

A Legacy That Matters

Scripture: 3 John 1:5 – 8

Background: A personal letter from John to Gaius, who was described as a beloved friend of the apostle and faithful adherent to the truth. The main topic covered in the letter was the correct standard of Christian hospitality to those out on the frontlines of ministry. It's an incredible letter encouraging God's people to leverage His resources toward the legacy of passing on the Gospel to those who don't have it.

- I. **Legacy Is About _____ (v. 5)**
 - a. God has been extremely faithful to us – *1 Corinthians 1:9*
 - b. We get to be faithful to others

- II. **Legacy Is About _____ (v. 6)**
 - a. "The mark of a great church is not its seating capacity but its sending capacity." — Mike Stachura
 - i. God's mission is all about sending, not hoarding.
 1. God sent His Son.
 2. Jesus sent His disciples.
 3. God sent His Holy Spirit.
 4. The Spirit sends the Church.

 - b. The Church has a great opportunity to send out people and resources.

- III. **Legacy Is About The _____ (v. 7)**
 - a. The church and its resources aren't just "sent out." It is "sent out" with a mission and a message.
 - i. The mission is to "go." – *Matthew 28:19*
 - ii. The message is the "name." – *Acts 4:12*
 - b. The people of God (the Church) should resource the mission that shares the message.
 - i. "If you are looking for the best bang for your buck in mission giving, the Cooperative Program goes further and does more than any other avenue." – Dr. Jim Richards (Executive Director of the Southern Baptists of Texas)

- IV. **Legacy Is About _____ (v. 8)**
 - a. "We" is always stronger than "I".
 - i. Notice how John is taking in plurality throughout this verse.
 1. "we" ought to support
 2. "people" like these
 3. "we" may be
 4. "fellow workers" for the truth

 - b. "Together" can do more for the Kingdom than we can "alone"