

Introduction

The Apostle John wrote the Gospel of John (that we might _____ salvation), First, Second and Third John (that we might know how to _____ during our salvation) and Revelation (that we might know what will happen _____ salvation).

Third John is the shortest letter in the New Testament (_____ Gk. words) and is about three men:

1. Gaius (a highly regarded, _____, charitable and prosperous Christian leader)
2. Diotrephes (a highly resentful, _____, carnal and prominent Christian leader)
3. Demetrius (a highly respected, _____, consistent and pleasant Christian leader)

Outline

- I. Salutation (vv. 1-2)
- II. Body (vv. 3-12)
 - A. _____ about Gaius (vv. 3-8)
 1. Gaius' Faithfulness (vv. 3-4)
 2. Gaius' Hospitality (vv. 5-8)
 - B. _____ about Diotrephes (vv. 9-10)
 - C. _____ about Demetrius (vv. 11-12)
- III. Conclusion (vv. 13-14)

Analysis

I. Salutation (vv. 1-2)

1 The Elder [John the Apostle], **To the beloved** [adjective form of *agape*] **Gaius**, [GAY-us]

There are at least _____ Gaius' mentioned in the Bible:

- (1) Gaius of Macedonia, he went with Paul and & arrested with Paul in Ephesus in *Acts 19:29*
- (2) Gaius of Derbe, he went with Paul and Timothy to Asia in *Acts 20:4*
- (3) Gaius of Corinth, Paul baptized him in *1 Corinthians 1:14* & hosted Paul in *Romans 16:23*
- (4) Gaius of Third John

whom I love [present tense verb form of *agape*] **in truth:**

2 Beloved [adjective form of *agape*], **I pray** [to pray or _____] **that you may prosper** [to grant a prosperous and expeditious _____, be successful] **in** [not 'above all'] **all things**

and be in health [to be well, to be in good health; metaphorically used of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error of one who keeps the graces and is strong],

just as your soul prospers. [same word as before]

Barnes' Notes on the New Testament: The word for prosper includes success in business, happiness in domestic relations, or prosperity in any of the engagements and transactions in which a Christian might lawfully engage. [How marvelous] when we can, as the expression of our highest desire for the welfare of our friends, express the hope that they may be in all respects as much prospered as they are in their soul.

David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible: What would we be like if our physical health was in the same state as our souls?

General idea = _____ prosperity is more important than _____ prosperity.

II. Body (vv. 3-12)

A. Positives about Gaius (vv. 3-8)

1. Gaius' Faithfulness (vv. 3-4)

3 For I rejoiced [to rejoice exceedingly, be glad, to _____] **greatly** [exceedingly beyond measure] **when brethren came and testified** [witnessed] **of the truth that is in you,**

just as you walk [to make one's way, progress; to make due use of opportunities; to regulate one's life, to conduct one's self, to pass one's life] **in the truth.**

4 I have [to _____ or possess] **no** [in direct questions expecting an affirmative answer] **greater joy** [gladness]

than to hear [present active subjunctive, literally meaning to _____ finding out] **that my children walk** [same word as used before] **in truth.**

EasyEnglish Bible Version & Commentary: To _____ in the truth is more than to _____ with it. It means to allow the truth to affect every part of the life. The truth is that Jesus is Lord. To live in truth is to live as God wants.

Review of Last Week

As a reminder, Third John is a letter from the Apostle John about three men:

1. _____ (a highly regarded, delightful, charitable & prosperous Christian leader)
2. _____ (a highly resentful, deceiving, carnal & prominent Christian leader)
3. _____ (a highly respected, dependable, consistent & pleasant Christian leader)

Analysis

I. Salutation (vv. 1-2)

1 The Elder,

To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:

2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

II. Body (vv. 3-12)

A. Positives about Gaius (vv. 3-8)

1. Gaius' Faithfulness (vv. 3-4)

3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is in you, just as you walk in the truth.* 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

John wants Gaius to ____ something. John is going to ask Gaius for help in verse 6, so he commends him again in verse 5.

2. Gaius' Hospitality (vv. 5-8)

5 Beloved [*agape* (_____ time)], **you do faithfully** [trustworthily and in a manner that can be relied on] **whatever you do** [this word for 'do' means to work, _____, perform] **for the brethren and for strangers**, [foreigners or aliens]

John is commending Gaius for his _____ to other believers that Gaius did not know. John knew Gaius would not get prideful about this commendation, but would rather continue doing what he should be doing.

David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible: Hospitality . . . is a practical outworking of the essential command to love one another; it is love in _____.

6 **who have borne witness of your love** [agape (_____ time)] **before the church.**

If you send them forward on their journey [to equip with the necessary things for a journey and even travel with those that are leaving a short ways] **in a manner worthy of God** [The way in which we treat God is reflected in the way in which we treat people.], **you will do well** [You will do well' means, '_____'],

7 **because they went forth for His name's sake,**

taking [taking with the hand] **nothing from the Gentiles** [the Greek is *ethnos*, meaning people of the same customs; commonly used in the New Testament for _____ or Gentiles].

Ray Stedman: Not everyone goes [as a missionary]—that was true in the early church as it is today. There were some, such as Gaius, who were to stay to help support these men.

8 **We therefore ought** [_____ or are in debt] **to receive** [present active infinitive form of this word, meaning it was habitually being done, the word literally means to take up under (it could be used for _____, _____ and/or _____)] **such, that we may become** [not that this is a one-time event, but rather a lifestyle] **fellow workers for the truth** [supporters of those that do the work _____ in the work].

