_ Christians. Only \_\_\_\_\_% of Americans now go to church regularly, so there are many people who need to hear the good news from us that Jesus is “\_\_\_\_\_ way, \_\_\_\_\_ truth and \_\_\_\_\_ life” (John 14:6).

Like John, we know “what a \_\_\_\_\_ we have in Jesus,” so let’s faithfully and joyfully \_\_\_\_\_ our missionaries while we also engage in some \_\_\_\_\_ work of our own.

“Test me, O LORD, and try me, \_\_\_\_\_ my heart and my mind; for Your love is ever before me, and I (*long to*) walk continually in Your \_\_\_\_\_” (Psalm 26:2-3)



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