

SERIES: III JOHN: LOVING AND LIVING THE TRUTH,
WEEK 2

TITLE: THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

TEXT: III JOHN 1:5-8

INTRODUCTION: (1) HOSPITALITY WAS A DISTINCTIVE MARK OF CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITIES IN THE N.T.

* IN FACT, IN THE N.T., PAUL, PETER, JOHN AND THE AUTHOR OF HEBREWS MADE HOSPITALITY A SCRIPTURAL COMMAND, A DUTY!

** FOR EXAMPLE, PAUL IN ROMANS 12:13 SAID: (QUOTE IT).

*** PETER WAS INSPIRED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT TO SAY IN I PETER 4:9 (QUOTE IT).

**** THE WRITER OF HEBREWS SAID IN HEBREWS 13:2 – “DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR BY THIS SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT.”

(2) IN I TIMOTHY 5:10, PAUL LISTED HOSPITALITY AS ONE OF THE GODLY VIRTUES FOR WIDOWS THAT ARE TO BE CARED FOR BY THE CHURCH.

* THEN ELDERS OR PASTORS ARE REQUIRED TO BE HOSPITABLE AS ONE OF THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THAT OFFICE IN I TIMOTHY 3:2 AND TITUS 1:8.

** THEN IN OUR TEXT TODAY, THE APOSTLE JOHN WILL TALK ABOUT GAIUS, COMMENDING HIM FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

*** AND HOSPITALITY WAS PRACTICED BY GAIUS AND OTHERS IN THE N.T. AS A MEANS OF SUPPORTING TRAVELING TEACHERS, PREACHERS, EVANGELISTS OR MISSIONARIES FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL, PLANTING CHURCHES AND ESTABLISHING CHURCHES IN THE FAITH.

**** AND THESE FIRST CHRISTIAN TEACHERS AND MISSIONARIES WERE NOT A WELL-FINANCED BAND OF TRAVELERS WHO COULD REGULARLY AFFORD STAYING IN INNS, SO THEY DEPENDED ON THE GENEROUS HOSPITALITY OF CHRISTIAN PEOPLE.

(3) ON TOP OF THAT, THERE WERE FEW ACCEPTABLE INNS WHERE CHRISTIANS COULD STAY. FOR INNS

COMMONLY WERE NOTORIOUSLY IMMORAL, FILTHY PLACES.

* SO FOR AFFORDABILITY, PURITY AND AVAILABILITY, THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY WAS THE MEANS TO SEND OUT AND CARE FOR PEOPLE WHO WERE EVANGELIZING AND EQUIPPING.

** AND LET ME GIVE YOU THE NAMES OF 5 PEOPLE IN THE N.T. THAT STAND OUT THAT ALEXANDER STRAUCH LISTS IN HIS LITTLE BOOKLET, THE HOSPITALITY COMMANDS.

*** NO. 1 SIMON THE TANNER. AND IN ACTS 9:43 LUKE RECORDS: “AND PETER STAYED MANY DAYS IN JOPPA WITH A TANNER NAMED SIMON.”

(4) AND HERE SIMON’S HOME BECAME PETER’S TEMPORARY HOME BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR SPREADING THE GOSPEL AND TEACHING CHRISTIANS.

* THEN THE SECOND PERSON IS LYDIA. AND AT THE TIME OF HER SALVATION UNDER PAUL’S PREACHING, LUKE RECORDS IN ACTS 16:14&15:

V. 14 – A WOMAN NAMED LYDIA, FROM THE CITY OF THYATIRA, A SELLER OF PURPLE FABRICS, A WORSHIPER OF GOD, WAS LISTENING; AND THE LORD OPENED HER HEART TO RESPOND TO THE THINGS SPOKEN BY PAUL.

V. 15 – AND WHEN SHE AND HER HOUSEHOLD HAD BEEN BAPTIZED, SHE URGED US, SAYING, “IF YOU HAVE JUDGED ME TO BE FAITHFUL TO THE LORD, COME INTO MY HOUSE AND STAY.” AND SHE PREVAILED UPON US.

** AND HOSPITALITY WAS LYDIA’S WAY OF SHOWING APPRECIATION AND LOVE FOR THE GOD OF HER SALVATION.

*** NEXT, A THIRD PERSON NAMED PHILEMON, A BELIEVER IN THE CITY OF COLOSSE, WAS KNOWN FOR HIS LOVING SPIRIT AND OPEN HOME.

