

THE THIRD LETTER OF JOHN

Greeting

¹From the Elder, to my dear friend Gaius,^a whom I love in the truth.

Encouragement for Gaius

²Dear friend, I'm praying that you're doing well and staying healthy in every way—just as your soul is doing well. ³I was overjoyed when the brothers and sisters came and testified about your genuineness—because you *do* live by the truth.^b ⁴I have no greater happiness than when I hear that my children are living by^c the truth.

Helping Traveling Christian Workers

⁵Dear friend, you're faithfully doing that work for the brothers and sisters—even though they're strangers to you.^d ⁶They've testified to your love in front of the congregation. You'll do well to send them on in a way that's worthy of God. ⁷Because they've gone out on behalf of the name of Jesus, without taking anything from the Gentiles. ⁸So we ought to support people like these; that way we can be co-workers for the truth.

⁹I wrote something to the community, but Diotrephes,^e their would-be leader,^f doesn't welcome us. ¹⁰So if I come, I'm going to point out the things he does—the evil nonsense he says about us. And he doesn't stop there—he doesn't welcome the brothers and sisters either. And he forbids people who *want* to welcome them, and kicks them out of the community. ¹¹Dear friend, don't imitate

^a Prn. *gay-us*.

^b Lit. "...about your truth, just as you are walking by/in the truth."

^c Or "in."

^d Or "even though they're foreigners."

^e Prn. *dye-ott-tra-fee-z*.

^f Or "who loves to be their leader."

what's bad; imitate what's good. The person who does good is from God. The person that does wrong hasn't seen God.

¹²Demetrius^a has a good recommendation^b from everybody—even from the truth itself. And we recommend him^c too—and you know that our recommendation^d is true.

Final Words

¹³I have a lot of things to write to you, but I'd rather not do it through paper and ink. ¹⁴Instead, I'm hoping to see you and to talk face to face.^e ¹⁵Peace be with you! The friends here say hello to you. Say hello to the friends there by name.

^a Pm. *da-mee-tree-us*.

^b Lit. "It's been testified on Demetrius's behalf."

^c Lit. "And we testify."

^d Lit. "testimony."

^e Lit. "mouth to mouth."