

مَقْدَمَةُ الرِّسَالَةِ

¹السَّيِّحُ إِلَى غَايُسَ الْحَبِيبِ الَّذِي أَنَا أُحِبُّهُ بِالْحَقِّ. ²أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، فِي كُلِّ شَيْءٍ أَرْوَمُ أَنْ تَكُونَ تَاجِحًا وَصَحِيحًا كَمَا أَنْ تَفْسِكَ تَاجِحَةً. ³لَأَنِّي فَرِحْتُ جَدًّا إِذْ حَضَرَ إِخْوَةُ وَشَهِدُوا بِالْحَقِّ الَّذِي فِيكَ كَمَا أَنَّكَ تَسْلُكُ بِالْحَقِّ. ⁴لَيْسَ لِي فَرَحٌ أَعْظَمُ مِنْ هَذَا أَنْ أَسْمَعَ عَنْ أَوْلَادِي أَنَّهُمْ يَسْلُكُونَ بِالْحَقِّ.

مَسَاعِدَةُ الْمُبَشِّرِينَ حَقٌّ لِلَّهِ

⁵أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، أَنْتِ تَفْعَلُ بِالْأَمَانَةِ كُلَّ مَا تَصْنَعُهُ إِلَى الْإِخْوَةِ وَإِلَى الْغُرَبَاءِ الَّذِينَ شَهِدُوا بِمَحَبَّتِكَ أَمَامَ الْكَنِيسَةِ، الَّذِينَ تَفْعَلُ حَسَنًا إِذَا سَيَّعْتَهُمْ كَمَا يَحِقُّ لِهِمْ، لَا لِنَفْسِهِمْ مِنْ أَجْلِ اسْمِهِ حَرَّجُوا وَهُمْ لَا يَأْخُذُونَ شَيْئًا مِنَ الْأَمَمِ. ⁸فَتَحْنُ يَسْبِغِي لَنَا أَنْ تَقْبَلِ أَمْثَالَ هَؤُلَاءِ لِكَيْ تَكُونَ غَامِلِينَ مَعَهُمْ بِالْحَقِّ.

تَوْصِيَّاتُ أَخْبَرَةٍ

⁹كَتَبْتُ إِلَى الْكَنِيسَةِ، وَلَكِنَّ دِيُوتْرِفِسَ، الَّذِي يُحِبُّ أَنْ يَكُونَ الْأَوَّلَ بَيْنَهُمْ، لَا يَقْبَلُنَا. ¹⁰مِنْ أَجْلِ ذَلِكَ إِذَا جِئْتُ فَسَادُكُرُهُ بِأَعْمَالِهِ الَّتِي يَعْمَلُهَا هَازِرًا عَلَيْنَا بِأَقْوَالِ حَيِّثَةٍ، وَإِذْ هُوَ عَيْرٌ مُكْتَفٍ بِهِذِهِ لَا يَقْبَلُ الْإِخْوَةَ وَيَمْنَعُ أَيْضًا الَّذِينَ يُرِيدُونَ وَبَطْرُكُهُمْ مِنَ الْكَنِيسَةِ. ¹¹أَيُّهَا الْحَبِيبُ، لَا تَتَمَثَّلُ بِالسَّرِّ بَلْ بِالْخَيْرِ، لِأَنَّ مَنْ يَصْنَعُ الْخَيْرَ هُوَ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَمَنْ يَصْنَعُ السَّرَّ فَلَمْ يَنْصُرِ اللَّهَ.

¹²دِيَمِثْرِيُوسُ مَشْهُودٌ لَهُ مِنَ الْجَمِيعِ وَمِنْ الْحَقِّ تَفْسِيهِ، وَتَحْنُ أَيْضًا تَشْهَدُ، وَأَنْتُمْ تَعْلَمُونَ أَنَّ شَهَادَتَنَا هِيَ صَادِقَةٌ.

¹³وَكَانَ لِي كَثِيرٌ لَأَكْتُبُهُ لَكِنِّي لَسْتُ أَرِيدُ أَنْ أَكْتُبَ إِلَيْكَ بِحَبْرٍ وَقَلَمٍ.

¹⁴وَلَكِنِّي أَرْجُو أَنْ أَرَاكَ عَنْ قَرِيبٍ فَتَكَلِّمَ قَمًا لِقَمٍ. سَلَامٌ لَكَ. يُسَلِّمُ عَلَيْكَ الْأَجَبَاءُ. سَلَامٌ عَلَى الْأَجَبَاءِ 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; ⁶Which 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.