**** AND I SAY THAT BECAUSE THE APOSTLE PAUL WROTE DURING HIS IMPRISONMENT IN ROME AND SAID IN PHILEMON V. 22: “PREPARE FOR ME A LODGING (A GUEST ROOM) FOR I HOPE THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS I WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU.”

(5) AND OBVIOUSLY PAUL WOULD NOT HAVE MADE THAT REQUEST IF HE DID NOT KNOW THAT PHILEMON PRACTICED THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

* AND THEN NO. 4 WAS A MAN NAMED GAIUS OF CORINTH, NOT THE GAIUS IN OUR TEXT TODAY.

** BUT IT SAYS OF THIS GAIUS IN ROMANS 16:23, “GAIUS, HOST TO ME AND TO THE WHOLE CHURCH, GREETES YOU.”

*** AND GAIUS NOT ONLY HOSTED PAUL, BUT ALSO THE CHURCH MET THERE AND ASSEMBLED THERE, WHICH WAS THE CASE UNTIL EARLY IN THE 3'D CENTURY. CHURCHES MET IN HOMES.

**** NOW THIS GAIUS LEADS US TO OUR GAIUS IN OUR TEXT TODAY IN III JOHN VERSES 5-8, THE 5TH EXAMPLE OF HOSPITALITY.

(6) AND THE ENTIRE SHORT LETTER OF III JOHN IS ADDRESSED TO THIS SPECIAL BROTHER IN CHRIST. AND THIS DEAR BROTHER IS COMMENDED BY JOHN FOR HIS GRACIOUS MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

* THUS I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY OF GOD'S WORD TODAY, THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY AS WE WORK OUR WAY THROUGH III JOHN VERSES 5-8.

** AND WE'LL LOOK AT 3 MAIN POINTS TO DO THAT. NO. 1 THE RELIABILITY OF GAIUS, HIS FAITHFULNESS IN PRACTICING HOSPITALITY, V. 5.

*** NO. 2 THE REPORT TO THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS ABOUT THE LOVE OF GAIUS IN PRACTICING HOSPITALITY, V. 6; AND NO. 3 THE REASONS THAT JOHN GIVES TO GAIUS TO CONTINUE TO PRACTICE HOSPITALITY, VV. 7&8.

(7) AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE RELIABILITY OF GAIUS.

I. THE RELIABILITY, (READ V. 5)

A. NOW FOR THE 3'D TIME ALREADY IN THIS SHORT EPISTLE OF 4 USES IN III JOHN, JOHN CALLS GAIUS THE "BELOVED" FOR GAIUS WAS SPECIALLY LOVED BY THE CHURCH HE SERVED THROUGH AND BY JOHN AS ONE WHO LOVED AND LIVED THE TRUTH AS GAIUS WALKED IN TRUTH.

* AND AFTER JOHN CALLS HIM BELOVED, ANOTHER REASON IS GIVEN FOR HIM BEING SPECIALLY LOVED BEYOND WALKING IN TRUTH, AND IT WAS "YOU ARE ACTING FAITHFULLY IN WHATEVER YOU ACCOMPLISH FOR THE BRETHREN."

** AND SPECIFICALLY WHAT JOHN IS TALKING ABOUT HERE IS GAIUS' MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY TO THE BRETHREN.

*** AND GAIUS TOOK A SPECIAL DELIGHT IN OPENING HIS HOME TO THE BRETHREN WHOM HAD GONE OUT PREACHING THE GOSPEL AND ESTABLISHING CHURCHES.

**** THIS WAS A FAITHFUL WORK OF LOVE FOR GAIUS. FOR NOTE THAT THE WORD "ACCOMPLISH" IN THE NAU

OR THE WORD "DOING" OR "DO" OR THE WORD "EFFORTS" DEPENDING ON WHICH TRANSLATION YOU HAVE, LIT. MEANS WORK, LABOR, TO DO WORK, TO DO BUSINESS.

1. AND GAIUS' WORK, HIS BUSINESS, HIS EFFORT WAS HOSPITALITY. AND FOR ANY OF YOU THAT PRACTICE IT AS COUPLES, YOU AND YOUR WIFE KNOW, OR YOU AS INDIVIDUALS KNOW IT IS A LOT OF WORK. BUT WE WILL SEE IN V. 6, IT WAS TRULY A LABOR OF LOVE.

* BUT BEFORE WE MOVE ON TO V. 6, TWO THINGS.

