

Living Prosperously in the Family of God

3 John

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Acknowledgment

My wife, Beverly Allen, has devoted herself to ChristAssembly.org. Most days her body gives her trouble, but she spends time helping ChristAssembly.org. She brings her doctoral training in biochemistry and molecular biology to her work and greatly improves the quality of ChristAssembly.org. She has spent many hours creating graphics, reviewing articles and books, and providing careful proof reading, even when she does not feel her best. Other friends from Korea have helped in proof reading books for ChristAssembly.org, with our thanks in Christ Jesus for their friendship and faithful labors.

Beverly and I have been married more than forty years and Jesus used her life to make my life so much better in so many ways. Her constant love and support changes my life daily. She also provides honest feedback and careful analysis. I love my wife and want everyone to know that she spends her time serving Jesus behind the scenes at ChristAssembly.org.



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1

Introduction

John the elder wrote his beloved Gaius. John loved him in truth. John did not tell us much about Gaius, except that John knew about the assembly Gaius attended. John became very concerned about the problems reported to him by the brother who visited that assembly. Therefore, having received a report from the brother who visited there, John wanted to encourage his beloved friend Gaius and let him know that he was aware of the problems in that local assembly.

HALLELUJAH !

2

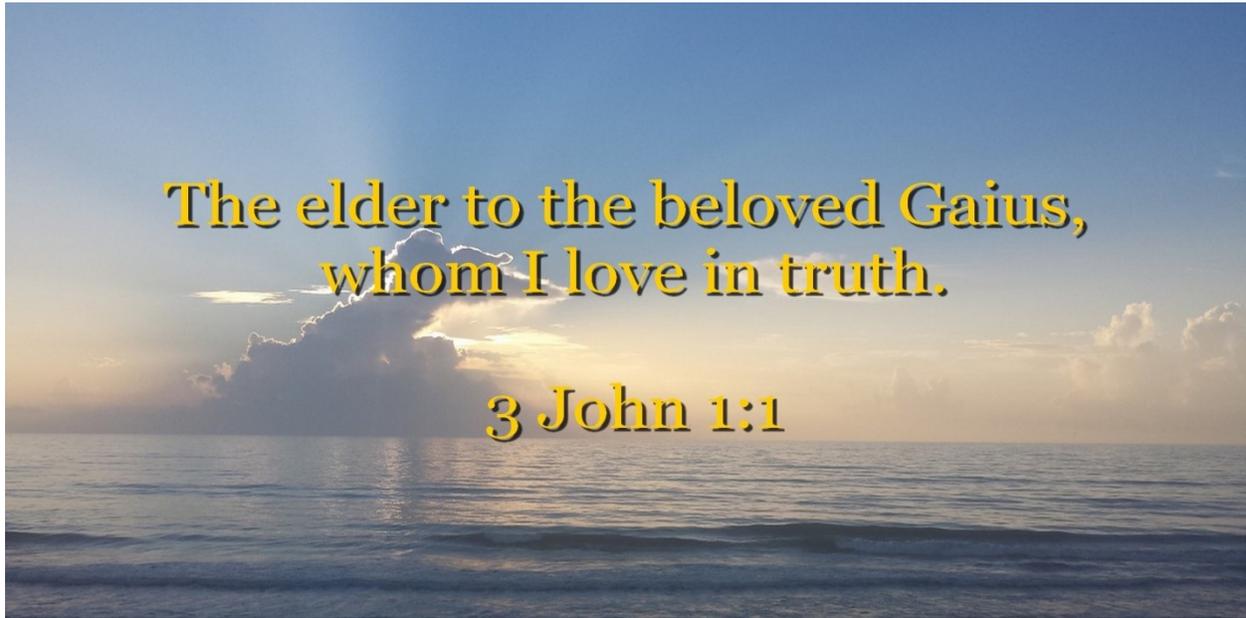
Greetings Today

John described himself as the elder. John was probably the apostle John, the brother of James and a son of Zebedee. He wrote to a man named Gaius, a very common Roman name meaning to rejoice. One of the most prominent Romans holding that name was known as Gaius Julius Caesar. John loved Gaius in truth. John used the term truth particularly to describe the truth found in Jesus Christ. Jesus had described Himself as the way, the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Him.

HALLELUJAH !

Day One

Beloved Today



The elder to the beloved Gaius,
whom I love in truth.

3 John 1:1

What does John want us to know about Gaius? John wants us to know that he loves Gaius.

Many people in our lives need to know that we love them. They may never fully understand our love if we do not talk to them about how much we love them. Writing as the elder, John wanted Gaius to know how much he loved him in truth.

John used the phrase “in truth.” In his previous epistles, John developed the entire concept of truth as applied to God and others. John tied truth to remaining in the teaching and commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ. When people depart from those commandments, they depart from the truth of God.

John also tied truth to love. John explained that if you love God, you will keep His commandments. Anyone who says he loves God, but does not keep the commandments of God is a liar. Therefore, John said that he loved Gaius in truth, indicating that Gaius was a beloved brother in Christ.

Truth

1. **Elder**. John wrote to the beloved Gaius.
2. **To**. Just as John wrote to the chosen lady, so also he wrote to his beloved friend Gaius.
3. **Beloved**. John wanted Gaius to know how much he loved him.
4. **Gaius**. Gaius was a faithful brother in Christ and facing difficult problems in the local assembly.
5. **I**. John used the term “I” to describe how much personal love in Christ he had for Gaius.
6. **Love**. John described his love as agape love, which God gave to John just as God loved the entire world.
7. **Truth**. John loved in truth, without any hint of deception.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends in Christ know that we love them.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by loving people in truth.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by building one another up in love.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by building each other up in love. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by letting someone know that you love them in truth?

HALLELUJAH !

2

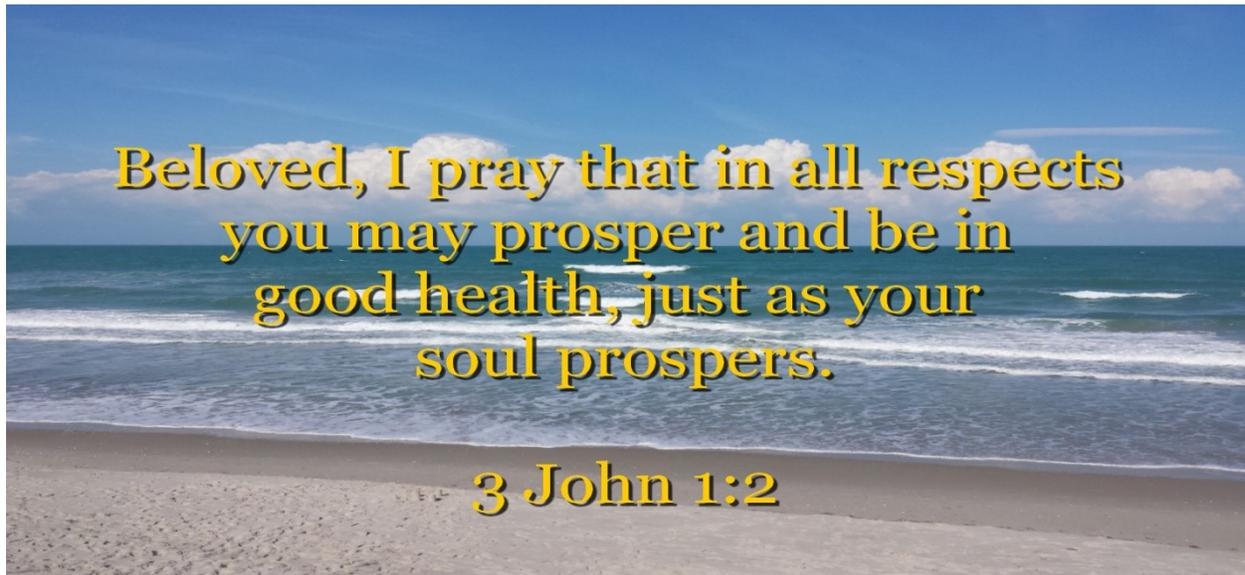
Prayer for Prosperity Today

John prayed that Gaius would prosper in all respects and be in good health, just as his soul prospers. By praying for prosperity of person and soul, John meant that he focused upon the spiritual prosperity of Gaius and his physical prosperity. John relayed how glad he was that the brethren came and testified that Gaius was in the truth, walking in the truth. John said he had no greater joy than to hear that his children are walking in the truth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Two

Pray Today



How long does the truth last? John loved Gaius in truth, and then declared that the truth will be with us forever.

