

NOTES FOR THIS COMING WEEK: 6/22 - 6/23/16 2020

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: *3 JOHN*

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7 PM MONDAY NIGHT & 7 AM TUESDAY MORNING ONLINE BIBLE STUDY MEETINGS:

WE WILL CONTINUE IN THE EPISTLE OF THIRD JOHN!

Type in the <https://> for the meeting you want to attend: If you have any trouble with logging in on the website – download the Zoom.us app from the internet, sign in, hit join meeting and enter the meeting number 817880051 form Monday night; 444504400 for Tuesday morning.

7 PM MONDAY NIGHT MEETINGS:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/817880051> for Monday night 7pm meeting # 817880051; hit join, then when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

7 AM TUESDAY MORNING MEETINGS:

(<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/444504400> for Tuesday morn 7am meeting # 444504400; hit join, when asked, give your name. The need for a password has been removed!

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OPENING PRAYER

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 3 JOHN

- **Obedient Living in Truth and Love - Good Examples and a Bad Example**

"Cornerstone" (My Hope is Built on Nothing Less) *Hillsong (3:28)*

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness I dare not trust the sweetest frame But wholly trust in Jesus' name (2X)

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love. Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all!

When Darkness seems to hide His face I rest on His unchanging grace In every high and stormy gale My anchor holds within the veil.

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord, Lord of all! He is Lord! Lord of all!

Christ alone; cornerstone Weak made strong in the Savior's love Through the storm, He is Lord! Lord of all! Lord of all!!

In *Third John* we see four men that are mentioned – **The Elder (John), Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. They will be shown as examples to us for walking in love and truth. As we go through the study, **may we be considering how much of each example is in our lives:****

Greeting vs. 1-3

3Jn 1:1 The Elder, To the beloved (vs. 1, 2, 5, 11 – to my dear friend)

Gaius, whom I love in truth: (2Jn 1:1) The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love in truth, and not only I, but also all those who have known the truth,

- John is "the elder" again, continuing to show his love toward other faithful believers. What a good example we see in John, extending such love towards Gaius, who we will see is a faithful follower of the word and the Lord.
- ***Whom I love (agape) in truth*** - Gaius had the same heart and commitment as John had regarding his love for the truth, for the word of God. This is the way of a strong uniting force in loving one another among believers.

3Jn 1:2 Beloved, I pray that you may 1) prosper in all things and 2) be in health, 3) just as your soul prospers.

- This is John's personal wish for Gaius. Some people misquote it as God's general will for all His children.
- Notice the apparent connection between well-being in the soul and physical well-being.

3Jn 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. (2Jn 1:4) I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father. (1Th 2:19-20) For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? [20] For you are our glory and joy.

- Here again as in the previous epistle, John is saying he rejoiced greatly at the news to see and hear of Gaius continuing to be walking in truth. Walking is a progress, more than just standing in the truth. Gaius is growing in his relationship with the Lord!
- Apparently Gaius had extended hospitality to many of the missionaries, pastor-teachers, travelling, go back and forth in the early church. The word must have been spread that whenever travelling through a city where Gaius was, that they would have a place to stay in his house, not only sparing them from having to stay in a sinful, fleas infested place, but to stay in a home where the peace of God was resting upon. He was extending hospitality to these kind of servants!
- Spurgeon said, a lie travels all around the world before the truth can get it's boots on. So much for bad news. But good news travels too! When someone does something good for a person, they end up talking about that. The word gets out. Gaius takes care of people in need, on their trips!