** NO. 1, GAIUS DID THIS WORK OR MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY "FAITHFULLY." HE WAS RELIABLE, HE WAS DEPENDABLE, HE WAS TRUSTWORTHY, HE COULD BE RELIED UPON, HE COULD BE COUNTED UPON.

*** AND I AM REMINDED THAT THIS IS THE ESSENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY THAT WE HAVE IN ALL CHRISTIAN MINISTRY FOR OUR LORD.

**** THAT WE ARE DEPENDABLE, WE ARE RELIABLE, WE FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES, WE SHOW UP, WE DO WHAT WE SAY WE ARE GOING TO DO OUT OF LOVE FOR OUR GREAT GOD AND NOT ONLY WHEN IT IS EASY, BUT EVEN MORE WHEN IT IS DIFFICULT.

2. PROVERBS 25:19 SAYS: (QUOTE IT). ALSO QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 4:2 AND LUKE 16:10&11.

* AND THE WORDS THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE TO HEAR FROM OUR LORD ONE DAY FROM MATTHEW 25:21 IS “WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.”

** AND TRULY FAITHFULNESS IS THE ESSENCE OF MINISTRY, DO WE DO WHAT WE DO FOR OUR GREAT LORD FAITHFULLY AND OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM.

*** WELL, GAIUS WAS FAITHFUL IN HIS WORK OF HOSPITALITY TO THE BRETHERN, TO THOSE WHO WERE ITINERANT TEACHERS, PREACHERS AND MISSIONARIES.

**** AND GET THIS, AND JOHN ADDS AT THE END OF V. 5, “AND ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY ARE STRANGERS.”

3. AND THE POINT HERE IS GAIUS PRACTICED HOSPITALITY FOR TEACHERS AND PREACHERS AND MISSIONARIES THAT HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW, THAT AS WE'LL SEE IN V. 6, THAT WERE SENT OUT BY THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS.

* AND KNOWING THAT THEY WERE SENT OUT BY A CHURCH THAT JOHN WAS AT CERTAINLY HELPED WHEN IT CAME TO KNOWING THAT HE WAS NOT OPENING HIS HOME TO FALSE TEACHERS AND PEOPLE THAT WERE DANGEROUS.

** BUT STILL THEY WERE NOT HIS FRIENDS OR BUDDIES, BUT CO-LABORERS FOR THE GOSPEL THAT HE NEVER MET. AND GAIUS WAS FAITHFUL, HE WAS RELIABLE IN PERFORMING THIS MINISTRY FOR THE LORD.

*** AND WE WILL FURTHER SEE THIS, AS THE MEN HE SHOWED HOSPITALITY TO REPORT TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS ABOUT GAIUS' HOSPITALITY. LOOK AT V. 6 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE REPORT.

ii. THE REPORT, (READ V. 6)

A. NOW THE "THEY" OF V. 6 ARE THE BRETHERN AND STRANGERS THAT GAIUS HAD SERVED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

* AND THE WORDS "YOUR LOVE" IN V. 6 IS MAKING REFERENCE TO GAIUS' LOVE.

** AND WHAT HAD HAPPENED WAS THAT THESE TEACHERS AND MISSIONARIES ON A RETURN VISIT TO THEIR SENDING CHURCH, WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN EPHESUS, FOR MANY WOULD COMMUNICATE THIS IS WHERE JOHN WAS WHEN HE WROTE III JOHN.

*** SO AS THE CHURCH OF EPHESUS GATHERED FOR WORSHIP AND EQUIPPING AND THESE BRETHERN WHOM

WERE SHOWN HOSPITALITY BY GAIUS, WHEN THEY RETURNED, THESE MEN TESTIFIED, THEY GIVE WITNESS, THEY TELL THE CHURCH HOW LOVINGLY THEY WERE TREATED BY GAIUS AS THEY STAYED WITH HIM.

**** AND GAIUS' LOVE IN HOSPITALITY WAS THE ACTION OF HOUSING, FEEDING AND MOST LIKELY SENDING THEM ON THEIR WAY WITH SUPPLIES AND MONEY.

1. FOR THE WORD "LOVE" HERE IS AGAPE, THE WAY WHICH GOD LOVES, A BENEVOLENT LOVE MANIFEST BY GOOD WILL, AFFECTION AND ACTION.

