

# 3 JOHN

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. John = gift of God
- B. B. The Third Epistle of John
- C. C. The Book of Truth – Practical

**2. AUTHOR:**

Written by John the Beloved, the author of the Gospel, three epistles and the Revelation.

**3. DATE:**

Probably written between 85 and 90 A.D.

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. Truth, True – 7
- B. Receive (th) – 3
- C. Walk (est) – 2
- D. Love (th) – 2

**5. KEY VERSES: 3**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To encourage Gaius in his reception of the brethren.
- B. To assure Gaius that John himself would deal with the arrogant Diotrephes when he next visited the church.
- C. To bear record of Demetrius' good report in the truth.

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## 7. MESSAGE:

- A. Believers must be willing to receive the brethren and show hospitality to them.
- B. Any leader who desires to have the pre-eminence will by his deeds bring himself under divine discipline.
- C. Christianity is a practical walk in truth and love.

## 8. OUTLINE:

- I. Exhortation ..... Gaius – v. 1-8
- II. Condemnation ..... Diotrephes – v. 9-11
- III. Commendation ..... Demetrius – v. 12-14

## 9. SUMMARY:

This third epistle of John is a personal epistle written to Gaius. In the early church there were various believers called to itinerant ministry. Having no guarantee of material support they were dependent on the hospitality of the Christians in the cities in which they ministered. John had sent certain brethren and had written to the church to receive them, but Diotrephes, a leader in the church, refused to receive them. He manifested an arrogant domineering spirit by threatening with excommunication any members who would receive them. Thy John writes concerning this situation commending Gaius for receiving them and assuring him that he would deal with the matter personally upon his arrival. This epistle centres around three men, showing their relation to truth and love:

Gaius ..... Well-beloved, kind, generous, hospitable  
Diotrephes ..... Arrogant, autocratic, domineering  
Demetrius ..... Well-reported, commendable

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as the Truth.