Walk in Christ's Commandments vs. 4-6

3Jn 1:4 *I have no greater joy than to hear (1Th 2:11) as you know how we exhorted, and comforted, and charged every one of you, as a father does his own children,*

that my children walk in truth. (1Co 4:15) *For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.*

- ***I have no greater joy***,.... Nothing that causes greater joy. *The Vulgate Latin* version reads "grace" or "thanks"; and then the sense is, that he had nothing to be more thankful for:
- ***than to hear that my children walk in truth***; meaning his spiritual children, those whose conversion he had been the instrument of; and among these it seems Gaius was one.
- This also applies to our own biological children. The highest possible happiness for a parent is when their son or daughter announces that 1) they are born again! There is no joy in a family like that when children 2) continue to "walk in truth" meaning walking in right doctrine and in love for the brethren. There is nothing that would give more peace to the dying pillow of the Christian parent, than to be able to leave the world with the assurance that my children 3) would always walk in truth.
- We could also say there is nothing that causes as much pain as to hear my children are not walking in truth!

Support and Opposition

3Jn 1:5 *Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,*

- This was a great compliment: ***you do faithfully whatever you do***. Whatever God gives us to do, we should do it ***faithfully***, longing to hear what Jesus said that when we see Him face to face some will hear (***Mat 25:21***) *His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'*
- ***You do faithfully whatever you do...*** John praised Gaius for his hospitality. This may seem somewhat trivial to us, but it is not to God. This is a practical outworking of the essential command to love one another; hospitality is love in action.
- The missionaries in the churches at that time were sent out, with a letter of commendation. So when they were sent out, they likely knew if they went to a city where Gaius was, they would have a place to stay.

3Jn 1:6 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,

- ***you send them forward on their journey... in a manner worthy of God,... you will do well,*** These missionaries have already made a sacrificial commitment to God's work. They have already taken a step of faith. They are not going to stay or leave the ministry on the basis of what we do or don't do for them. This is a settled issue between them and God. This is the caliber of the persons that Gaius is extending hospitality to. Going forward by their obedience to the Lord.
- Helping them and aiding them in their ministry, and that's good. Jesus said that if you give a cup of cold water to the prophet in the name of the Lord, you will not lose your reward. You will receive the reward of a prophet. An interesting way by which God keeps books.
- Here Gaius is supporting these men who are itinerate evangelists and prophets, entertaining them and helping them on their way. John is commending him for this.
- Christians must first see that they are doing something to help the spread of the gospel. Then they must see that they do it ***in a manner worthy of God.*** God calls every one of us to have a part in the great commission, the command of (***Mat 28:19***) *Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,*
- Also that we need to understand the reward for supporting the work is the same as those who are out on the front lines.- David, rescuing the Ziklag captives (***1Sa 30:22-25***) *Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart." [23] But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. [24] For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; **they shall share alike.**" [25] So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.*
- Every believer can have a part by going or have a part by helping, but everyone has a part and should do it well.

Beware of Antichrist Deceivers vs. 7-11

3Jn 1:7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. (1Co 9:12, 15) If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ. [15] But I have used none of these things, nor have I written these things that it should be done so to me; for it would be better for me to die than that anyone should make my boasting void.

- **They went forward for His name' sake** - So these itinerant prophets have gone forth in the name of the Lord and for his name's sake, but they wouldn't take anything from the Gentiles, meaning unbelievers. John is commending them for that.
- **Taking nothing from the Gentiles:** The early church was filled with the missionaries and preachers of various religions, and they often supported themselves by taking offerings from the general public. But John said that these Christian missionaries should take **nothing from the Gentiles** (non-Christians). Instead of soliciting funds from the general public they were to look to the support of fellow Christians.

3Jn 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth. (Mat 10:40) "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.

- **ought to receive such** - We ought to come alongside of those (sending and receiving) who are faithful to their calling, proclaiming His word, that we might join with them and help them as they are taking the truth of God to the various churches, following the example of Gaius.

3Jn 1:9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

- Gaius is a good example of a godly man. Diotrephes is not! John is going to show Gaius as a bad example of Diotrephes and then the good example of Demetrius.
- Diotrephes is very different from the delightful brother, Gaius, who was known for walking in the truth, serving and being full of hospitality. Not so, for Diotrephes, whose heart was 180 degrees removed from that of Gaius.
- He is no longer living in love. Pride has taken precedence in his life. He loved **to have the preeminence**. He has accused John of evil words, fearing that his authority might be superseded by that of the apostle! He refused to accept missionaries. He even forbade others to do so, expelling them from the church if they disobeyed him.
- Through this text we see how his sin has been exposed throughout the years. He remains as a bad example of us. He is a prideful man who loved the

preeminence in the church. He didn't want to give any place to anybody else. He wanted the leader, the one in charge.