* AND IN ESSENCE, HOSPITALITY IS A MINISTRY OF LOVE FOR THE PEOPLE WE MINISTER TO AND OUR LORD WHOM WE LOVE AND DESIRE FOR HIM TO BE GLORIFIED THROUGH HIS CHURCH.

** AND GAIUS WAS A MODEL OF THIS. HE OPENED HIS HEART, HIS HOME AND HIS HAND TO THE MINISTERS OF CHRIST. THIS IS WHAT HE DID.

*** BUT IN THE REST OF V. 6, THIS IS WHAT JOHN ENCOURAGES GAIUS TO CONTINUE TO DO, TO CONTINUE TO KEEP AN OPEN HOUSE.

**** AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT TO CONTINUE MAY HAVE COME KNOWING THAT DIOTREPES, WHOM WE'LL BE INTRODUCED TO LORD WILLING NEXT WEEK, WAS

RESISTING AND FORBIDDING PEOPLE TO TREAT THE BRETHREN THAT WAY.

2. BUT JOHN KNOWING THAT SAYS IN THE REST OF V. 6, GAIUS, "YOU WILL DO WELL TO SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD."

* AND IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD SETS THE STANDARD OF CARE VERY HIGH, FOR GAIUS WAS TO GIVE TO THEM GENEROUSLY AS GOD WOULD GIVE, AS GOD WOULD HAVE TREATED THEM.

** AND HOW DOES GOD GIVE? SACRIFICIALLY, FREELY AND GENEROUSLY. JOHN 3:16, I JOHN 4:9&10, ROMANS 8:32, ROMANS 5:8.

*** AND BELOVED TO ACT LIKE GOD, TO GIVE LIKE GOD, TO BE HOSPITABLE IN THAT WAY SETS THE STANDARD HIGH.

**** AND JOHN IS SAYING TO GAIUS, DON'T STOP, CONTINUE, YOU DO WELL TO SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD.

3. AND THE PHRASE "YOU DO WELL" IS A GRACIOUS REQUEST THAT IS SIMILAR TO THE EXPRESSION – PLEASE.

* GAIUS, PLEASE CONTINUE TO DO WHAT YOU ARE DOING IN SPIITE OF AND EVEN IN CONFLICT WITH DIOTREPHES.

** AND TO SEND THEM ON THEIR WAY MEANS TO SEND THESE TEACHERS AND MINISTERS REFRESHED AND FULLY SUPPLIED FOR THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR JOURNEY.

*** AND LET ME GIVE YOU AN ILLUSTRATION OF THIS WITH PASTOR MICHAEL FROM CHINA AND MARK AND KATHY FEHRMAN.

**** ILLUST – DINNER AT GREG AND SHERYL’S SATURDAY NIGHT, HOUSING FOR ALL SATURDAY NIGHT, LOVE OFFERING SUNDAY, BOOK STORE – MICHAEL READS ENGLISH RESOURCES HE CAN’T GET, AND A NICE LUNCH SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH, SENT ON TO ANOTHER CHURCH SUNDAY NIGHT.

4. AND THAT IS AN ILLUSTRATION OF WHAT GAIUS WAS TO CONTINUE TO DO IN A MANNER WORTHY OF GOD, IN A WAY THAT HONORED GOD AND THE WAY HE WOULD DO IT.

* WELL THIS IS WHAT GAIUS DID AS WAS REPORTED TO THE CHURCH AND WHAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE TO DO, WHICH LEADS US TO OUR LAST POINT

TODAY, SOME REASONS JOHN USES TO ENCOURAGE GAIUS TO CONTINUE.

** LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE REASONS.

III. THE REASONS, (READ V. 7)

A. NOW THE "THEY" IN V. 7 IS TALKING ABOUT THE BRETHREN, THE TEACHERS AND MISSIONARIES THAT WENT OUT, THAT WERE SENT OUT BY THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS FOR THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION.

* AND THE REASON THEY WENT OUT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF THE NAME, FOR THE SAKE OF JESUS, FOR AT THE NAME OF JESUS, SAVIOR, THE NAME BESTOWED UPON HIM AT HIS BIRTH, EVERY KNEE ONE DAY WILL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS THAT CHRIST IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER, PHILIPPIANS 2:9-11.

** AND OUT OF LOVE FOR JESUS THESE MEN LEFT THEIR HOMES TO PROCLAIM JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR AS THE ONLY MEANS TO BE SAVED FROM THEIR SINS, QUOTE ACTS 4:12.