David Guzik's Commentaries on the Bible: 1 Samuel 30:21-25 shows this principle, where the spoils are distributed equally among those who fought and those who supported—and David declares that the supply lines are just as vital as the soldiers, and God will reward both soldiers and supporters properly. . . . This also explains why John would pray for the prosperity of Gaius: he was using his resources in a godly way, being a blessing to others. If God blessed him with more, more others would be blessed also.

The thought for the lesson: How am I like Gaius? How am I not like Gaius?

B. Negatives about Diotrephes (vv. 9-10)

C. Positives about Demetrius (vv. 11-12)

III. Conclusion (vv. 13-14)

Review of Previous Weeks

Third John is a letter from the Apostle John about three men:

1. Gaius (a highly regarded, delightful, charitable and prosperous _____ leader)
2. Diotrephes (a highly resentful, deceiving, carnal and prominent _____ leader)
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In week one, we looked at the salutation and Gaius' faithfulness. Last week we looked at Gaius' hospitality. This week we look at Diotrephes. Next week we are scheduled to look at Demetrius and John's closing words.

Analysis

I. Salutation (vv. 1-2)

¹ The Elder,

To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth:

² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

II. Body (vv. 3-12)

A. Positives about Gaius (vv. 3-8)

1. Gaius' Faithfulness (vv. 3-4)

³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is in you*, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

2. Gaius' Hospitality (vv. 5-8)

⁵ Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, ⁶ who have borne witness of your love before the church. *If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,* ⁷ because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

B. Negatives about Diotrephes (vv. 9-10)

9 **I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes** [the _____ time he is mentioned in Scripture], **who loves to have the preeminence** [a compound word of *philos* and *protos* meaning the _____ among friends. John lists Diotrephes' most egregious sin first: _____] **among them,**

does not receive [admit, be hospitable to] **us** [Diotrephes did not recognize the letter from John and did not allow it to have its full, intended effect].

10 **Therefore, if I come, I will call to** [his] **mind his deeds which he does** ['which he keeps on doing'; Notice that John _____ and Diotrephes expels],

prating against us [the root word means '_____ ' indicating the uselessness of his words to utter nonsense, talk idly, to make empty charges, to accuse falsely with malicious words;] **with malicious** [annoying, laborious, painful, hurtful] **words** [Barnes' Notes on the New Testament: "words that were fitted to do injury."].

And not content with that, he himself does not receive [admit, be _____ to] **the brethren, and forbids** [hinders, prevents, withholds, denies, refuses] **those who wish to,**

putting them out [cast out (the same word used in **John 2:15** of Jesus driving people out of the temple), sending out, depriving them, expelling them through language and not violence, commanding them] **of the church.** [Diotrephes is a _____.]

InterVarsity Press Commentary: The author's words about Diotrephes may seem harsh, especially when it is not clear that Diotrephes has done anything other than oppose [John] and his messengers. . . . Diotrephes' failure to support [John] is not just a personal affront; it is an assault against the unity of Christian _____.

Ray Stedman: Now let us see what John's counsel is in this situation. Notice that he does not advice Gaius to organize a split away from the church. Rather, he says, Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. He who does good is of God; he who does evil has not seen God. . . . In other words, do not follow these men who want the preeminence. If you see somebody who is always jockeying for position in Christian relationships, always wanting to be in the public eye, do not _____ him. He is following his own way and not that of God.

C. Positives about Demetrius (vv. 11-12)

III. Conclusion (vv. 13-14)

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B. Negatives about Diotrephes (vv. 9-10)

⁹ I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence [John lists Diotrephes' biggest problem first—_____] among them, does not receive us. ¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words.

And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church. [Diotrephes is a _____]

C. Positives about Demetrius (vv. 11-12)

¹¹ **Beloved** [the _____ time John says he loves Gaius], **do not imitate** [‘do not be in the _____ of imitating or mimicking’] **what is evil, but what is good.**

He who does good [he who _____, does a _____] **is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.**

¹² **Demetrius** [duh-ME-tree-us] **has a good testimony** [witness] **from all, and from the truth itself** [notice that John referred to _____ when he wrote about Gaius and Demetrius, but not about Diotrephes].

And we also bear witness [same word as is translated ‘testimony’ in this verse], **and you know that our testimony** [the noun form of the same word for witness] **is true** [literally, ‘_____—it is out in the open].

III. Conclusion (vv. 13-14)

¹³ **I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink** [This is the same language used in ² **John 1:12-13**. Not everything that you want to talk about should be _____ down]; ¹⁴ **but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.**

Peace to you. Our friends greet [welcome, wish well] **you. Greet the friends** [usually, ‘_____’ or ‘saints’ is used, but here, ‘friends’] **by name.**

John Gill: This and the epistle of James are the only epistles which are concluded without the word, ‘_____’

See You Soon: Finding Peace in Conflicts, by Bob Hostetler

Let me make four suggestions . . . that may just help you to find peace in the midst of conflict in your life. I’m not talking about how to resolve conflict . . . that’s another talk. I’m focusing instead on how to find peace in here [inside] in the midst of conflict.

- _____ the Positive (vv. 1-8)
- _____ what you can’t control, and _____ what you can control (This is at least John’s second attempt to address this particular problem. (v. 1, v. 10)
- _____ to godly principles (v. 11)
- _____ not only to find peace within but to spread it abroad in your relationships (v. 14)