

THIRD JOHN

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INTRODUCTION

A. SEE SECOND JOHN:

1. About the end of 1st century.
2. Again a letter to an individual.

B. JOHN had lived to see the church from it's beginning to the vision of heaven on the Island Patmos.

1. He had lived to see Saul the persecutor, become Paul the great apostle.
2. Church spread through the world.

C. THERE HAVE always been problems, even as there are problems today.

D. AGAIN HE WROTE CONCERNING THE.....

THE TRUTH

A. JOHN shows that truth is absolute and attainable.

1. As such the truth can be taught (Mark 16:15,16).
2. The truth can be learned or known. (Ezra 7:10; John 8:32).
3. The truth can be seen and detected, (III John 3; Gal. 1:8,9).
4. The truth can be distinguished from error (Acts 17:11; I Thess. 5:21).
5. The truth can be believed and obeyed (Jn 8:24; I Cor. 16:22).

B. THE TRUTH CAN BE AND MUST BE DEFENDED AGAINST ERROR.

1. Gal. 1:6-9
 2. II Tim. 1:13
 3. I John 4:1; II John 9-11; Jude 3,4.
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THREE MEN

A. GAIUS:

1. To whom the epistle is addressed.
2. Referred to lovingly as a son in the truth.
3. Other than this we do not know for sure his identity.
4. We know he was a man of great positive Christian character.

B. DIOTREPES:

1. Was a man of leadership ability, but his leadership had degenerated into a cruel and arrogant dictatorship.
2. He rejected the authority of the Apostle John.

C. DEMETRIUS:

1. A man held in high esteem.
 2. John personally recommended him to Gaius.
 3. Possible the messenger of the letter.
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MAJOR THEMES DISCUSSED

A. HOSPITALITY:

1. Perhaps no trait more highly recommended in the Bible.
2. From Abraham, Lot, Shunamite Woman,.... til now.
3. Gaius' hospitality was one of the great things about him.
4. Christian hospitality many times opens the doors for the gospel message.

B. SUPPORT OF EVANGELISTS:

1. "We ought to receive such that we might be fellow helpers of the truth"
2. We may not all be able to go, but we can all help send.
3. And never be a "Diotrephes" and halt the spread of the Gospel.

C. DISCIPLINE:

1. Nothing more plainly taught in New Testament.
 2. Discipline is correction and instruction in right living.
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THINGS COMMENDED

A. HEALTH:

1. Both spiritual and physical, "*I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health even as thou soul prospereth*" (v. 2).
2. Christians should care for the body as well as the soul.

B. WALKING IN THE TRUTH:

1. "I rejoice.....v. 3
2. This means Gaius was walking according to God's Word (John 8;32).

C. Following that which is good:

1. As opposed to that which is evil (v. 11).
2. "To know to do good and do it not is sin"

D. A GOOD REPUTATION:

1. Gaius.
 2. As opposed to Diotrephes.
 3. Did you ever hear some one say, "I don't care what people thing"...
 4. A good reputation is very essential, because of your influence.
 5. Truly a good name is to be chosen above great riches.
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THINGS CONDEMNED

A. WORLDLY AMBITION AND PRIDE:

1. Worldly ambition and self-exaltation in the church are as much out of place as Satan in the Garden of Eden.
2. "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall."

B. SLANDER: (V. 10).

1. Evil speaking is another devise of Satan. '
2. The tongue is an unruly evil full of deadly poison.
3. "My brethren these things ought not so to be" (James 3;8-10)

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CONCLUSION

- A. Things Commended and Things Condemned are found in every age.
 - B. Individuals such as Gaius, Demetrius, and even a Diotrephes are ever present.
 - C. We should appreciate the dedication to the Lord found in this message.
 - D. "PEACE UNTO YOU"
 - 1. God's peace is not, as with us, a negative term meaning the absence of war,
 - 2. But rather the positive presence of blessings.
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