*** AND WHAT WE DO IN MINISTRY SHOULD BE FOR THE SAKE OF THE NAME, QUOTE COLOSSIANS 3:17 AND COLOSSIANS 3:23&24.

**** AND THAT WAS THE REASON THESE MINISTERS OF CHRIST WENT OUT, AND BY THE WAY THE WORDS “WENT OUT” DEPICT A DELIBERATE SENDING OUT ON A MISSION.

1. AND THEY WERE SENT OUT LIKE PAUL AND BARNABUS FROM ANTIOCH IN ACTS 13 ON THEIR MISSION OF PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL AND ESTABLISHING CHURCHES, THE MASTER PLAN OF EVANGELISM.

* AND OF COURSE PAUL AND BARNABUS WENT OUT FOR THE SAKE OF THE NAME ALSO AS THESE MEN DID IN III JOHN V. 7.

** BUT AS WE MOVE ON IN V. 7, WE HAVE A REASON FOR GAIUS TO SUPPORT THEM IN THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY, FOR THESE MEN ACCEPTED NOTHING FROM THE GENTILES.

*** AND IN THIS CONTEXT, JOHN USES THE WORD GENTILES TO TALK ABOUT PAGANS, TRANSLATED THAT WAY PROPERLY IN THE NIV, TALKING ABOUT UNSAVED PEOPLE, UNBELIEVERS - GENTILES.

**** AND THE TRUTH HERE IS THESE MEN DID NOT GET SUPPORT FROM THE UNSAVED, THEIR ONLY MEANS OF SUPPORT WAS FROM BELIEVERS.

2. AND BELOVED, THERE WAS NO FUND RAISING FROM UNBELIEVERS, AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GOD'S MEANS TO SUPPORT HIS MINISTRIES BY OTHER CHRISTIANS AND SPECIFICALLY THE PLAN IN THE N.T. IS GOD'S PEOPLE THROUGH THE LOCAL CHURCH. THAT IS THE PLAN OF GOD.

* WE ARE NOT SEEKING SUPPORT FROM PAGANS, BUT GOD'S PEOPLE. THEREFORE A REASON FOR GIVING THROUGH HOSPITALITY IS, THAT IS GOD'S WAY, WE DON'T GO TO UNSAVED PEOPLE TO DO GOD'S WORK BUT WE GO TO GOD'S PEOPLE.

** SO THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE TO TURN TO. THEREFORE JOHN SAYS WHAT HE DOES IN V. 8 (LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.)

B. READ VERSE 8. NOW BECAUSE THESE MINISTERS OF CHRIST, THESE MISSIONARIES ACCEPTED NOTHING FROM PAGANS, JOHN SAYS "WE OUGHT TO SUPPORT SUCH MEN."

* AND THE VERB "OUGHT" LIT. MEANS WE HAVE A DEBT, WE OWE THAT WHICH IS DUE TO THEM, WE IN CONTRAST TO PAGANS, SPEAKING OF BELIEVERS IN THE CHURCHES THROUGH THE CHURCHES, FOR THAT WAY JOHN WILL

COMMUNICATE IN V. 9, "I WROTE SOMETHING TO THE CHURCH."

** AND IT IS THE CHURCH AND OF COURSE THE CHURCH IS MADE UP OF BELIEVERS, WE OUGHT TO SUPPORT SUCH NEED.

*** AND THE VERB SUPPORT IS A COMPOUND WORD IN THE GREEK HOOP-O-LOM-BONO AND HUPO MEANS UNDER AND LAMBANO MEANS TO TAKE, TO CARRY, THUS TO CATCH HOLD FROM UNDERNEATH AND LIFT UP.

**** AND IN OUR LANGUAGE OF TODAY, TO UNDERWRITE, WE UNDERGIRD AND UNDERWRITE, WE SUPPORT THESE MISSIONARIES THROUGH HOSPITALITY. AGAIN THEY HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN.

1. AND THERE IS A GREAT REASON, A GREAT SOURCE OF MOTIVATION TO DO THIS, SO THAT – HINA PURPOSE CLAUSE IN THE GREEK, IN ORDER THAT WE MAY BE FELLOW WORKERS WITH THE TRUTH.

* MEANING BY SHOWING THEM HOSPITALITY WE ARE CO-WORKERS, JOINT-LABORERS, COMPANIONS IN LABOR, ALLIES OF THE TRUTH, PARTNERS IN THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.

