

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984

III JOHN
STUDY GUIDE



III JOHN

SCRIPTURE READING:

III John

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. This short letter is sent to Gaius. There is not enough evidence to properly identify or associate him with any particular place or event. The name "Gaius" appears to be a common Roman name.
- B. In the introduction of this letter, John identifies himself as "the elder."
- C. It is generally accepted that the later ministry of John was in Ephesus, which was the principal city in the Roman province of Asia.
- D. The name Jesus is not mentioned in this letter; however, it is suggested in verse seven.
- E. This letter gives instruction, warning, and commendation.

II. CHAPTER ONE

- A. John calls Gaius "the beloved," whom he loves in truth. (III John 1)
- B. Addressing Gaius as "beloved," John says, "Concerning all things, pray to God, succeed, and be healthy, just as your soul succeeds." (III John 2)
- C. John was very happy when the brethren came to him and testified of the truth in which Gaius lived. (III John 3)
- D. John had no greater delight than to hear that his spiritual children were living in truth. (III John 4)
- E. John tells Gaius that whatever he does for the brethren and guests, to do it faithfully. (III John 5)

- F. The brethren and guests have testified, in the presence of the church, of Gaius' love. John tells Gaius to send those whom he hosts on their way in a manner that is appropriate of the Lord. (III John 6)
- G. For the sake of the name of Jesus, these believers went forth taking nothing from the non-Jewish people to whom they ministered. (III John 7)
- H. Because of what they are doing, the church is under obligation to welcome these believers so that we might become co-laborers of the truth. (III John 8)
- I. John wrote a letter to the church, but Diotrephes, who was ambitious for recognition, did not receive him. (III John 9)
- J. John told Gaius that if he came to them, he would remember the deeds done by Diotrephes, who had spoken evil words against them. Diotrephes was not content with opposing just John. He also stopped the brethren from adhering to John's instructions and ejected from the church those who did. (III John 10)
- K. John exhorts Gaius not to follow that which is evil, but to follow that which is good. Those who do good are of God, but those who do evil have not seen God. (III John 11)
- L. John tells Gaius that Demetrius is confirmed by all and by the truth itself. John assured Gaius that he also bore witness of Demetrius, saying, "You know that our testimony is true." (III John 12)
- M. John declared that he had much to write, but he opted not to do so. He was hoping to see Gaius soon, at which time he planned to talk with him face-to-face. (III John 13-14)
- N. John concludes this letter by extending peace to Gaius. He tells him that the friends greet him, and asks him to greet the friends by name. (III John 14)

III. SUMMARY

- A. The name Jesus is not mentioned in this letter; however, it is suggested in verse seven.
- B. This letter gives instruction, warning, and commendation.

- C. Concerning all things, pray to God, succeed, and be healthy, just as your soul succeeds.
- D. John tells Gaius that whatever he does for the brethren and guests, to do it faithfully.
- E. John wrote a letter to the church, but Diotrephes, who was ambitious for recognition, did not receive him.
- F. Those who do good are of God, but those who do evil have not seen God.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. From this letter, we can see that opposition to the principles of God is not new. Selfish control and desire to be seen have been a problem in the Church from its beginning.
- B. Not everyone who leads the church seeks the best interest of the church; some use the church for their own advantage.
- C. God-sent believers should be welcomed into the church. If God sent them, they will be beneficial to the church.
- D. The Body of Christ consists of many members; therefore, we must recognize and receive these members into our midst.
- E. In order for the Church to fulfill its ministry, each member of the Body must be allowed to fulfill his/her God-ordained purpose.
- F. Church leaders must not act as tyrants; we are servants of the Lord, set in a certain position to look out for the best interest of God's people.