ALL DAY LONG MY ENEMIES DISTORT MY WORDS; ALL THEIR THOUGHTS ARE AGAINST ME FOR EVIL



Gabe Clark doing the opening encouraging the brethren on the Lord's Day Christ's Church Great Falls, MT

"And as Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, saying, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he should be born blind?""

John 9:1,2



GREAT FALLS -*Wed. night*, 7:00 pm: Jay Wilson - Creation vs. Evolution Power-Points and videos

<u>Great Falls -</u> Potluck - Feb. 7

Talitha DuPaul's graduation celebration Sat. Feb. 13 at the church building at 4:00 pm

LUKE 4:43. N

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - Sat. Mar. 13 at Bozeman MT Ladies' Advance April 8-10 - Billings ladies Badlands Family Camp - May 28-31 Men's PEAKS - July 22-24, 2021 2021 Family Camp - Sept. 3-6



Question of the week:

When Jesus was describing the conditions leading up to the AD 70 destruction of the temple in Jerusalem, He said something would happen when lawlessness is increased. What was it?

Last week's question: What instrument did Moses use to part the Red Sea in accordance with the Lord's command? Answer: He lifted up his staff and stretched out his hand to divide the sea (Exodus 14:16,21).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 102 Morning Assembly – 117 Evening Assembly – 86

Wednesday Night (2/3) – 79 Butte Lord's Day – 17 GF Lord's Day (Wed) – 74,81 W-61



Lots of Love from the Letters of John ...

Supporting Faithful Teachers and Preachers

The word of God is spread by preaching and teaching. "God was well-pleased," said Paul, "through the foolishness of the message *preached* to save those who believe" (1 Corinthians 1:21). Hence we see in the early church (sometimes called the *primitive* church, meaning "first, or primal") many who traveled preaching and teaching in addition to the apostles. For example, Luke recorded how some came into the regions of Cyprus and Phoenicia. "So then those who were scattered because of the persecution that arose in connection with Stephen made their way to Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except to Jews alone" (Acts 11:19). Others soon followed, bringing the gospel message to the first

significant number of Gentiles to be brought into the fold of Christ. But it is absolutely critical that this message be the total truth; an "adulterated" message is pure poison. With Gnostic antichrists of the apostle John's time battering on the walls of truth, it would be really important for the brethren to know who was preaching the true gospel, and who was preaching a twisted gospel. Furthermore, it would be of major importance to support in a financial way those brave men who would teach the whole truth about the Christ and not be swayed by the pressures of the day.

- Gaius' faithfully helping Gaius was not only standing firmly for the gospel of Christ against the antichrist movement, but he was helping those who proclaimed the true gospel. "Beloved," is John's affectionate sub-greeting, "you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, especially when they are strangers" (3 John 1:5). The "brethren" here are the traveling preachers and teachers who, in a sense, are strangers in that they are not local brethren and therefore not necessarily previously known by helpful supporters such as Gaius.
 - Testifying of Gaius' love The apostle John would have had many connections due to his apostleship and his work in God's "vineyard" for a period amounting to about 60 years by this point, and he clearly has a good communication network. He knows, then, that many of these traveling teachers and preachers "bear witness to your love before the church," and the apostle encourages Gaius to continue his efforts in these words: "and you will do well to send them on

"Fellow workers with the truth" are to be supported.

their way in a manner worthy of God" (3 John 1:6). The statement "in a manner worthy of God" is one to arrest the reader's attention. The preaching / teaching brethren are to be provided for in a generous rather than a tight-fisted way.

Why "they went out" — When saints sincerely and deeply process the gospel, one of the conclusions to which they come is how "lost" the world is. This realization motivates them to do everything they can to spread the word, to broadcast it as the old-time farmer spread seed on the ground by hand. The apostle John knows of these brethren in the late first century, and comments to Gaius, "For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles" (3 John 1:7). Again, an interesting expression from the aged apostle, "for the sake of the Name." The "Name" is going to be the great Yahweh God, revealed through Jesus Christ. All the way through the scriptures, God says He is doing things "to vindicate the holiness of My great name" (Ezekiel 36:23). Even the apostle Paul noted that the apostles' purpose was "to bring"

about the obedience of faith among the Gentiles, for His name's sake" (Romans 1:6). Those who demonstrated as trustworthy workers for the Lord are worthy of support. These men of whom John speaks were focused on saving the Gentiles (not using them as "cash-cows") so they did not accept anything from those whom they were trying to convert. John rightly exhorts Gaius and anyone else reading this epistle. "Therefore we ought to support such men, that we may be fellow workers with the truth" (3 John 1:8). It's always about *the truth*. Those who preach and those who support are "fellow workers with the truth." May God continue to bless this partnership!!