

3 John

- I. Greeting and benediction: verses 1-2
 - A. Identification of sender and recipient
 1. The Elder - Ὁ πρεσβυτέρος
 2. Gaius - Γάϊος - a common name
 - a. Gaius of Corinth (Rom 16:23), Gaius of Macedonia (Acts 19:29), and Gaius of Derbe (Acts 20:4).
 - b. Dative - Γάϊῳ to Gaius
 - c. The beloved - τῷ ἀγαπητῷ
 1. 3 John 2,5,11; 1 John 2:7; 3:2,21; 4:1,7,11
 - d. Whom I love in truth -ὄν ἐγὼ ἀγαπῶ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ
 1. Emphatic - I, myself, ...
 2. 1 John 3:18; 2 John 1
 - B. Typical 1st century style epistle
 1. Common wish for health with an added Christian bonus
 - a. Regarding the contents of this verse, Gustav Adolf Deissmann (a German Protestant theologian and bearded gospel man, best known for his leading work on the Greek language used in the New Testament, which he showed was the koine, or commonly used tongue of the Hellenistic world of that time.) in his monumental work, Light from the Ancient East, shows that the words “I pray that in all things thou mayest prosper and be in health,” are found frequently in letters of that day. He presents a letter, “Apion to Epimachus his father and lord, many greetings. Before all things I pray that thou art in health, and that thou dost prosper and fare well continually.” In another letter we have, “Antonius Maximus to Sabina his sister, many greetings. Before all things I pray that thou art in health.” Another letter from a prodigal son to his mother, “Antonius Longus to Nilus his mother, greetings. And continually do I pray that thou art in health. I make intercession for thee day by day to the lord Serapis.”
 1. John adds to the formula by praying that the physical health of Gaius may equal the health of his soul, which prospers.
 - II. Tri-witness testimony for Γάϊος: verses 3-6
 - A. Gaius has three things going for him
 1. Walking in truth - verse 3 (cf. 2 John 4)
 - a. **περιπατέω** - to live or behave in a customary manner, with possible focus upon continuity of action—‘to live, to behave, to go about doing.’
 - b. The sphere in which a person operates or functions.
 2. Producing faithfully in his ministry toward missionaries - verse 5
 3. Love before the church - Verse 6
 - a. 1 John 3:16-19

- III. Encouragement to continue in a faithful ministry of love toward fellow-workers in the truth: verses 5-8
 - A. Brethren had testified to John about Gaius' faithful ministry and John encourages him to continue this good work - cf. Romans 15:24; Titus 3:13
 - B. They went out for the sake of the Name - a metonym for Jesus Christ (cf. John 15:21; Acts 5:41; Phil 2:9)
 - 1. Many deceivers have also "gone out" - ἐξέρχομαι (Cf. 2 John 7; 1 John 2:19; 4:1)
 - 2. Accepting nothing from the Gentiles
 - a. Peripatetic teachers were not exclusive to Christianity. Hellenistic street preachers often took advantage of hospitality and even expressed pride in their success at fleecing the countryside.
 - b. Support for these missionaries should come from believers - verse 8
- IV. Tri-witness testimony against Διοτρέφης: verses 9-10
 - A. John had written a letter to the church where Diotrephes (Pagan meaning nourished by Zeus / general meaning god nurtured) was apparently an elder - verse 9
 - 1. He loved to lord over them - φιλοπρωτεύω - loves to have the leadership or preeminence
 - 2. He would not accept John or his missionaries (us)
 - B. John plans a visit in which he will confront Diotrephes with the testimony against him
 - 1. Unjust accusations or talking nonsense with wicked words - φλυαρέω cf. 1 Tim 5:13
 - 2. Inhospitable toward missionaries - cf. Galatians 6:10
 - 3. Expels members of the church who wish to be hospitable to missionaries
- V. Imitation exhortation: verse 11
 - A. Mimic what is good not evil - μιμέομαι
 - B. Good is from God
 - C. Those who do evil have lost sight of God
- VI. Tri-witness testimony for Δημήτριος: verse 12
 - A. Most likely the bearer of this letter who is commend to Gaius
 - B. His tri-witness testimony
 - 1. From everyone (cf. Acts 6:3; 1 Tim 3:7)
 - 2. From the truth - The validity of a man's ministry must be tested by his message.
 - a. Matt 7:15-20; Matt 12:33-37
 - 3. From John and those with him (we) - This can hardly be anything but a reference to the apostles, whose testimony Diotrephes was unwilling to accept but that Gaius knew to be true.
- VII. I will see you immediately: verses 13-14
 - A. Though John had other things on his mind (cf. 2 John 12), expedience in handling this matter was foremost
 - 1. A confident expectation of seeing Gaius immediately
 - a. ἐλπίζω
 - b. εὐθέως
- VIII. Final greeting: verse 15
 - A. Εἰρήνη σοι - Peace to you (cf. John 20:19, 21, 26; Eph 6:23; 1 Pet 5:14)
 - B. Greetings - Cf. 2 John 10,11,13
 - C. Greet the friends by name