John wrote to the beloved brother Gaius. John indicated that in truth. John also loved Gaius for the sake of the truth which abides in us. Therefore, we know that the truth actually lives inside of Christians. That truth will also be with us forever.

Jesus described Himself as the way, and the truth and the life. With so many anti-Christ's running around, John focused upon the truth found in Jesus Christ. John loved Gaius and the truth. The truth abides with Christians forever. And the truth abides in us.

Truth acts as a binding agent, holding believers together in Jesus Christ.

Prosper

1. **Beloved**. How did John address Gaius? John addressed Gaius as Beloved.

2. **Pray**. John wanted Gaius to know what he was praying.

3. **All**. John was praying that in all things Gaius would prosper.

4. **Prosper**. The term prosper often refers to good physical health and the absence of disease.

5. **Health**. Jesus restored people to good health by healing them of their diseases and casting out demons.

6. **So**. We live prosperously in the family of God by remembering to take time with God so that our souls prosper and thanking God when we are in good health.

7. **Prosper**. We rejoice today that John prayed that both the physical body prospers just as the soul of Gaius prospers.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by praying for our friends to prosper.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends know that we pray for their spiritual and physical prosperity.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by praying for one another and sharing those prayers with each other.**

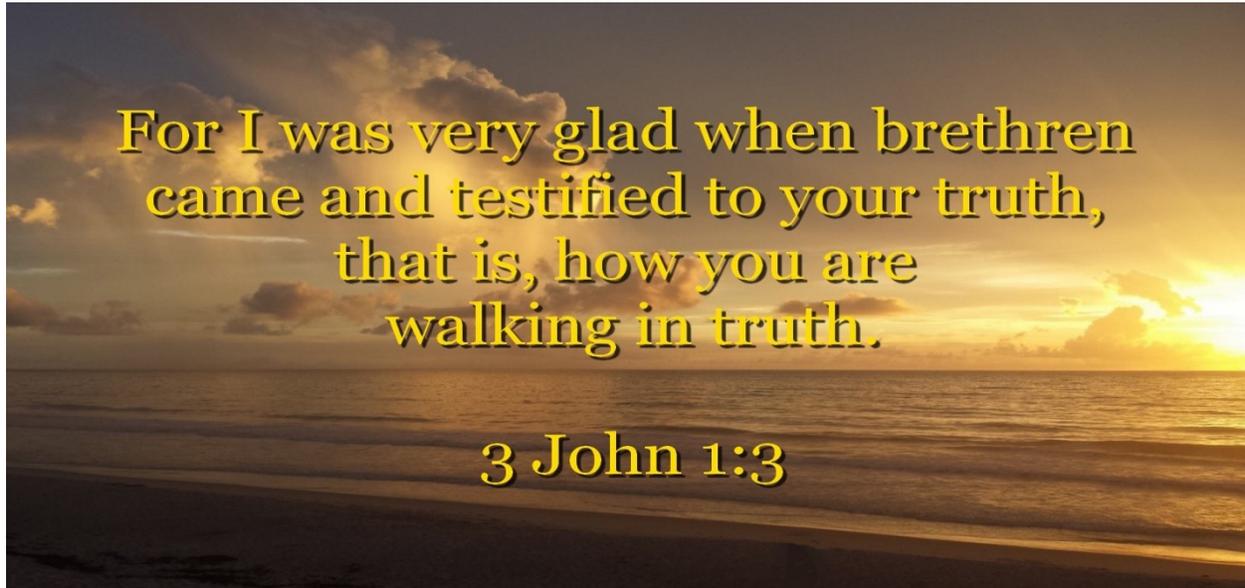
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by praying for our friends and thinking of them as the beloved. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by praying for the prosperity of your friends and sharing those prayers with them?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Three

Glad Today



What made the apostle John happy? John was very glad to hear from the brethren that Gaius was walking in the truth.

Some brethren from Gaius brought a report to John. They communicated to the truth of Gaius that he was walking in the truth. John had written about the anti-Christ coming into the world who spreads lies to everyone and works to deceive everyone. Therefore, John had reason to be concerned that some of his spiritual children were not walking in the truth.

In the epistles of John, he often wrote like a father to the children in his family. In this case John also wrote with emotion. John wanted Gaius to know that he was very glad about the report he received concerning the spiritual well-being of Gaius. In our lives today, we often need to communicate our happiness when we hear that our spiritual children are doing well.

John also received the report concerning the truth of Gaius, that is, how he was walking in the truth. Having the truth and walking in the truth

are very different things. Gaius had both things, because he had the truth and walked in the truth.

Walking

1. **Glad**. John let Gaius know that he was very glad.
2. **Brethren**. Brethren had come from Gaius and testified to John about how Gaius was doing.
3. **Came**. Those brethren came to John and delivered a glowing report.
4. **Testified**. They testified to the truth of Gaius.
5. **Your**. In this case, “your truth” described Gaius walking in the truth.
6. **Truth**. John loved Gaius and truth and then rejoiced over Gaius walking in the truth.
7. **Walking**. Walking in the truth means that Gaius was obeying the commands of Jesus Christ and abiding in Him.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends know that it makes us happy when they walk in the truth.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by encouraging the family of God to walk in the truth.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by rejoicing when we hear that people we love are walking in the truth of Jesus Christ.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by walking in the truth of Jesus Christ every day. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by walking in the truth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Four

Joy Today



What made John really happy? John said he had no greater joy than hearing that his children were walking in the truth.

John wanted Gaius to know about his joy. He indicated that he liked to hear that his children were walking in the truth. In fact, hearing that his children were walking in the truth gave him great joy. John had received a report from the brethren describing the children as walking in the truth.

In our lives today, we have no greater joy than to hear that our children are walking in the truth. Of course, John was talking about his spiritual children, born again by the power of God. John delighted in the good report that he received.

John not only had great joy, but he also wanted Gaius to know about it. When we let other people know that we rejoice over them, it encourages them to continue the good behavior. We all enjoy hearing from other people in Christ who appreciate walking in the truth. So often we hear that people are no longer walking in the truth. They have begun to follow their own

ways which lead away from God. Therefore, when we hear about our spiritual children walking in the truth, we have no greater joy.

Children

1. **I.** John shared his joy with Gaius.
2. **No.** John indicated he had no greater joy than the joy of hearing that his children were walking in the truth.
3. **Greater.** John wanted us to know that many things caused him to rejoice, but he had no greater joy than hearing that his spiritual children were walking in the truth.
4. **Joy.** We can find joy in many different things, but when we see our spiritual children prospering in Christ, we have no greater joy.
5. **Children.** John referred to the spiritual children who had been born again by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
6. **Walking.** Walking means that they were continuing in the path of righteousness.
7. **Light.** By walking in the truth, the spiritual children of John brought him great joy and he loved sharing the joy with others, like Gaius.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by rejoicing when our spiritual children walk in the truth.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by sharing our joy with other people.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by encouraging our spiritual children to walk in the truth and then noticing when they do.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by sharing your joy when you hear that your spiritual children are walking in the truth. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by letting people know that your spiritual children are walking in the truth so that they may rejoice with you?

HALLELUJAH !

