

For the sake of the Name they went forth. 3 John 7 (R.V.)

The beloved elder is anxious about some travelling evangelists, who had gone forth to visit the churches; and is commending them to the care of Gaius. He was to set them forward in a manner that should be worthy of God. This is a high standard for our entertainment of brethren and strangers withal. It would save us from niggardliness and stint, for God is never miserly or meagre. It would equally save us from ostentation, since in God there is perfect simplicity. It would pervade our behaviour with the most perfect grace. But notice, in respect of these evangelists:

THEIR MOTIVE. "For the sake of the Name." It is not needful to say whose Name. There is one Name above every name, in which whatever we do is to be done. To teach the meaning hidden in that Name; to unfold its sweetness and power; to exert its spell over souls that had never felt its magnetism; to glorify it and make it honoured and beloved--this was their one thought and aim. Oh that we were animated by the same gracious motive!

THEIR DELICACY. They would take nothing of the Gentiles. It seemed to them incongruous to go for alms and maintenance to those who do not love their Lord. Besides, could not He maintain his own servants? They certainly would not have sanctioned the means that modern Christians adopt of getting money from the ungodly.

THEIR WELCOME. We ought to welcome all such; and in doing so we may be fellow-helpers with them and with the truth. It is a very beautiful act to link ourselves with God's honoured servants by prayer and sympathy, that we may be counted their fellow-helpers and companions.

他們是為主的名出外。 約參7

這位受愛戴的使徒，為一些外出探訪眾教會的旅行佈道者擔憂；他委託該猶照顧他們。該猶以配得過神的方式，幫助他們往前行(6節)。這是我們款待弟兄和客旅的高標準。這樣做，可以救我們擺脫小氣吝嗇，因為神從來不曾吝嗇缺乏。這樣做，同樣也救我們脫離炫耀，因為在神裡面一切盡都樸實。這樣做，也使我們的行為充滿恩典。然而，對這些福音使者，有幾點我們要注意：

他們的動機。「為主名的緣故(7節)」。不需要提誰的名。只有一個名超乎一切的名，在這名裡我們無論作什麼，都要作成。教導隱藏在那名裡的意義；揭開這名的甜美和能力；向那些未曾受吸引的人發揮這名的吸引力；榮耀這名使這名被尊榮被愛戴 — 這是福音使者唯一的思想和目標。但願我們也被同樣慈愛的動機所激勵！

他們的謹慎。他們對於外邦人一無所取(7節)。在他們看來，向不愛主的人求餽送和生活費是不合宜的。除此之外，難道神不能供養祂自己的僕人嗎？他們肯定無法贊同現今基督徒從不敬虔的人接受錢財的方式。

接待他們。我們應該接待所有這樣的人；這樣作就叫我們與他們一同為真理作工(8節)。我們以禱告和同情與神所敬重的僕人連結在一起，是非常美麗的行動，這樣我們也被算為他們的幫手和同伴。