



Step by Step

64. 3 John



Author // John

Original Recipients // Gaius, referred to as a beloved believer who walked in the truth. From the admonitions and warnings within 3 John it seems likely he was the pastor of a local church.

Date of Writing // Tradition holds that John wrote toward the close of the 1st century, circa 90 AD.

Type of Literature // Didactic

Major Themes // Prayer; Missions; A Proper View of Ministry

Occasion for Writing // Missionary endeavors have been part of the church since the beginning. Men and women responding to the Great Commission have sought to take the Gospel to others. This letter is written to encourage church leaders as they assist missionaries in their travels and to warn of the danger of self exaltation.



Simple Summary // Gaius, likely the pastor of a local congregation, had made it a practice to house and help traveling missionaries as they sought to expand the kingdom of God. John writes to encourage Gaius in his efforts and to warn him of the dangerous actions of Diotrephes who saw ministry as a way to exalt himself rather than the kingdom of God. This little letter has a big message for the church today.



Outline // A simple outline for 3 John:

- 1-4** // *Introduction*
- 5-8** // *Gaius' Generosity Commended*
- 9-11** // *Diotrephes' Sin Exposed*
- 12-13** // *Farewell*

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Key Verses

1:2 // Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

1:4 // I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

1:5 // Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers

1:11 // Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

■ ■ Jesus in 3 John



Jesus is not mentioned by name or title within this little letter. He is however seen as the object of the believer's prayer, the healer of the sick, and the subject of the missionaries' message.



Step by Step

+ Epistles Supplement



Simple Summary // When people put faith in Christ, they *begin* a new life with God. However, it takes time to *learn* about **who** God is and about **how** to walk with Him. The epistles help teach us all of that. At times they provide a clearer picture of the Nature of God; in other places they address practical daily living, teaching us how to live out our faith in a way that represents Jesus well.



Christian Living in the Epistles // Below we've included some common areas of doctrine and life, and some scripture references from the epistles that address them.

The Gospel // *1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9*

The Person of Christ // *Colossians 1:15-19; Philippians 2:5-11; Ephesians 1:20-23; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

Work of the Spirit // *Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:26; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:18*

Faith // *Ephesians 2:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 10:17; Philippians 4:13; Ephesians 6:16*

Witnessing to Others // *Romans 1:16; Romans 10:14; 2 Timothy 1:8; 1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 4:6*

Marriage // *Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; 1 Corinthians 7:10-14*

Child Rearing // *Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20; 2 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 3:15*

continued →

Epistles Supplement



Christian Living in the Epistles *(continued)* //

Conflict Resolution // *Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:32; James 5:16; Galatians 6:1*

Work & Finances // *1 Timothy 6:10; Philippians 4:19; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:23-24*

Praying // *1 Timothy 2:8; Hebrews 4:16; James 1:5; James 5:14; 1 Peter 5:7; Philippians 4:6*

Anger // *Ephesians 4:26; Ephesians 4:31; James 1:20;*

Citizenship // *Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13-15; Titus 3:1; Philippians 3:20; 2 Corinthians 5:20*

Friendships // *1 Corinthians 15:33; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Romans 12:10; 1 John 4:7; Hebrews 10:14-25; Galatians 6:2*

Church // *Hebrews 10:25; Colossians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:16; 1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 4:12*

Grief // *2 Corinthians 1:3-4; Romans 8:38-39; Romans 8:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:13; Romans 15:13*

Trials // *James 1:2-4; Romans 5:2-5; James 1:12; Romans 8:28*

Temptation // *James 1:13; 1 Corinthians 10:13; James 4:7; Hebrews 1:4; 2 Timothy 4:18; 2 Timothy 2:22*

Forgiveness // *1 John 1:9; James 5:16*