3

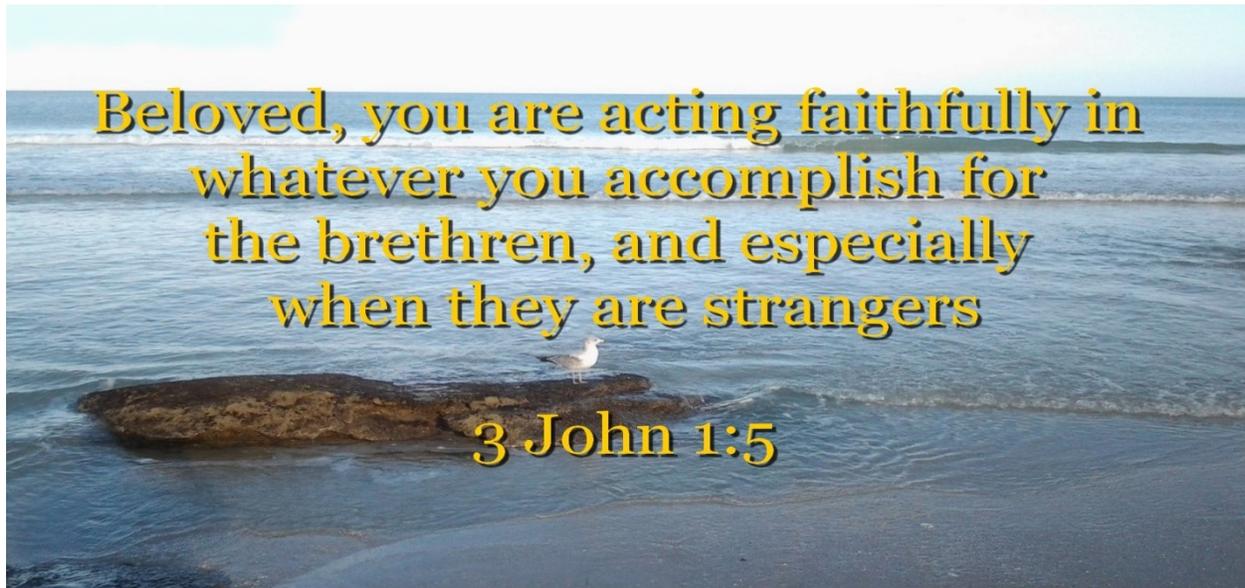
Supporting the Brethren Today

John had received a report from the brethren who visited the local assembly Gaius attended. They testified to the love of Gaius before the church. John urged Gaius to send the brethren away in a manner worthy of God. Those brethren went out without receiving any support from the Gentiles. Therefore, John declared that we should support such men so that we may be fellow workers with the truth. The same principle applies today that as we support people who go out in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, by supporting them we share in the ministry of the truth.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Five

Acting Faithfully Today



How was Gaius acting faithfully? Gaius was acting faithfully and acting for the brethren, especially the strangers.

John loved Gaius in Christ. He wanted the soul of Gaius to prosper. John was very happy when he heard that Gaius was walking in the truth. Having Christian friends, particularly those friends who led you to Christ, always bears great spiritual fruit. When our friends in Christ let us know that they appreciate our work for Jesus, that buoys our souls.

John received a report about Gaius. The brethren came and testified that Gaius was walking in the truth. So often we hear reports about people who have forsaken their faith and gone another way. Therefore, when John heard about Gaius walking in the truth, he was very happy. Even so, John still wanted him to prosper even more, both physically and spiritually.

Our Christian friends need to hear from us. They need to hear that we are staying in touch with them and that we love them. Knowing you are not

alone in Christ always brings great encouragement. Hearing from other saints that they want us to prosper lifts our spirits.

Accomplish

1. **Beloved**. John addressed Gaius as the beloved.
2. **Acting**. John noticed the actions of Gaius.
3. **Faithfully**. John commended Gaius for his faithful actions.
4. **Accomplish**. John also commended Gaius for accomplishing work for the brethren.
5. **Brethren**. John had a strong interest in his spiritual children prospering both physically and spiritually.
6. **Especially**. Gaius accomplished work for strangers, especially taking care of them.
7. **Strangers**. Christianity always includes loving your neighbor, even if your neighbor turns out to be a stranger.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends in Christ and spiritual children know that we see their faithful actions.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by taking time to be kind to strangers.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by letting our spiritual children know that we care about them and the work they accomplish.**

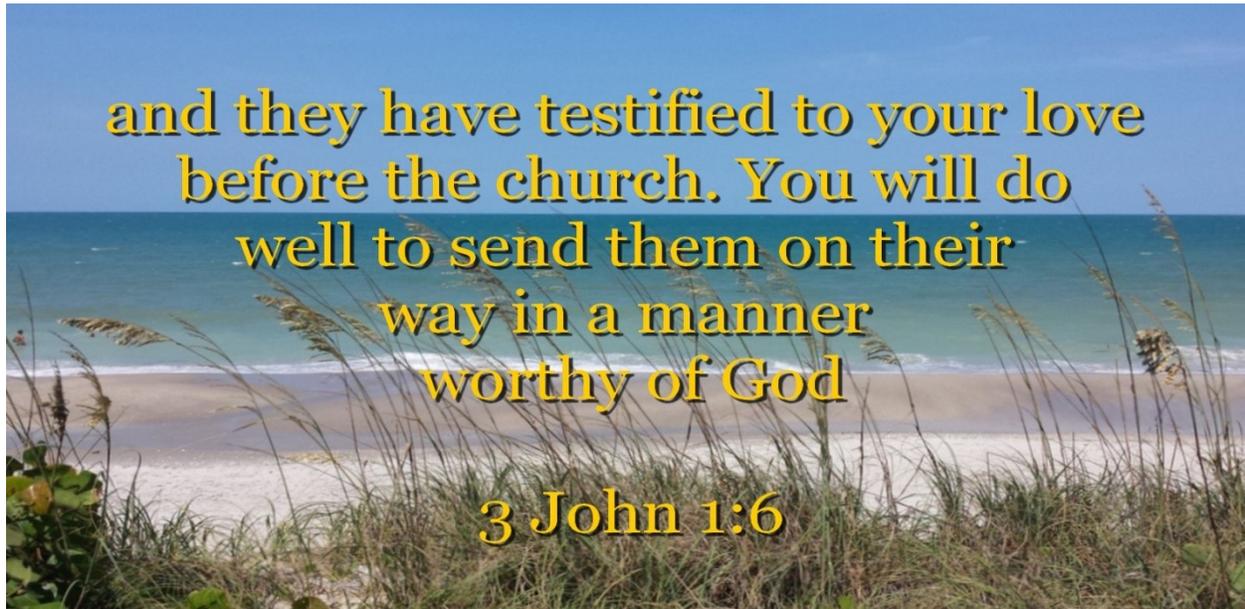
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by letting your friends in Christ and spiritual children know that you appreciate their spiritual labor for Christ. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by letting someone you know hear that you care about them in their spiritual activities?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Six

Testified Today



What did John want his friend Gaius to do for the visitors? John wanted Gaius to know that they had testified about the love of Gaius.

John loved Gaius and they had been friends for some time. John received a report from people visiting the church Gaius attended. The report indicated that Gaius was known for his love, especially to strangers. Gaius also had a reputation for love that was well known in his home church.

John also encouraged Gaius to help the people who had visited the church and reported to John. John wanted Gaius to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. So often visitors come to a church for a while, but the church does not always send them on their way in a manner worthy of God. John wanted to be sure that the visitors reporting to him were treated well and sent away with the blessing of the church.

John provided very specific guidance to Gaius. He wanted Gaius to know that the report about Gaius was good and his love was well known

and reported to the church. John also wanted Gaius to help out the departing visitors of the report so that he would encourage the church to send the people on their way with God's blessing.

