

3 John

July 18, 2021 – Rev. Rick Lyon

There are 27 books in the NT:

- **4 gospels... 1 historical book... 1 prophetic book and 21 letters**
- **4 of the letters are more like postcards**

3 John 13 - I had *many* things to write, but I don't wish to write to you with pen and ink; but I hope to *see you shortly*, and we shall speak face to face.

1. Imitate Gaius: A Christian Friend

2 John 1-8 - The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: ² Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. ³ For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that's in you, just as you walk in the truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

⁵ Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, ⁶ who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you'll do well, ⁷ because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

#1 - Gaius was spiritually healthy

v. 2 - Beloved (*Dear friend*), I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

Matthew 4:4 - Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

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Jer. 3:15 - "I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will feed you on knowledge and understanding."

#2 - Gaius lived what he believed.

v. 3 - I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that's in you, just as you walk in the truth.

**I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell the way.
The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.**

**I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done;
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too fast may run.
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you do;
For I might misunderstand you and the high advise you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and how you live.**

**When I see a deed of kindness, I am eager to be kind.
When a weaker brother stumbles and a strong man stays behind
Just to see if he can help him, then the wish grows strong in me
To become as big and thoughtful as I know that friend to be.
And all travelers can witness that the best of guides today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows the way.**

**One good man teaches many, men believe what they behold;
One deed of kindness noticed is worth forty that are told.**

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**Who stands with men of honor learns to hold his honor dear,
For right living speaks a language which to everyone is clear.
Though an able speaker charms me with his eloquence, I say,
I'd rather see a sermon than to hear one, any day.**

#3 - Gaius was hospitable.

v. 5 - Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren *and for strangers*,⁶ who have borne witness of *your love* before the church.

Romans 12:13 - *Always* be eager to practice hospitality.

#4 - Gaius was a team player.

v. 8 - We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become *fellow workers* for the truth.

2. Don't Imitate Diotrephes: A Christian Fraud.

v. 9-11 - I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, doesn't receive us¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I'll call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself doesn't

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receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.
¹¹ Beloved, don't imitate what is evil, but what is good.

#1 - Diotrephes loved to be first.

Mark 10:43 - "Whoever wants to be great among you *must* be your servant!"

Philippians 2:3-5 - Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Have this attitude in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

#2 - Diotrephes was a gossip.

Proverbs 16:28 - A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates the best of friends.

#3 - Diotrephes viewed others as competition.

v. 10 - And not content with that, he himself *doesn't receive the brethren*

John 3:26-31 - So John's disciples came to him and said, "Look, Rabbi, the One who was with you beyond the Jordan, the One you testified about—He is baptizing, and *everyone is going to Him.*" John replied, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven. You yourselves can testify that I said, 'I'm not the Christ, but am sent ahead of Him.' The bride belongs to the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom stands and listens for him, and is overjoyed to hear the bridegroom's voice. That joy is mine, and it is now complete. He must increase; I must decrease. The One who comes from above is above all."

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#4 - Diotrephes tried to control others.

v. 10 - he himself doesn't receive the brethren and *forbids* those who wish to, *putting them out of the church*.

v. 12 - Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true.

v.13 - *Beloved, don't imitate what is evil, but what is good.*

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1. Imitate Gaius: A Christian Friend

#1 - Gaius was _____

#2 - Gaius lived what _____

#3 - Gaius was _____

#4 - Gaius was a _____

2. Don't Imitate Diotrephes: A Christian Fraud

#1 - Diotrephes loved to be _____

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#2 - Diotrephes was a _____

#3 - Diotrephes viewed others as _____

#4 - Diotrephes tried to _____