



Third John - 1 chapter

Title:

The Third Epistle of John – because it is the third of three epistles written by John

Author:

The author of this epistle was John, one of Jesus's original twelve disciples. He was the one called "the disciple whom Jesus loved" in the fourth Gospel. This same John is the author of the Gospel of John and the book of Revelation, as well as the three epistles of John. At the time of writing this letter, he was fairly old, and still overseeing a number of churches in Asia minor.

Occasion and Purpose:

The occasion of this book was the need for hospitality for travelling ministers. Missionaries relied on the hospitality of good people in order to travel. There was an arrogant leader in this church that was hindering the missionaries by his selfish control. But there was at least one individual in this church that was doing right. And so, the purpose of this letter was to thank and encourage Gaius, who had been providing hospitality. But also, to indirectly warn the jerk, named Diotrephes, who had been playing selfish power games. And finally, to commend a specific traveling minister by the name of Demetrius to hospitality and help for his ministry.

Themes:

- 1. Walking in Truth** – This theme has already been seen in First and Second John. Walking has the connotation of lifestyle. And truth is that which is in conformity with reality, especially the reality of Who Jesus is. This is the goal of the Christian life, to live in conformity with Christ, to be obedient to His commands, and to be transformed into His character. It brought John joy to see people walking in truth. And it brings both temporal and eternal joy to those who walk in truth.
- 2. Worthy Leaders** – In this book, worthy leadership is modeled by Gaius and Demetrius. They did what they did for the sake of the Name. They were serving Christ and working for His glory and reputation. Some did this at personal risk in travelling and relying on hospitality in order to proclaim Christ. Some did this by providing hospitality and supporting worthy leaders. Second John gives a few examples of some of the things that characterize worthy leaders.
- 3. Unworthy Leaders** – In this book, unworthy leadership is modeled by Diotrephes. Unworthy leaders love to be first. Their leadership is centered on them, and primarily serves themselves. This is the stereotypical selfish, self-important, control freak – the kind of person who hinders others to make themselves seem more important. This kind of leadership exists, and it is a danger to churches, the people and the church's mission.

Summary:

John wrote to a friend in a local church in order to thank and encourage him for his faithfulness in giving hospitality to worthy travelling ministers. Apparently, the local pastor had hindered this kind of hospitality, because he was arrogant and controlling. Therefore, John warned that this kind of selfishness would be exposed and disciplined. By contrast, John commended a man named Demetrius, and asked that he be given hospitality and sent on his way in a worthy manner.

Organization:

1-4 Intro	
	1 Salutation 2 Blessing 3-4 Thanksgiving
5-12 Body	
	5-6 Gaius's hospitality 7-8 The Traveler's Worthy Work 9-10 Diotrephes's Arrogance 11-12 Encouragement to Receive Demetrius
13-15 Conclusion	
	13-14 Intended Visit 15 Peace Wish & Greetings

Key Verses:

3-4, 5-8, 9-10, 11