Worthy

1. **They**. The brethren had testified that Gaius had great love.
2. **Testified**. The brethren testified to his love before the church.
3. **Love**. John revealed that God really loves for people to be known in the church for their love, including love for strangers.
4. **Church**. The reputation we enjoy in the church makes a difference to God and the saints.
5. **Well**. John had received a report from people visiting the church Gaius attended and stirred up Gaius to send those saints on their way with the blessing of the church.
6. **Send**. John knew that those saints would be sent back to him with a report about how things went with Gaius and the church. John wanted to be sure that the local church there would send the saints on their way in a manner pleasing to God.
7. **Worthy**. Specifically, John encouraged Gaius and the church to send the saints on their way in a manner worthy of God.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by reminding saints that we received good reports of them.**

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by being known in the church for our great love, especially toward strangers.**

- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by sending faithful slaves of God on their way in a manner worthy of God.**

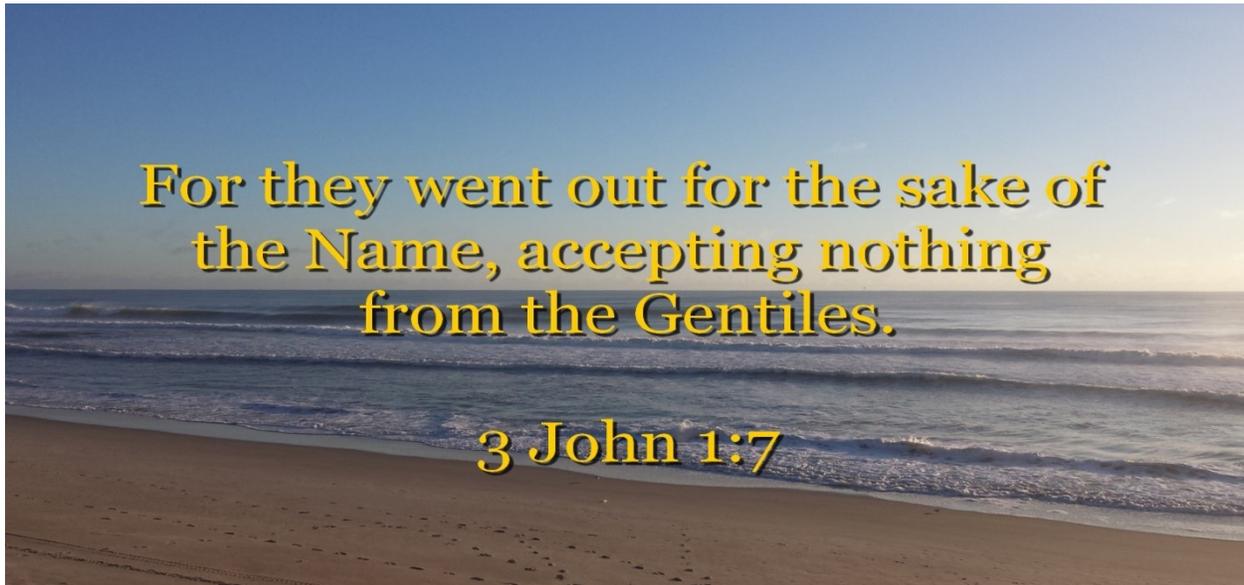
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by testifying to one another of the great love some people have for the brethren. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by building a reputation day by day for your love of the brethren?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Seven

Went out Today



Why did the brethren go out to visit the churches? They went out for the sake of the Name.

The brethren went out and visited the church Gaius attended. Those men returned and gave a report to John. John was very glad when the brethren reported to him that Gaius was walking in the truth. John had no greater joy than to hear of his children walking in the truth. John also wanted to let Gaius and the other saints at his church know that John was very happy to hear they were walking in the truth. John did not keep his joy to himself.

The brethren went out for the sake of the Name. In the Old Testament, the Name of God was holy and precious, not to be taken lightly or taken in vain by any means. Even so, God wanted the people to know that His Name was Yahweh. John wrote about the brethren who went out visiting churches. John explained that they went out for the sake of the Name, and they accepted nothing from the Gentiles. They were not a burden to anyone, but had a genuine interest in encouraging the church, particularly the Gentile churches.

The Name

1. **For.** Why should the church send the brethren on their way in a manner worthy of God? Because they went out in the Name of the Lord, for they were accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

2. **They.** The brethren who sent the report to John had determined to receive no financial support from the Gentiles.

3. **Went.** Those brethren went trusting the Lord Jesus to provide for them.

4. **Sake.** They ministered for the sake of Jesus Christ.

5. **Name.** They went in the Name of God.

6. **Accepting.** God had led them to accept nothing from the Gentiles as they traveled.

7. **Gentiles.** Apparently, a group of Jews had gone out to bring a report to John, who was Jewish himself.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by ministering in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by going out to minister to others for the sake of the Name.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by depending upon the Lord for support, and not burdening anyone.**

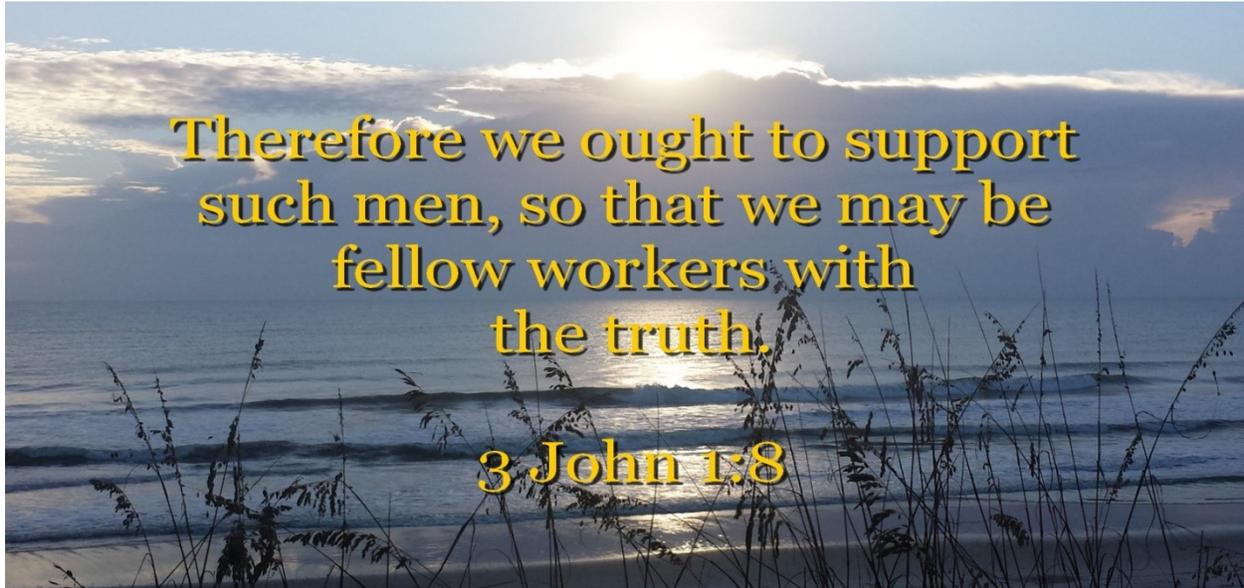
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by ministering for the sake of the Name. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by trusting God to provide support for you in ministry?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eight

Support Today



What happens when you support fellow workers? You become fellow workers with the truth.

John received a report about Gaius and the church he attended. The brethren visiting that church provided a glowing report about Gaius. They said he was walking in the truth. Those same brethren went out without taking anything from the Gentiles. Therefore, John encouraged Gaius and everyone at that church to join in the support of those brethren.

John also explained that when people support the brethren, they become fellow workers with those brethren in the truth. Spreading the truth, teaching the truth and encouraging believers to walk in the truth all occupied the brethren visiting the church attended by Gaius.

John was keenly interested in the brethren prospering. They prospered by staying in the truth and living in the truth. Many deceivers had gone out into the world and they were telling lies. Many people believed those lies. John promoted the truth as he learned from Jesus and it

was taught by the apostles. Living in the truth characterized John's life and ministry.

Fellow Workers

1. **Therefore**. John concluded that the saints should support the brethren who went out not accepting any support from the Gentiles.

2. **We**. The brethren, like John and Gaius, should step in and provide support for the brethren who went out.

3. **Ought**. John described that support as an obligation with the word taught.

