

THE EPISTLES of John

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WORD FOR THE JOURNEY

- ▣ **1 John 2:15-17** Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
- ▣ World: *kosmos*: the order of things here on earth
- ▣ Love: *agape*: to put another's best interest first

CHRISTIANS SHOULD NEVER PUT THE WORLD'S
INTERESTS AHEAD OF GOD AND HIS
INTERESTS

THE TRUTH WE SHARE

▣ **Romans 1:1-6** Paul, a bond-servant of Christ Jesus, called *as* an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about *the* obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake, among whom you also are the **called** of Jesus Christ;

Called: *kletos*: invited

TRUE

▣ **Titus 1:10-14** For there are many rebellious men, empty talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision, who must be silenced because they are upsetting whole families, teaching things they should not *teach* for the sake of sordid gain. One of themselves, a prophet of their own, said, "Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, lazy gluttons." This testimony is true. For this reason reprove them severely so that they may be sound in the faith, not paying attention to Jewish myths and commandments of men who turn away from the truth.

▣ The church was beginning to have to deal with such
▣ men as these

CONCERN ABOUT DECEIVERS

- ▣ **2 John 1:7-8** For many deceivers have gone out into the world, those who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is the deceiver and the antichrist. Watch yourselves, that you do not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward.
- ▣ Deceivers: *planos*: those who lead others astray; can be intentional or unintentional
- ▣ **1 Timothy 6:20-21** O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you, avoiding worldly *and* empty chatter *and* the opposing arguments of what is falsely called "knowledge"— which some have professed and thus gone astray from the faith. Grace be with you.

GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

- ❑ **2 John 1:9-11** Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into *your* house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.
- ❑ **Hebrews 13:2** Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.
- ❑ Hospitality: philoxenia: kindness toward strangers
- ❑ **1 Corinthians 5:11** But actually, I wrote to you not to associate with any so-called brother if he is an immoral person, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or a swindler—not even to eat with such a one.

HOPE FOR A MEETING

- ▣ **2 John 1:12-13** Though I have many things to write to you, I do not want to *do so* with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, so that your joy may be made full. The children of your chosen sister greet you.
- ▣ **3 JOHN** Written to Gaius
- ▣ **Acts 19:28-29** **Gaius from Macedonia** riot in Ephesus
- ▣ **Acts 20:4** **Gaius from Derbe** who accompanied Paul
- ▣ **Romans 16:23** and **1 Corinthians 1:14** **Gaius from Corinth** who hosted Paul
- ▣ **Gaius:** tradition says he was appointed bishop of Pergamum by John

BELOVED GAIUS

- ❑ **3 John 1:1-2** The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.
- ❑ Beloved: *agapetos*: dearly loved
- ❑ **3 John 1:3-4** For I was very glad when brethren came and testified to your truth, *that is*, how you are walking in truth. I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the truth.
- ❑ **Gaius had been faithfully hosting Christian teachers as they are passing through**

ABOUT GAIUS

- ❑ **3 John 1:6-8** You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the truth.
- ❑ While the church should have been supporting itinerant teachers as they went out, Diotrophes did the opposite
- ❑ Diotrophes had been taken with self-importance and not only rejected John's apostolic authority, but was also not hospitable
- ❑ Diotrophes must have been a leader in the church to have taken such authority

MAINTAINING A WITNESS

- ▣ **3 John 1:10** For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire *to do so* and puts *them* out of the church.
- ▣ John may have appointed Gaius as bishop because of the attitude of Diotrephes
- ▣ **Diotrephes may have intercepted an earlier letter**
- ▣ **3 John 1:9** I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.

THE SIN OF DIOTREPHES

- Unjustly accusing us with wicked words
- Refusal to welcome traveling brothers
- Enforced his will on others who wanted to do the right thing
- **CONTRASTED HIM WITH DEMETRIUS**
- Well spoken of by all who knew him
- The truth itself vouched for Demetrius
- John thought well of him
- **3 John 1:11** 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.
- John once again indicates that he has things he wants to say that cannot be put into writing

DOING RIGHT

- ▣ **1 Peter 3:13-17** Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. **AND DO NOT FEAR THEIR INTIMIDATION,** and **DO NOT BE TROUBLED,** but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, *always being* ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence; and keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ will be put to shame. For it is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.