

3rd John

follow and support the truth

DATE & AUTHOR

Date Written: around 100 A.D

Author: John (The Elder)

Apostle and early church leader. Author of the Gospel of John, 1st, 2nd, 3rd John, and Revelation.

THEME

John calls the people of this home church to follow, love, and support the spreading of the truth.

KEY VERSE

3rd John 1:11

11 Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

Introduction and encouragement for Gaius vs 1-8

- Gaius is a dear friend and disciple of John.
 - It appears Gaius may have some sort of chronic health issue.
 - Gaius is a faithful and consistent disciple.
- Gaius is a big supporter of the other missionaries John sends to Ephesus.

Correction of Diotrephes vs 9-10

- vrs. 9 is probably a reference to 1st John.
- Diotrephes rejects John's apostolic authority.
- Diotrephes is a slanderous and dissenting presence in this home church.
- He is stopping missionaries sent by John from getting support and kicking people out of the church who want to support them.

The Example of Demetrius vs 11-12

- Demetrius is put forth as an example worth imitating.
- Demetrius is well respected and from what others can see lives a life that rightly expresses the truth.

Close and farewell vs 13-15

- John has more to say to the church.
- John wishes to see the people of this home church in person soon.

Historical Notes

3rd John is written to help advise a home church likely in the Ephesus area.

The home church in 3rd John is experiencing some division in its leadership in particular regarding if they should support other missionaries sent by John.

My Notes