4. **To**. John commanded the believers to support the brethren who are out traveling and reporting.

5. **Support**. Support included not only prayer, but also finances necessary to support the team.

6. **Fellow**. By providing such support, the brethren would participate in the ministry and so become fellow workers.

7. **Truth**. As John repeatedly emphasized, all the brethren should unite in supporting the other brethren so that everyone becomes fellow workers with the truth.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by understanding that we should support the brethren who are sent out.**

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by supporting the brethren who have gone out to provide reports.**

- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by encouraging one another to support the brethren so that we may become fellow workers with the truth.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by becoming fellow workers with the brethren who are out laboring in the truth. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by providing support for brethren who have gone out to spread the truth?

HALLELUJAH !

4

Diotrephes

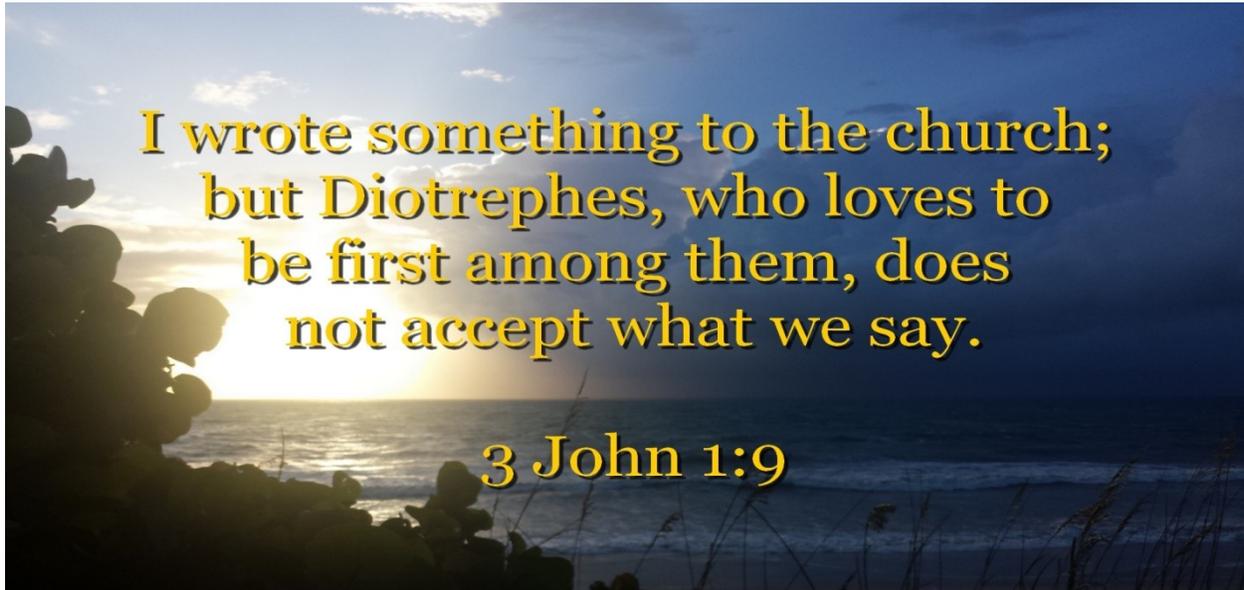
Today

Although John received a good report regarding Gaius and his love for the church, the brethren testified that Diotrephes created real problems in the church. He loved to be first in the church and did not accept what the apostles say, including John. Diotrephes unjustly accused John and those people with him with wicked words. Diotrephes himself would not receive the brethren and forbade everyone else from receiving the brethren. Anyone who received the brethren, he would put them out of the church. Diotrephes ruled the church with an iron hand without regard to the teachings of the apostles and the Lord Jesus Christ regarding church leadership by both elders and overseers.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Nine

Wrote Today



Who was Diotrephes? He loved to be first in the church.

John praised Gaius for walking in the truth. Then John described Diotrephes, who loved to be first among the brethren and rejected what the apostles said.

Many deceivers and false teachers had gone out into the world, following the spirit of anti-Christ. Diotrephes embodied the spirit of anti-Christ by opposing the apostles and their doctrine which they received from the Lord Jesus Christ. Diotrephes also had a pride problem, reflected in his desire to be first in the church and to assert his will over everyone.

John wrote a message to the church, but Diotrephes did not accept what John wrote. Diotrephes would not allow anyone else to exercise authority in the congregation he sought to rule. He set himself up as the only authority in the church and opposed everyone else.

Diotrephes

1. **I.** John indicated that he wrote to the church.
2. **Wrote.** Just like John wrote other letters to the churches, John also wrote to the church Gaius attended.
3. **Church.** The New Testament churches followed the apostles' doctrine.
4. **Diotrephes.** Diotrephes set himself up as the sole authority in the local church attended by Gaius and others.
5. **Loves.** Diotrephes loved to be first among the brethren, holding himself as the final authority on all matters.
6. **First.** By setting himself up as first, he opposed the servant-style leadership Jesus taught.
7. **Accept.** Diotrephes did not accept anything John wrote in his letter, because he did not recognize anyone's authority except his own.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by identifying people who act like Diotrephes and opposing them.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by not seeking to be first in all things.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by serving one another in Christ, rather than exalting ourselves above Christ and everyone else.**

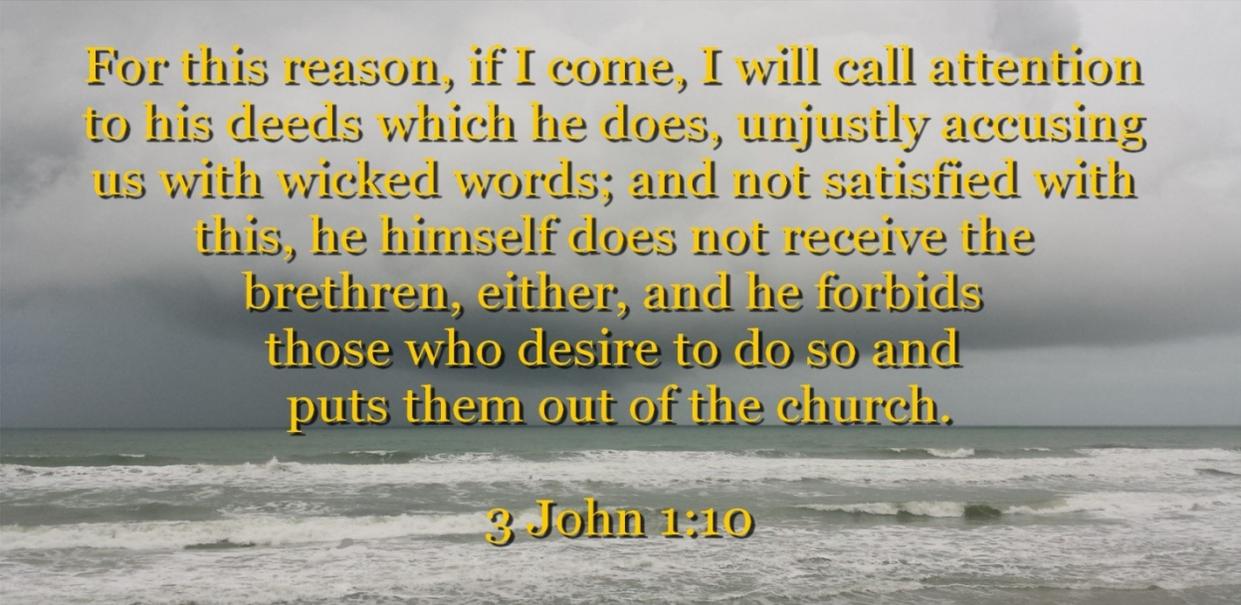
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by serving the brethren, and not insisting on always being first. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by avoiding the sin of Diotrephes?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Ten

Deeds Today



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.

3 John 1:10

What will John do to Diotrephes? John will call attention to his deeds.

