

مقدمة الرسالة

¹السَّيِّحُ إِلَى غَايَسَ الْحَبِيبِ الَّذِي أَنَا أُجِبُّهُ بِالْحَقِّ. ²أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ أُرُومُ أَنْ تَكُونَ تَاجِحًا وَصَحِيحًا كَمَا أَنَّ نَفْسَكَ تَاجِحَةٌ. ³لَأَتِي قَرِحْتُ جِدًّا إِذْ حَصَرَ إِخْوَهُ وَشَهِدُوا بِالْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيكَ كَمَا أَنَّكَ تَسْلُكُ بِالْحَقِّ. ⁴لَيْسَ لِي قَرَحٌ أُعْطِمُ مِنْ هَذَا أَنْ أَسْمَعَ عَنْ أَوْلَادِي أَنَّهُمْ يَسْلُكُونَ بِالْحَقِّ.

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⁵أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، أَنْتِ تَفْعَلُ بِالْأَمَانَةِ كُلَّ مَا تَصْنَعُهُ إِلَى الْإِخْوَةِ وَإِلَى الْعُرَبَاءِ الَّذِينَ شَهِدُوا بِمَحَبَّتِكَ أَمَامَ الْكَنِيسَةِ، الَّذِينَ تَفْعَلُ حَسَنًا إِذَا سَبَّغْتَهُمْ كَمَا يَحِقُّ لِيهِ، لِأَنَّهُمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِهِ حَرَجُوا وَهُمْ لَا يَأْخُذُونَ سَيِّئًا مِنَ الْأَمْرِ. ⁸فَتَحْنُ تَبْغِي لَنَا أَنْ تَقْبَلَ أَمْثَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ لِكَيْ تَكُونَ عَامِلِينَ مَعَهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ.

توصيات أخيرة

⁹كَتَبْتُ إِلَى الْكَنِيسَةِ، وَلَكِنَّ دِيُوتْرِيفِسَ، الَّذِي يُحِبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأَوَّلَ بَيْنَهُمْ، لَا يَقْبَلُنَا. ¹⁰مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ إِذَا جِئْتُ فَسَأَذْكُرُهُ بِأَعْمَالِهِ الَّتِي يَعْمَلُهَا هَازِرًا عَلَيْنَا بِأَقْوَالٍ خَبِيثَةٍ، وَإِذْ هُوَ غَيْرُ مُكْتَفٍ بِهَذِهِ لَا يَقْبَلُ الْإِخْوَةَ وَيَمْنَعُ أَيْضًا الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ وَيَطْرُدُهُمْ مِنَ الْكَنِيسَةِ. ¹¹أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، لَا تَمَثِّلْ بِالشَّرِّ بَلْ بِالْخَيْرِ، لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَصْنَعُ الْخَيْرَ هُوَ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَصْنَعُ الشَّرَّ فَلَمْ يُبْصِرِ اللَّهَ.

¹²دِيُوتْرِيفُسُ مَشْهُودٌ لَهُ مِنَ الْجَمِيعِ وَمِنَ الْحَقِّ نَفْسِهِ، وَتَحْنُ أَيْضًا تَشْهَدُ، وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ شَهَادَتَنَا هِيَ صَادِقَةٌ.

¹³وَكَانَ لِي كَثِيرٌ لَأَكْتُبُهُ لَكِنِّي لَسْتُ أُرِيدُ أَنْ أَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكَ جَبْرًا وَقَلَمًا.

¹⁴وَلَكِنِّي أَرْجُو أَنْ أَرَكَ عَنْ قَرِيبٍ فَتَكَلِّمَ قَمًّا لِقَمٍ. سَلَامٌ لَكَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ الْأَجْبَاءُ. سَلَامٌ عَلَى الْأَجْبَاءِ بِأَسْمَائِهِمْ.

¹The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. ²Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. ³For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. ⁵Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: ⁷Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. ⁸We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth. ⁹I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. ¹⁰Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. ¹¹Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God. ¹²Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true. ¹³I had many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee: ¹⁴But I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak face to face. Peace be to thee. Our friends salute thee. Greet the

friends by name.