

III JOHN

Book note for 3 John

The shortest book in the Bible.

Chapter note for 3 John 1

1 He commendeth Gaius for his piety, 5 and hospitality 7 to true preachers: 9 complaining of the unkind dealing of ambitious Diotrephes on the contrary side, 11 whose evil example is not to be followed: 12 and giveth special testimony to the good report of Demetrius.

3 Jn 1:1

Gaius = gay, joyful; the same as Ac. 19:29? Probably the same as the Corinthian Gaius of Rom. 16:23 with v. 27; 1 Cor. 1:14.

Apparently, John had written a letter to the (Corinthian?) church (v. 9) about the rumors that he had heard about Diotrephes (vs. 10). Diotrephes responded with invectives against John. John then wrote to Gaius, probably as the elder of the church, (though it reads as if he may even have been excommunicated by Diotrephes,) to pass on the notice that John was, himself, coming, not wanting to put the charges and rumors in writing. Demetrius probably carried the letter to Gaius.

3 Jn 1:6

Gaius was hospitable, helpful, met needs and encouraged people; he did all as to Christ.

3 Jn 1:7

Take nothing from outside groups.

3 Jn 1:8

By helping them we become fellow helpers to the truth.

3 Jn 1:9

Diotrephes = nourished by Jupiter (or sun god); foster child of God. He parallels Jeroboam to some extent.

3 Jn 1:10

“Prating:” idle talking, boasting.

3 Jn 1:12

Demetrius = follower of Demeter (= Ceres, mother of people; = Isis): goddess of agriculture.