If John comes, John will call attention of the deeds of Diotrephes, exposing his unjust accusations against John and others. Evidently, Diotrephes was not satisfied with merely making accusations. He also did not receive the brethren, then forbade other people from doing the same under penalty of putting them out of the church.

Diotrephes loved to be first among the brethren. He ruled the local assembly with an iron hand. He did not live in the truth of God and opposed everyone who sought to live in that truth. John indicated that he may come and pay a visit to Diotrephes. John would come with full apostolic authority to refute those who oppose the truth.

In our lives today, many people try to run the local assembly to suit themselves. They prevent others from receiving the brethren and try to promote their own will at the expense of the truth. When spiritual men gather together, they are able to overcome evil men by the power of God. In

this case, just one man, Diotrephes, opposed the will of God by asserting his own will at the expense of the truth.

Wicked Words

1. **For**. Because Diotrephes loved to be first in the local assembly, he created a lot of spiritual problems.

2. **Come**. John said that “if I come”, he would take action against Diotrephes.

3. **Attention**. He would draw attention to the deeds of Diotrephes.

4. **Deeds**. Diotrephes unjustly accused John and the other brethren of wicked deeds.

5. **Unjustly**. When a person in the local assembly assumes power and makes false accusations, they should be called out for their sinful behavior.

6. **Brethren**. Diotrephes did not receive the brethren when they came to visit.

7. **Forbids**. He also prevented others from receiving the brethren and put those who received them out of the church.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by avoiding the errors of Diotrephes.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by not unjustly accusing the brethren.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by receiving the brethren who come to visit and never letting someone rule the church alone, like Diotrephes.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by opposing everyone, except God, who tries to run the church as if they own it?

HALLELUJAH !

5

Demetrius

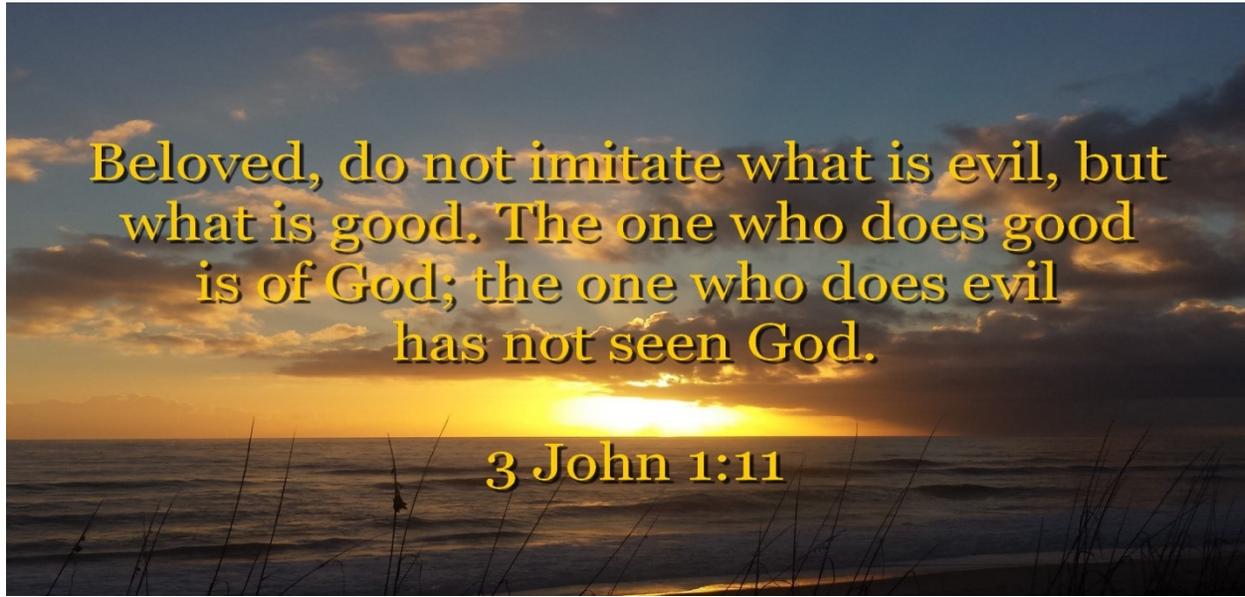
Today

The brethren also testified about Demetrius. John encouraged Gaius to imitate what is good, not what is evil. John declared that the one who does evil has not seen God. Diotrephes was evil, but Demetrius had received a good testimony from everyone and from the truth itself. John and his people added their testimony that the brethren had correctly testified concerning Demetrius.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Eleven

Imitate Today



What should we imitate? We should imitate what is good.

John provided divine guidance on good and evil. Writing under the verbal inspiration of God, John explained that we must imitate what is good, not what is evil.

John also provided a test of good and evil. The one who does good is of God. That simple test helps us understand whether people are good or bad. We do not identify good people based upon on how much money they make or how much power they wield. God revealed that the people of God do good. So often the world has that just backwards. They praise and reward people who do evil in God's eyes.

John then explained that the one who does evil has not seen God. Jesus said to Nicodemus that unless you are born again, you cannot see the kingdom of God or enter the kingdom of God. Although no one has seen God at any time with their physical eyes, John was speaking about seeing Jesus

with your spiritual eyes and heart. Of course, Jesus said that if you have seen Him in the flesh, then you have seen His Father.

Good

1. **Imitate**. Writing with Diotrephes in mind, John had commanded the Beloved Gaius to imitate what is good.

2. **Evil**. John warned against imitating what is evil.

3. **Good**. Therefore, we know that good and evil surround us in the world.

4. **Does**. The one who does good is of God. John provided a simple test for identifying the people who are of God and those people who are not.

5. **God**. God makes His presence known through the activity of people who do good.

6. **Not**. The people who do evil have not seen God.

7. **God**. John wrote about good and evil behavior as a reflection of a person's relationship with God.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by obeying the command not to imitate evil, but good.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by identifying people who do good and those who do evil.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by encouraging one another to do good and not to imitate those who do evil.**

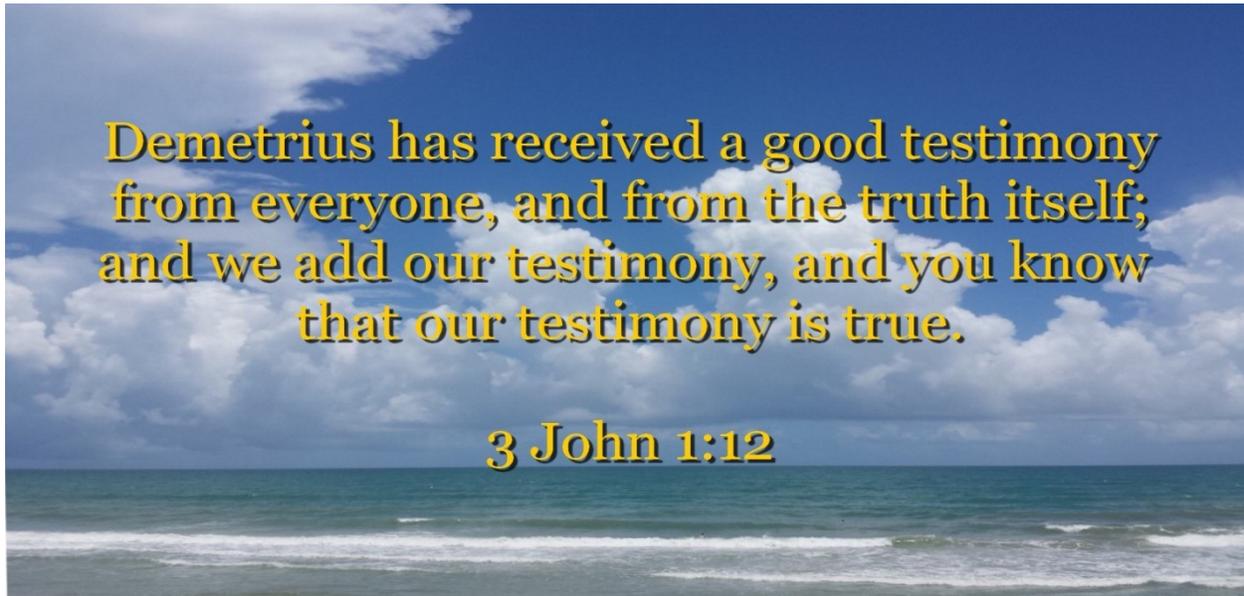
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by doing good and identifying people who do evil. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by remembering the difference between good and evil behavior?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Twelve

Demetrius Today



Who was Demetrius? Demetrius attended the same local assembly as Gaius.

