

# THIRD EPISTLE OF JOHN

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**Author & Audience:**

the Apostle John, writing to Gaius, a Believer in Asia Minor

**Date:**

anywhere from 70-90 C.E.

**Purpose:**

This letter widely reflects a period of transition in the *ekklesia* from Apostolic to post-Apostolic.

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**Salutation**

<sup>1</sup> The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom I love in truth.

<sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that in all things you may prosper and be healthy, just as your soul prospers.

<sup>3</sup> For I rejoiced greatly, when brothers and sisters came and bore witness to your truth, even as you walk in truth.

<sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.

**Cooperation and Opposition**

<sup>5</sup> Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you do for the brothers and sisters, especially to strangers,

<sup>6</sup> who have testified to your love before the assembly. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

<sup>7</sup> For they went out for the sake of the Name, taking nothing from the nations.

<sup>8</sup> Therefore we ought to support such people, that we may be fellow workers for the truth.

<sup>9</sup> I wrote something to the assembly; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not receive us.

<sup>10</sup> Because of this, if I come, I will call attention to his works which he does, slandering us with wicked words; and not content with this, he himself does not receive the brothers and sisters, and those who would *receive them* he forbids and puts *them* out of the assembly.

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.

<sup>12</sup> Demetrius has received a *good* testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself; and we also bear witness, and you know that our witness is true.

**Final Greetings**

<sup>13</sup> I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write *them* to you with ink and pen;

<sup>14</sup> but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face. Peace *be* to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.