

Wish upon a beloved – Asaolu O.S.

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3 John 1:1 *The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. 5 Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; 6 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:*

This passage written by ‘John the Beloved’ or “the disciple whom Jesus loved.” It expresses the apostle’s mind unto a particular individual as well as God’s mind unto all such persons. Who – a beloved! One that is:

1. Walks in truth –Jn 15:10-12, 1 John 2:4-4
2. Is not a respecter of persons but fair unto all –James 2:1-2,15-16
3. Demonstrates love via generosity unto the household of faith –Rm 16:23, Gal 6:10

The “Beloved of God” are saints - those who have obeyed the gospel from the heart Rm 1:7; 6:17-18. The passage by John shows the Soul of such **prosper** (continuous tense) while their body/health may not necessarily always appear so. It is thus wished upon such that they prosper materially and physically. NOTE: It is “a wish” not “the will” unlike in the Old Testament when the Israelites were placed with options of *blessings vs curse* to prosper or not!

Thus, the NT emphasize the spiritual above the material, and indicates the divine wish for God’s children who abide in Christ. Interestingly, unbelievers and denominations often try to appropriate the verse (1 Jn 3:2) but ought not to. Why? Such person’s soul is “dead in sin” and not prospering but need to be made alive via repentance and water baptism –Col 2:12-13. It is when such is quickened in Christ that 1 Pet 2:24 will apply. Recall also John 11:25-26 (*he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?*)

Conclusion: Let us not take God’s love for granted. He wants the best for us but do we place ourselves within the realm to receive? It shall be well with us for “it is well with our souls.”

Psalms 1:1-3 and Prov 28:13 are abiding truth valid in any and every dispensation.

Psalms 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly are not so: but are like the chaff which the wind driveth away.*

Proverbs 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*