The brethren gave a good report about Demetrius. The same brethren provided a very bad report concerning Diotrephes. Regarding Demetrius, John said that he also got a report from the truth itself. John then added “our” testimony, and everyone knew that “our” testimony is true.

Sometimes people rise up in the local assembly and take all power to themselves. They disregard sound doctrine and the Scriptures. They put out of the church all people who oppose them in any way. They act like they are the chief executive officer of the local assembly and try to rule with a rod of iron.

Diotrephes tried to rule the assembly with an iron rod. He forgot that Jesus remains in charge of every local assembly. Jesus is the Chief Shepherd and takes care of His flock. When John received the report about Diotrephes, he knew that big problems existed in that church. Likewise, when John heard

that Gaius and Demetrius were doing well and walking in the truth, he rejoiced.

Testimony

1. **Demetrius**. The brethren gave a report about Demetrius who attended the same local assembly as Gaius.

2. **Received**. The brethren visited that local assembly and provided John with a good report regarding Demetrius.

3. **Testimony**. The testimony of the brethren reporting to John indicated that Demetrius walked in the truth.

4. **Everyone**. In fact, everyone reported that Demetrius walked in the truth.

5. **Truth**. John found no greater joy than hearing that his spiritual children were walking in the truth. Therefore, he was pleased to hear the report that Demetrius was walking in the truth.

6. **Add**. John added his personal report that Demetrius was walking in the truth.

7. **True**. Demetrius not only received a good report from other people, but also from the truth itself. John backed up that testimony from others, and everyone knew that the testimony of John and the other apostles was true.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by walking in the truth so people will see our testimony for the truth.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by giving testimony to others about walking in the truth.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by striving for a good testimony from the truth itself.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by striving to receive a good report from the brethren that we are walking in the truth. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by noticing the people walking in the truth and commending them for their faithful walk in Christ?

HALLELUJAH !

6

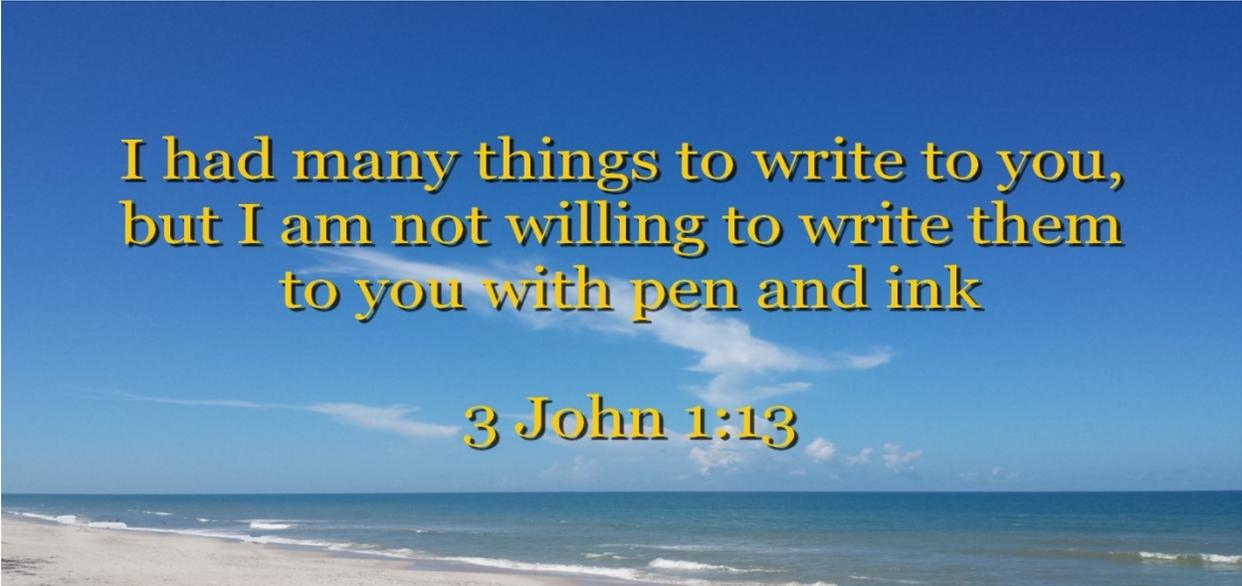
Face-to-Face Today

John told Gaius that he had many things to write to him, but he was unwilling to write them with pen and ink. Instead, John hoped to see Gaius shortly and speak with him face-to-face. The warm personal love of John streamed from his heart to the pen and ink he used to write Gaius, his beloved friend. John bade peace to Gaius and passed on the peace greeting from the friends with John. John also requested Gaius to greet the friends by name for John. John wrote to people he knew, but addressed the letter to Gaius, his beloved friend.

HALLELUJAH !

Day Thirteen

Write Today



I had many things to write to you,
but I am not willing to write them
to you with pen and ink

3 John 1:13

What did John tell Gaius about many things? John said he had many things to write to Gaius, but he was unwilling to write them with pen and ink.

John wrote Gaius a very short letter by New Testament standards. Short does not mean unimportant. John's third epistle was just as inspired as the first two and the rest of the Scriptures.

John addressed a particular problem rampant at the assembly Gaius attended. Diotrephes was not walking in the truth and causing real problems in the church. He would not accept the apostles' doctrine and would not receive the messengers. When John received the report of the brethren who visited that local assembly, John said he would call to attention Diotrephes' deeds which he does unjustly, if John visited the assembly.

John also commended Gaius for walking in the truth and Demetrius who received a good report from the brethren and everyone else, including the truth. John added his testimony about Demetrius and Gaius knew that John's testimony was true. Although John took care to write about those

subjects, he let Gaius know he had much more to write about, but chose not to. John hoped to see Gaius shortly and speak face-to-face.

Pen and Ink

1. **I.** John had many things to write to Gaius.
2. **Many.** By mentioning many things, we know that John did not cover everything that was on his mind concerning Gaius and that assembly.
3. **Things.** John had many other things on his mind to write, but God limited the third letter to only 15 versus. Of course, the original autographs did not have chapters and verses.
4. **Write.** John certainly knew how to communicate well in his letters, as he wrote under the inspiration of God.
5. **Not.** He did not want to write about many things with pen and ink.
6. **Pen.** John used his pen to write the things that God wanted him to communicate to Gaius.
7. **Ink.** John wrote with ink that stood the test of time, because we are still reading his words today.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by remembering that we do not have to write down all that we want to say to people.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by trusting God to give us just the right things to put to pen and paper.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by praising God that John wrote to Gaius so that we could read it thousands of years later and be blessed by God for doing so.**

