

The Third LETTER of JOHN
LAST GENERATION VERSION
Translation & Notes by Tim Warner
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Chapter 1

Gaius' Service for the Brothers Commended

The senior to Gaius¹ the beloved, whom I love in truth: 2 Beloved, concerning everything I desire you to succeed and to be well, according as your soul succeeds. 3 For I was overjoyed at the brothers' coming and testifying to your truth, according as you are walking in truth. 4 I have no greater joy so that I should hear my children are walking in truth. 5 Beloved, you are doing a faithful thing, whatever you may do for the brothers, even for the foreigners 6 who testify to your love before the assembly, whom you will do well sending them forth [in a manner] worthy of God. 7 For because of the Name² they went out receiving nothing from the gentiles.³ 8 We then ought to take in such [men] so that we may become fellow-workers in the Truth.

John's first Letter to the Assembly Rejected⁴

9 I wrote to the assembly, but Diotrephes, the one fond of being prominent, does not receive us. 10 Therefore, if I should come, I will remind him of his deeds which he does – slandering us with wicked words – and not being satisfied over these, he does not receive the brothers either, and those intending to he forbids and casts them out of the assembly! 11 Beloved, do not imitate the evil, but the good. The one doing good is out from God. But the one doing evil has not seen God. 12 Demetrius⁵ has been affirmed by all, and by the Truth itself, and we also are affirming [him], and you have observed that our testimony is true. 13 I had much to write, but I am not willing to write with pen and ink. 14 But I expect to see you soon and we will speak mouth to mouth.⁶

¹ Gaius was apparently a gentile convert and disciple of John's known for housing traveling evangelists.

² The Textus Receptus adds "His" but all the early manuscripts and the majority manuscripts have "the Name." This is likely a reference to the Tetragrammaton (YHVH).

³ When Jesus sent His followers to evangelize within Israel, He commanded them not to take supplies, and that those who received them and housed them were in effect receiving Him (Luke 10:1-11). However, when He sent them to the Gentiles, He told them to bring their own supplies, because they were among foreigners (Luke 22:35-38).

⁴ Paul warned the Ephesian elders that this kind of thing would occur (Acts 20:29-30).

⁵ Demetrius was no doubt the messenger sent by John to deliver this letter to Gaius, since his initial letter sent to the whole assembly was rejected by Diotrephes.

⁶ Some manuscripts add, "Peace to you. The friends greet you, greet the friends by name."