** AND BY SUPPORTING THOSE WHO PRESENT THE TRUTH THROUGH HOSPITALITY AND GIVING THROUGH THE CHURCH FOR SUPPORT, WE BECOME PARTNERS WITH THEM FOR THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL.

*** AND THOUGH WE MIGHT NOT BE ON THE FRONTLINES WITH THEM, THROUGH HOSPITALITY, GIVING AND PRAYER SUPPORT, WE ARE PARTNERS, FELLOW WORKERS FOR THE TRUTH.

**** WE ARE WHAT PIONEERING MISSIONARY WILLIAM CAREY TO INDIA FROM 1793 TILL HIS DEATH IN 1834 CALLED "ROPEHOLDERS."

2. FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORTED HIM HELD THE ROPES WHILE HE WAS VENTURING DOWN IN WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS A GOLD MINE IN INDIA.

* AND BELOVED MAY WE BE ROPEHOLDERS FOR JOHN AND APRIL MCDUFFEE AND DANIELE IN SPAIN, FOR MARK AND SHERRIE DEFELICE AND ASHLEY HANNEY IN ITALY, FOR MARK AND KATHY FEHRMAN AND MANY PASTORS LIKE MICHAEL IN CHINA AND FOR BROTHERS IN MEXICO.

** FOR THROUGH HOSPITALITY, PRAYER AND GIVING WE ARE ROPEHOLDERS, FELLOW WORKERS WITH THE TRUTH.

IN WRAP UP AND IN APPLICATION: (1) ALEXANDER STRAUCH IN HIS LITTLE BOOKLET “THE HOSPITALITY COMMANDS” GIVES A SUMMARY OF THE DISTINCTIVES OF CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY WHICH HE CALLS A “MISSING CROWN JEWEL” IN THE CHURCH TODAY.

* AND HE LISTS 14 THINGS, DISTINCTIVES WHICH I WILL COVER QUICKLY AS A CLOSING CHALLENGE AND OVERVIEW OF OUR STUDY TODAY.

NO.1 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS ONE OF THE BIRTHMARKS OF EARLY CHRISTIANITY.

NO. 2 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS A VIRTUE.

NO. 3 – GOD REQUIRES EVERY CHRISTIAN TO PURSUE CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY. HOSPITALITY IS HIS COMMAND, NOT AN OPTION (ROMANS 12:13, HEBREWS 13:1&2)

NO. 4 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS A BIBLICAL REQUIREMENT FOR CHURCH SHEPHERDS (I TIMOTHY 3:2)

NO. 5 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS A BIBLICAL REQUIREMENT FOR CHURCH-SUPPORTED WIDOWS (I TIMOTHY 5:10)

NO. 6 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS A PRACTICAL EXPRESSION OF BROTHERLY AND SISTERLY CHRISTIAN LOVE (HEBREWS 13:1&2)

NO. 7 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY FANS THE FLAMES OF CHRISTIAN LOVE IN EXTRAORDINARILY POWERFUL WAYS.

NO. 8 – EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD EAGERLY PURSUE CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY (ROMANS 12:13)

NO. 9 – CHRISTIANS ARE TO PRACTICE HOSPITALITY WITH A GLAD HEART (I PETER 4:9)

NO. 10 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS AN EFFECTIVE MEDIUM FOR SHARING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE WITH RELATIVES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (ACTS 5:42; 20:20; LUKE 5:29)

NO. 11 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY HELPS TO ADVANCE THE GOSPEL BY PROVIDING AN INDISPENSABLE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S MESSENGERS (LUKE 10:7&8; III JOHN 5-8)

NO. 12 - CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY SEEKS TO MINISTER TO THE POOR, THE UNINVITED AND THE NEEDY OF SOCIETY (LUKE 14:12-14)

NO. 13 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY IS A PRACTICAL VEHICLE FOR EXERCISING ONE’S SPIRITUAL GIFTS (I PETER 4:9&10)

NO. 14 – CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY LEADS TO UNEXPECTED REWARDS AND BLESSINGS (HEBREWS 13:2)

* BELOVED, MAY WE GROW IN OBEDIENCE IN THIS AREA AND WHEN IT COMES TO HELPING THOSE PEOPLE WHO TRAVEL AND MOVE FOR THE LORD AND HIS TRUTH, MAY WE BE GOOD ROPEHOLDERS.

** MAY WE BE LIKE GAIUS, OPENING OUR HEARTS, OUR HOMES (APTS.) AND OUR HANDS TO OTHERS. (LET’S PRAY)