

3 John

Supporting Verified Messengers of the Truth

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Purpose & Outline

- Commendation of Gaius (vv. 1-4):
 - Love for him (“in truth”=“in Christ”; Jn. 14:6) (v. 1)
 - Prayer for his material and physical prosperity to the extent of his spiritual prosperity (v. 2)
 - Joy for his living the truth (vv. 3-4)
- Appreciation for help given to traveling teachers (vv. 5-8)
 - Continue your faithful support (“you are doing a faithful thing”) and the love you have demonstrated (vv. 5-6)
 - You are supporting those who “went out on behalf of the name” (v. 7; contrast 1 Jn. 2:19; 4:1; 2 Jn. 1:7)
 - We are obligated to receive/support/give hospitality to those who are taking the truth to unbelievers (v. 8)

Purpose & Outline

- Condemnation of Diotrephes (vv. 9-10)
 - “The one loving to be first” or “fond of being first” (v. 9)
 - “Does not welcome/receive us” (v. 9)
 - “Talking nonsense *about* us with evil words” (v. 10)
 - “Does not welcome/receive the brothers” (v. 10)
 - Prevents and throws out of the congregation those who would help the brothers (v. 10)
- Exhortation (v. 11)
 - Do not imitate Diotrephes but rather one who does good
- Recommendation of Demetrius (v. 12)
 - Has a threefold testimony: from all, the truth, us
- Hope to communicate in person soon (“immediately”) (v. 14)

Outline #2

(Wiersbe's suggested outline)

- I. Gaius, a Beloved Believer (vv. 1-8)
- II. Diotrephes, a Proud Believer (vv. 9-10)
- III. Demetrius, an Exemplary Believer (vv. 11-12)
- IV. Conclusion (vv. 13-14)

Form of the Letter

- “The second and third Epistles of John present us with the closest approximations in the New Testament to the conventional letter-form of the contemporary Graeco-Roman world” (Bruce, 134)
- Expected form of a first century letter paralleled to the letter of 3 John:
 - Greeting/Salutation (v. 1)
 - Prayer (v. 2)
 - Body (vv. 3-12)
 - Conclusion (vv. 13-14/15; depending on translation)

Key Words & Phrases

- **Truth**, ἀλήθεια, *alētheia* (6 times)
 - “truth, truthfulness; corresponding to reality”
 - 1:1, 3 (2), 4, 8, 12
- **Testified/testify**, μαρτυρέω, *martyreō* (4 times)
 - “to testify, give testimony; commend, speak well of, vouch for”
 - 1:3, 6, 12 (2)
- **Testimony**, μαρτυρία, *martyria* (1 time)
 - “testimony, evidence; (good) reputation”
 - 1:12

Key Words & Phrases

- **Beloved**, ἀγαπητός, *agapētos* (4 times)
 - “dearly loved one; the object of special affection and of special relationship”
 - 1:1, 2, 5, 11
- **Brothers**, ἀδελφοί, *adelphoi* (3 times)
 - “brother, fellow countryman, neighbor (often inclusive in gender); by extension a fellow believer in the family of faith; in the plural brothers regularly refers to men and women”
 - 1:3, 5, 10

Key Words & Phrases

- **Church**, ἐκκλησία, *ekklēsia* (3 times)
 - “congregation, assembly; a group of people gathered together”
 - “It can refer to the OT assembly of believers (Ac 7:38), or a riotous mob (Ac 19:32)”
 - See also Acts 19:39, 41
 - “In the NT a church is never a building or meeting place”
 - 1:6, 9, 10

Memory Verse Review ***(James—2 John)***

- Jas. 1:22—“But be...”
- 1 Pet. 4:16—“But if anyone...”
- 2 Pet. 3:18—“But grow...”
- 1 Jn. 1:7—“But if we...”
- 2 Jn. 1:9—“Whoever...”

Memory Verse for 3 John

1:11

“Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God” (NASB)