

III John

This is the other side of the hospitality coin between 2nd and 3rd John. II John gave an exhortation not to be hospitable to those who brought another doctrine other than the true doctrine of Jesus Christ. To be hospitable to them, allowing them to stay in your house, bidding them God speed, would make one “partaker of their evil deeds.” Now John, the elder, encourages hospitality be shown to those who bear the truth and labor in the gospel.

There are three proper names mentioned in this letter, Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius..

v.1 – This letter is addressed to beloved Gaius whom John loves in the “truth.” The word truth, in this short letter, is mentioned six times, and the word true, is mentioned once. (In II John mentioned four times). So we see that being of the truth and walking in the truth is very important to the apostle John.

v.2 – BELOVED, I WISH ABOVE ALL THINGS THAT THOU MAYEST PROSPER AND BE IN HEALTH, EVEN AS THY SOUL PROSPERETH. Another way to say this, for clarity, would be “Just as your soul is prospering (in the truth of the Lord), I wish that you would prosper in your life and be in good health.”

v.3,4- Brothers came to John from time to time and told him of the hospitality of Gaius, proof that he is walking in truth. They also told him That Gaius is conducting his life according to true doctrine of Christ. All this brings John great joy, possibly because Gaius was his convert (tradition says that John later appoints Gaius as bishop of Pergamum).

v.5-8 – This is all about the hospitality Gaius has shown to Christian missionaries, proof of the love of Christ in his heart. The brethren have brought the report of Gaius to the church. v. 6) whom if thou bring forward on their journey (if you give them support, including financial support) after a godly sort (they deserve it within the Christian system) you have done a good thing. 8) We should receive those who who bear the truth, thus we help the truth be spread.

v.9-11 – DIOTROPHES loves to have preeminence, be in first place. He loves himself. He is the opposite of Gaius. He doesn’t receive itinerant missionaries, or John and his authority over the churches. He actively opposes John, not only does he not show hospitality to missionaries, he stops others from doing it, even putting them out of the church. (Prating means to talk nonsense, mocking the word of God) This would make Diotrophes a false teacher. Do not copy his bad behavior, which is not of God. Doing good is of God.

v.12 –DEMETRIUS has a good report with men, with the truth, and with John, whose record is true.

13,14 - “Beloved, I have too many things to write with pen but I will see you face to face soon. Our friends greet you. Please greet our personal friends by name.