- There are those Diotrefes still in the church today, those who are looking for a position for themselves, those that are looking for a place of power and authority, who want preeminence. Be aware of them.

3Jn 1:10 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.

- John brings five charges against him: (1) Diotrefes must occupy the leading place in the church. (2) He actually refused to receive John. (3) He made malicious statements against John the beloved, chosen to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, an eyewitness to Jesus, who walked with Jesus, receiving directly from the Lord, his commission! (4) He refused to entertain the missionaries, the ones who were traveling through the country and (5) he excommunicated those who did entertain the missionaries.
- There are some small people who feel that they can advance their cause by speaking evil of men of God who are being used mightily. They become very critical of them, because when you criticize, you are actually putting yourself above that person. If you can put yourself above someone like Billy Graham, you're pretty high. The Lord said, (*Psa 105:15*) *Saying, "Do not touch My anointed ones, And do My prophets no harm."*
- Whenever anyone is used mightily by God in a way that brings prominence or recognition, there will always be those who will be critical of what God has done. However, beware when all men speak well of us. If the world is saying what a wonderful fellow you are, then there's probably something wrong with you. (*Jas 4:4b*) *Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

3Jn 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.

(Psa 34:14) Depart from evil and do good; Seek peace and pursue it. (1Th 5:15) See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone, but always pursue what is good both for yourselves and for all.

He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

(1Jn 2:29) If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him. (1Jn 3:10) In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.

- ***Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.*** Don't follow this Diotrephes, an evil man. Don't follow after his evil deeds, but follow after *what is good*.
- John puts the emphasis upon what a person is doing. (**Jas 1:22**) *But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.*
- God always gives us good examples to follow. There are also bad examples. The Lord said don't follow those. Follow those that set a good example. Paul said to Timothy, (**1Ti 4:12**) *Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.*
- Peter said that Jesus has suffered, leaving for us an example that we should follow, (**1Pe 2:21**) *For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: (1Pe 2:23) who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; and be an example.*
- There are always those who admire you and are using you for an example for their lives. Your child is learning how to be a parent by watching your example. Husband, wives, you're setting the example for their future marriages! We need to set good examples, even as we need to follow good examples.
- How is my witness? What example is my life? – imitating ***what is good*** or ***what is evil***?

John's Farewell Greeting vs. 12-13

3Jn 1:12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, (Act 6:3) Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; (1Ti 3:7) Moreover he must have a good testimony among those who are outside, lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

- We come now to the third man, Demetrius. He has a good testimony and may even be one of those turned away by Diotrephes. He is widely known for his good character and his loyalty to the truth. a dependable brother. He is a man sound in the faith. This man, converted, now goes around teaching the Word of God. He adorned the doctrine of Christ. Others testified to his character, and he was true to the doctrine of Scripture. Am I adorning the doctrine of Christ?
- ***Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself:*** John recommended this man to Gaius. Perhaps he was the one who carried the letter from John to Gaius, and John wanted Gaius to know that he was

worthy of Christian hospitality. Demetrius was so faithful to the truth that even the truth was a witness on his behalf.

- Demetrius is obviously one of these wonderful saints of God whom Diotrephes had shut out of the church. We have only one verse about Demetrius—this is all we know. He is never mentioned again in Scripture. What a contrast to Diotrephes!
- Demetrius is one of the shining lights of the New Testament, a humble saint of God. Around us today, there are multitudes of people like him. Don't get the impression that everybody in the church is a Diotrephes. We thank God that there are very few of them.

and you know that our testimony is true. (Joh 19:35) And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe. (Joh 21:24) This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.

