

Third Epistle of John

III John 1:1-8

- III John 1:1 - The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.
 - “The elder” – Definition: “pres-boo’-ter-os” – presbytery
 - II John 1:1a – “The elder unto the elect lady and her children”
 - advanced in life, an elder, a senior
 - a term of rank or office - among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies (or churches) The NT uses the term bishop, elders, and presbyters interchangeably
 - Tradition: John the Apostle, brother of James, son of Zebedee, disciple of John the Baptist, fishermen with Peter and Andrew.
 - Written around 90 AD along with The Gospel of John, The Book of Revelations and I/II John
 - “Gaius”
 - During third missionary journey with Silas: at the Riots at Ephesus: Acts 19:29 -
 - Was baptized by Paul: I Corinthians 1:14
 - I Corinthians was written at Ephesus (Acts 19:8,10; 20:31)
 - Possible early convert at Derbe during Paul’s first or second missionary journey: Acts 20:4
 - Paul’s Host when he was writing the Book of Romans in Asia Minor: Romans 16:23 - (about 56 AD)
 - “wellbeloved” – Implies that he was loved by all in the Church. Now by reviewing his relationship with Paul when he wrote the Book of Romans approximately 25 years earlier than John’s epistle to him, you can understand why.
 - “whom I love in the truth” – Implies to love as God loves. For God only loves in the truth. - II John 1:1a; Ephesians 4:15
- III John 1:2 - Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
 - “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health” – II Peter 1:3
 - “mayest prosper: (Externally) - Luke 12:16-23; Matthew 6:24-34; I Timothy 6:5-10; Luke 11:9-13; Philippians 4:11-13
 - Definition of prosper: yoo-od-o’-o - be successful
 - “be in health”: (Physically) - II Corinthians 12:7-10
 - “even as thy soul prospereth”: (Internally) - Ephesians 1:3
- Testimony of Gaius: III John 1:3-4 - For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. (4) I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.
 - Ephesians 1:15-16; I Thessalonians 3:6-9; Colossians 1:7-8; II Corinthians 7:6-7; I Thessalonians 2:19-20
- Exhortation to help those in ministry: III John 1:5-8 - Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; (6) Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort, thou shalt do well: (7) Because that for his name’s sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. (8) We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth.
 - God's exhortation: Romans 12:13
 - You do not know who you entertain: Hebrews 13:1-2
 - When you do it to others, you do it to the Lord: Matthew 25:31-40
 - Give as you have been given by God and His grace: I Peter 4:9-10
 - Are we not all the same before the Lord: Job 31:14-15
 - Because Job feared God: Job 31:16-17, 19-23
 - Job's testimony: Job 31:32

III John 1:9-14

- III John 1:9-11 - I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. (10) Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church. (11) Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.
 - Looking at Diotrephes (dee-ot-ref-ace')
 - Vs. 9 - “who loveth to have preeminence among them” - Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3-5; Jesus took a child before them: Mark 9:34-37; The sons of Zebedee request high honors: Mark 10:35-45; Matthew 20:20-28; During the Lord's discourse on His last night: Luke 22:24-27
 - Vs. 10 - “prating against us with malicious words” - Ephesians 4:31-32; Titus 3:2; James 4:11; I Peter 2:1; 3:10
 - Vs. 10 - “and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren”
 - Vs. 9b - “receiveth us not”
 - Reason for earlier teaching on being hospitality: III John 1:5-8
 - You do not know who you entertain: Hebrews 13:1-2
 - When you do it to others, you do it to the Lord: Matthew 25:31-40
 - Possibly the pastor of the church: Vs. 10 - “forbiddeth them that would”
 - Question: Who exercised more authority in the church at that time? A pastor or an Apostle?
 - To what extent: Vs. 10 - “and casteth them out of the church” (Maybe Gaius)
 - I Peter 5:1-4 - John 21:15-17; I Timothy 3:1,7 (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8)
 - III John 1:10a - “Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth”
 - “Wherefore, if I come” - III John 1:14a
 - “I will remember his deeds which he doeth” - Galatians 6:7-8; Matthew 7:15-20
 - III John 1:11 - Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.
 - “Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good” - Psalm 37:27; 34:14; I Peter 3:11
 - “He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.” - John 3:20; I John 2:29
- III John 1:12 - Demetrius hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself: yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true.
 - “Demetrius”
 - Only other “Demetrius”: Acts 19:24-29
 - “hath good report of all men, and of the truth itself”
 - Two others are give the same praise:
 - Cornelius the centurion: Acts 10:22
 - Stated by Paul after his conversion Ananias: Act 22:12-13
 - Question: Are there plans when John arrives to depose “Diotrephes” and replace him with Demetrius? I Timothy 3:7
 - “yea, and we also bear record; and ye know that our record is true”
 - John first usage of this term: John 19:31-37; 21:24-25
 - Who is this? John 19:25-27;
 - Is it arrogance or the inspiration of the Holy Spirit?
 - How about Luke? Luke 1:1-4
- Closing: III John 1:13-14 - II John 1:12
 - “I trust I shall shortly see thee” - James 4:13-15