

The Third Epistle Of John

3 John

1 He commendeth Gaius for hospitality. 9 and reprehendeth Diotrephes for vain glory; 10 he exhorteth Gaius to continue in well doing; 12 and in the end commendeth Demetrius.

1 The (1) Elder unto the beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

(1) An example of a Christian gratulation.

2 Beloved, I wish chiefly that thou prosperedst and faredst well as thy soul prospereth.

3 For I rejoiced greatly when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, how thou walkest in the truth.

4 I have no greater joy than (a) this, *that is*, to hear that my sons walk in (*) verity.

(a) Than these joys.

(*) That is, in godly conversation, as they which have both the knowledge and fear of God.

5 Beloved, thou doest (b) faithfully, whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to (*) strangers,

(b) As becometh a believer and a Christian.

(*) By keeping hospitality.

6 Which bare witness of thy love before the Churches. Whom if thou (c) bringest on their journey as it (*) beseemeth according to God, thou shalt do well,

(c) He commendeth to Gaius, either those selfsame men whom he had entertained before, returning now again to him about the affairs of the Church, or else some other which had like business.

(*) If thou furnishest them with necessities toward their journey, knowing that the Lord saith, He that receiveth you, receiveth me.

7 Because that for his Name's sake they went forth, and took nothing of the Gentiles.

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be (d) helpers to the truth.

(d) That we ourselves may help somewhat to the preaching of the truth.

9 (2) I wrote unto the Church; but Diotrephes which loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.

(2) Ambition and covetousness, two pestilent plagues (especially in them which have any Ecclesiastical function) are condemned in Diotrephes' person.

10 Wherefore if I come, I will call to your remembrance his deeds which he doeth, prattling against us with malicious words, and not therewith content, neither he himself receiveth the brethren, but forbiddeth them that would, and thrusteth them out of the Church.

11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth well is of God; but he that doeth evil, hath not (e) seen God.

(e) Hath not known God.

12 Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself; yea, and we ourselves bear record, and ye know that our record is true.

13 I have many things to write, but I will not with ink and pen write unto thee;

14 For I trust I shall shortly see thee, and we shall speak mouth to mouth. Peace be with thee. The friends salute thee. Greet the friends by name.