

GIVE WHAT TO LOTTIE WHO?!

Sunday, December 15, 2024 -- Pastor Andrew Coleman

3rd JOHN 5-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

5 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, 6 who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. 7 For they have gone out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. 8 Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.



Lottie Moon 1840-1912
Baptist Missionary to China



SETTING & BACKGROUND of 3rd JOHN:

1. John a disciple of Jesus is the writer... also called 'the Elder'.
2. This John also wrote the Gospel of John and Revelation.
3. The little letters of 1st, 2nd and 3rd John were likely sent together.
 - 1st John was a sermon to churches in what is now western Turkey.
 - 2nd John was a letter to a particular church.
 - 3rd John was personal correspondence to a man name Gaius.
4. Apparently, Gaius was helping traveling missionaries who were passing through their area of Asia (western Turkey).

OBSERVATIONS & APPLICATIONS from 3rd JOHN 5-8

1. **Supporting missionaries is a REALLY GOOD thing to do.**

vs 5 & 8

A- we care for them.

B- we pray for them.

C- we pay for them.

2. **Sometimes we know them, sometimes we do not.**

vs 5b *strangers as they are*

5 Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, **6** who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. **7** For they have gone out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. **8** Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

3. We should support missionaries **generously**.

vs. 6b *You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God.*

Our generosity should be great. (The amount counts.)
 Our generosity should be genuine. (The authenticity counts.)
 Our generosity should be glad. (The attitude counts.)
“Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice.”

4. We should support missionaries because we **love Christ**.

vs 7a *For they have gone out for the sake of the Name,*

5. We should support missionaries because it's **good strategy**.

vs 7b *[they] accept nothing from the Gentiles.*

6. We should support missionaries so we may **join their work**.

vs 8b *that we may be fellow workers for the truth.*

WHY LOTTIE MOON?? Her Extraordinary Life:

- Born in Virginia Dec. 12, 1840
- Rebelled against Christianity until she came to Christ in college Dec 1858
- One of the first women in the South to receive a master's degree
- Sailed to China in 1873 supported by Southern Baptist churches (**IMB** = *International Mission Board*)
- Spent 39 years teaching girls and women of Shantung, China about Christ
- Wrote thousands of letters campaigning for missions support for China
 - *'Please pray for us.'*
 - *'Please give so we can stay.'*
 - *'Please send people to help us.'*
- Died on a ship in Kobe, Japan Dec 24, 1912 at age 73 (109 years ago)

WHY GIVE to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (LMCO)?

- Your gift supports 3,300 trained IMB missionaries serving overseas.
- Your gift sends IMB missionaries to 'the last frontiers' with the Gospel.
- 100% of your gift to LMCO goes overseas.
- Financial giving is an essential part of Gospel work. Everyone is involved.
- This is an appropriate way to celebrate Christ's birth!

PRAY. GIVE. GO.