

The Third Letter of JOHN

From the elder, to my dear friend Gaius, whom I truly love.

²Dear friend, I pray that in all matters you will continue to prosper and be in good health, in the same way that you continue to prosper in living as a Christian should.

³I was so happy to hear the good report from some of the Lord's followers who came by and told us how firmly you believe the truth, and that you are also continuing to live it.

⁴Nothing makes me happier than to hear that my children are living in obedience to the teachings of Christ.

⁵My dear friend, you have been so faithful in doing what you've done for these traveling preachers and teachers who are serving the Lord, and even for some who were strangers to you.

⁶They have told the church here about your love. You will do well if you continue to send such people on their way in a manner worthy of those who are serving God.

⁷They have gone out to represent Christ in Christ's way, and have decided not to accept financial support from anyone who is not a follower of the Lord.

⁸We must give continued support to fellow servants like that, and in that way work together in getting the truth out.

⁹I wrote to the church about this, but Diotrephes, who insists on being the revered leader, refused to have anything to do with us.

¹⁰So, if I come your way, I will call attention to what he's doing, viciously accusing us with his gossip. But he's not even content with that. He not only refuses to receive the traveling workers, but even forbids the church members to show them hospitality, and puts them out of the church when they do.

¹¹Dear friend, don't imitate an evil person like that! Instead, imitate those who do what's right and good. Those who practice doing good prove that they belong to God, but those who practice evil don't have any acquaintance with Him.

¹²But everyone speaks well of Demetrius. And all evidence bears witness to the fact that he is a genuine child of God. We also bear witness to this, and you know you can trust our testimony.

¹³I have so much more to say to you, but I would rather not write it with pen and ink.

¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and then we will talk face to face. May you have every reason to be at peace. The friends here send you their greetings. And please give my personal greetings to our friends who are with you.

Sincerely in Christ Our Savior,
John