- This is a man who is walking in the truth. Yes, we also bear witness; ***you know that our testimony is true.***
- The tense that John uses here indicates that Demetrius had a good reputation in the past and that he still has a good reputation. Over a long period, Demetrius has demonstrated a time-tested faith.
- He is Demetrius, the dependable brother. The church knows him as a man of God. Now you might deceive the church, but Demetrius was tested by the truth. He measures up to the definition of a believer. John knows him and agrees. There are three witnesses to the fact that Demetrius adorns the doctrine of Christ. Oh, may I be a Demetrius and not a Diotrephes!

Final Greetings

3Jn 1:13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; (2Jn 1:12) Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.

3Jn 1:14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

- He closes out this tender little letter to Gaius as he typically does, wanting to see him in person soon that we might talk face to face. He said that to the Elect Lady in his second letter " *I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.*"

- The fullness of joy in fellowship with one another! What joy Christian fellowship is! What a joyful thing it is to get together with the body of Christ and fellow believers.
- John is saying I trust to shortly see you, and we can talk face to face. In the meantime, *peace, shalom, be to you. "Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name."*

May we be a Gaius or a Demetrius and not a Diotrephes!

Closing Prayer:

SUMMARY- Benefits/Application:

Greeting To Gaius – vs. 1-4

Gaius Commended for Generosity – vs. 5-8

- **Gaius – rejoicing he is walking in truth, his generosity, hospitality, his example**

Diotrephes and Demetrius – vs. 9-12

- **Diotrephes – great contrast, full of pride, loves pre-eminence; does not receive visitors-no hospitality; How much of Diotrephes is in me?**
- **Demetrius – Good testimony from all and from truth itself**

Farewell Greeting – vs. 13-14

- **Longing to see you, be with you for Christian fellowship**

Self-examination Question:

- **Am I, are you more like Gaius, Demetrius or Diotrephes?**

Review of First John:

- **The Word of Life: 1Jn 1:1-3**
- **Walking in the Light: 1Jn 1:4-10**
- **Christ Our Advocate: 1Jn 2:1-6**
- **The New Commandment: 1Jn 2:7-14**
- **Do Not Love the World: 1Jn 2:15-17**
- **Warning Concerning Antichrists: 1Jn 2:18-19**
- **Deceptions of the Last Hour: 1Jn 2:20-23**

- **Let Truth Abide in You - 1Jn 2:24-27**
- **The Children of God – What Manner of Love - 1Jn 2:28-29 – 3:1-3**
- **Sin and the Child of God - 1Jn 3:4 – 3:9**
- **The Imperative of Love - 1Jn 3:10 - 15**
- **The Outworking of Love - 1Jn 3:16 – 23**
- **The Spirit of Truth & the Spirit of Error (Test the Spirits) - 1Jn 3:24 – 4:6**
- **Knowing God Through Love - 1Jn 4:7 – 11**
- **Seeing God Through Love – 1 John 4:12 – 16**
- **The Consummation of Love – 1 John 4:17-19**
- **Obedience by Faith – 1 John 4:20-5:5**
- **The Certainty of God’s Witness – vs. 5:6-13**
- **The Assurance and Certainty of Salvation – vs. 9-13**
- **Confidence and Compassion in Prayer – vs. 14-17**
- **Knowing the True – Rejecting the False – vs. 18-21**

Review of Second John:

- *Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.*
- **We need to walk in *truth* and in *love*, making sure our love is governed by truth! How balanced is love and truth in my Christian walk?**
- **Be discerning re false teaching – *Doctrine of Christ* (the precepts, the character, and the work of the Savior.)**
- **Handling false teaching; inviting people into your home; greeting and good byes. Am I being careful regarding false teaching?**
- **Be Careful - Watching out for yourselves**
- ***I hope to come to you to speak face to face, that our joy may be full – May you experience the joy of Christian fellowship and hospitality!!***

Suggestions for the Coming Week:

- **Read the entire Ephesians Chapter One each day (takes only a few minutes to read the 23 verses)**