

3 John

Walking in the Truth

Main Parts of Lesson

- John's Love and Gaius' Truth (v.1-4)
- Supporting the Saints (v.5-8)
- An Evil Minister, Diotrephes (v.9-11)
- A Good Testimony, Demetrius (v.12)
- Psalm 1 (if time)

“The Divinity of Love”

- 1 John 4:7-12
 - Love is divine, not of ourselves
 - “whoever loves...” v.7
 - “In this is love...” v.10
- Would we die for each other? 1 Jn. 3:16
- Have I spoken it too lightly?
 - Peter's love
- It is fruit worth praying for (Phil. 1:9)

John's Love and Gaius' Truth

- “Beloved Gaius”
 - A church member in the area of Diotrephes' church
 - A convert under John's ministry
- “whom I love...”
 - “love” or “beloved” used 6 times, 5 in reference to Gaius
 - John loved Gaius

John's Love and Gaius' Truth

- v.2 “in all respects...as your soul prospers”
 - Prosperity of the soul
- v.3 “For...you are walking in truth.”
 - They could see the truth in Gaius
 - Eph. 4:17-24
 - Emphasis on “you” perhaps for contrast
- v.4 “no greater joy...”
 - What about the opposite (2 Cor. 11:29)

Supporting the Saints

- Primary purpose of the letter
 - To encourage, to warn
- v.5 “a faithful thing,” not small (Heb. 6:10)
- “and this to strangers” which is significant
- Strangers
 - In the Law, Gen. 15:3; Ex. 23:9; Lev. 25:35-38; Deut. 10:17-19
 - In the N.T., Mt. 8:20; Heb. 11:13,16; 13:2

Supporting the Saints

Continued...

- We are strangers, Heb. 13:13,14; Jn. 15:18-20; 1Jn. 3:13
 - Some sense of being unwelcome
- v.6 “in a manner worthy of God”
 - “fitting,” Mt. 10:37,38
- v.7 “for the sake of the name”
 - Acts 5:41; Rom. 1:5; Phil. 2:9
 - May explain “worthy of God” in v.6

Supporting the Saints

- v.7 “accepting nothing from the Gentiles”
- Two Views
 - Accepting nothing from Gentile converts, like Paul in Corinth (2 Cor. 11:9)
 - Accepting nothing from the Gentile unbelievers, like Paul in Corinth (2 Cor. 11:9)

Supporting the Saints

- Accepting nothing from unbelievers (though both are possible)
 - No issues with receiving help from Gaius
 - Jesus said a worker is worthy of his wages, Mt. 10:10; Paul on Malta received help
 - Not wrong to be helped once converted or not
 - Perhaps, if offered, they would have received help
 - They did not ask for help, or seek any assistance, wanting to preach it freely

Supporting the Saints

- v.8 “Therefore we ought to...”
 - Emphasis on “we”
 - “receive” Acts 1:9 conceal, shelter, provide for
- v.8 “fellow workers with the truth”
 - Just like 2 Jn. 10,11

An Evil Minister, Diotrephes

- v.9 “Diotrephes, who loves to be first...”
 - Lit. “does not receive us”
 - Jesus' words and authority, Jn. 5:43, 47; Jn. 12:48
- v.10 “I will call attention to his deeds”
 - Fits the description of Mt. 10:14,15
 - Does not fit Jn. 13:20
 - Ignores the Lord's teaching in Mt. 20:25-28
 - A teaching towards John

An Evil Minister, Diotrephes

- v.11 “do not imitate what is evil, but...good.”
 - “Gaius, see the strong difference between what I have said of you, compared to Diotrephes”
- v.10 “If I come...”
 - Excommunicate, or provide opportunity to repent

A Good Testimony, Demetrius

- v.12 “...from everyone...from the truth...we add our testimony...”
 - The church
 - The truth, just as Gaius' truth was seen
 - John and possibly other leaders, Jn. 21:24; 1 Jn. 1:4
- v.13-15 Very much a personal letter

Psalm 1

- The walk
- The fruitful prosperity
- The contrast with the wicked
- The Lord knows the righteous (a testimony)