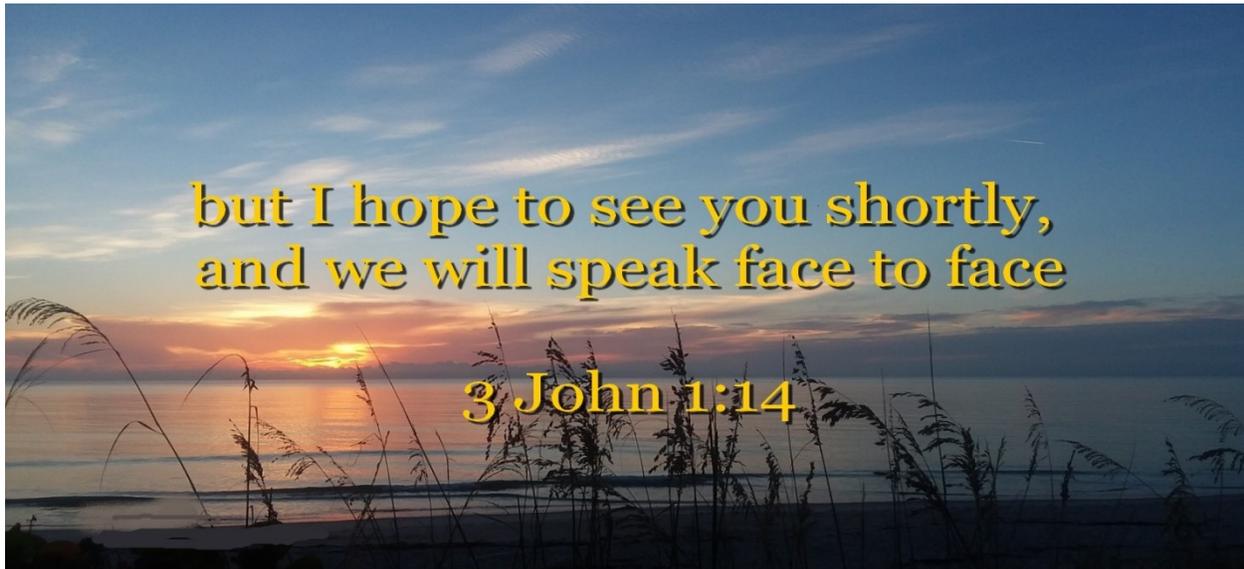
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by carefully writing to our friends to let them know that we love them and praise God for what they are doing. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by taking up pen and ink and letting someone know that you are happy they are walking in the truth?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fourteen

Hope Today



What was John hoping to do? John was hoping soon to speak face-to-face with Gaius.

John had many things to tell Gaius after John received the report about the local assembly Gaius attended. The report spoke highly of Gaius and Demetrius, but gave a very negative appraisal of Diotrephes and his ways. John loved that Gaius was still walking in the truth. John also indicated that, if he came, he would confront Diotrephes.

John did not want to write everything down in one letter for Gaius. Because John had so many things to tell Gaius, he really wanted to go and see Gaius face-to-face. John was opposed to Diotrephes and his ways of running the church. John knew that Diotrephes put people out of the church for disobeying him and also refused to allow visitors to come into the local assembly. Diotrephes ruled the local assembly with an iron fist.

With apostolic authority John knew what to do with men like Diotrephes. If John were able to come there in person, he could not only deal

with Diotrephes, but he could also set things in order with the local assembly by helping Gaius and Demetrius, because they walked in the truth.

Speak

1. **I.** John wrote a very personal letter in the first person “I.”
2. **Hope.** John hoped to see Gaius face-to-face and soon.
3. **See.** John knew the value of going to see Gaius, although he was uncertain whether that would work out.
4. **You.** John wanted Gaius to know that he had many more things to say face-to-face than he could write down comfortably with pen and ink. John wanted to see Gaius face-to-face and tell him those many things.
5. **Shortly.** John also wanted to come quickly, knowing that matters with Gaius and the local assembly were pressing.
6. **Speak.** John wanted to speak with Gaius. As we see people and hear their voice, we can learn a lot more about them.
7. **Face.** By speaking face-to-face to Gaius, John could more easily communicate his love for the brethren and for Gaius.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends know that we want to see them face-to-face.**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends know we hope to see them soon.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by encouraging face-to-face meetings between believers as circumstances allow.**

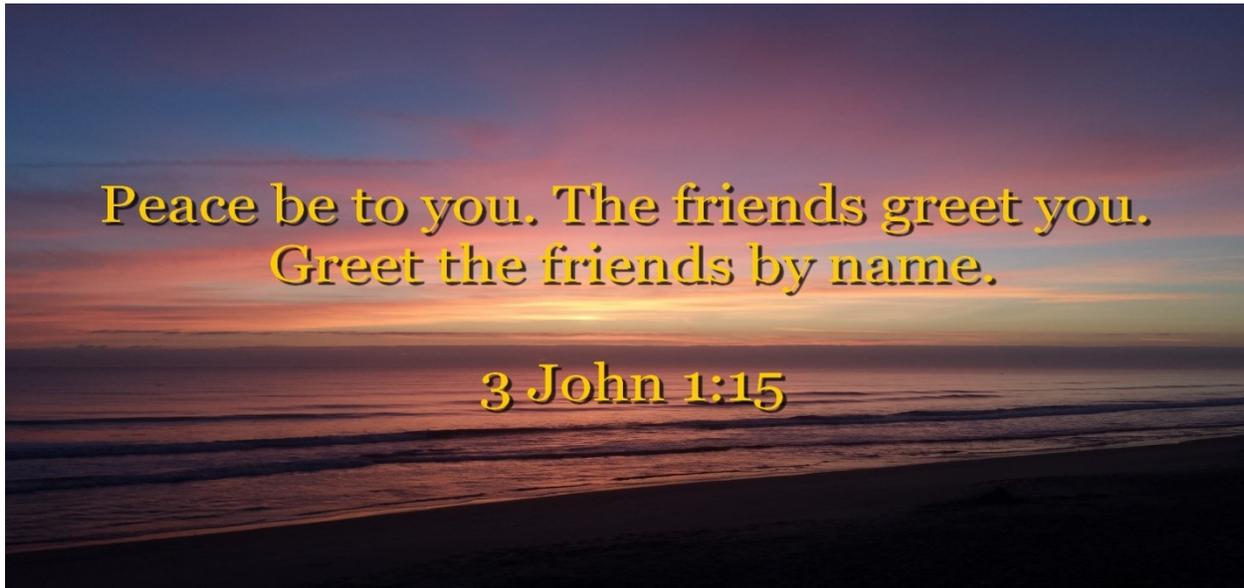
Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by letting our friends in Christ know that we hope to see them soon and face-to-face. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by taking time to see other believers face-to-face as circumstances allow?

HALLELUJAH !

Day Fifteen

Peace Today



Peace be to you. The friends greet you.
Greet the friends by name.

3 John 1:15

How did John close his third epistle? He closed it with peace and greetings.

John wrote to his beloved friend Gaius who was experiencing a tough time in his local assembly. God provided specific revelation to John about how to encourage Gaius and support the local congregation there. John emphasized the importance of knowing the truth and practicing the truth.

At times, standing in the truth means that we oppose those people who oppose the truth. Diotrephes opposed the truth and put people out of the local assembly because they opposed him. John said, if he came, he would call attention to Diotrephes' deeds and his unjust accusations and ungodly behavior towards the brethren.

John said he had many things to write to Gaius, but hoped to see him shortly and speak with him face-to-face, rather than writing with pen and ink. John passed on the greetings from his friends, apparently people known to Gaius. Likewise, John wanted Gaius to greet John's friends in the local assembly there by name as well. We should never underestimate the value of

greeting people by name, just as the Lord Jesus, the good Shepherd, calls all of his sheep by name.

Greet

1. **Peace**. John closed his epistle with the common phrase, “Peace to you.”

2. **You**. John used the singular “you,” focusing upon Gaius individually.

3. **Greet**. John then changed to conveying the greetings from their mutual friends with John.

4. **You**. John also wanted Gaius to know that he was not forgotten, because their mutual friends passed on their greetings to Gaius through John’s epistle.

5. **Friends**. John also wanted Gaius to greet his friends in the local assembly Gaius attended.

6. **Greet**. Greeting people always shows your love and respect for them.

7. **Name**. Greeting people by name helps them understand how personal their relationship is not only with you, but also with the Lord Jesus Who calls all of His sheep by name.

Summary for Today

- **We live prosperously in the family of God by greeting our friends with the words, “Peace to you.”**
- **We live prosperously in the family of God by greeting our friends far away so that they know we still love them.**
- **We live together prosperously in the family of God by passing along greetings from friends.**

Application for Today

Today, we may live prosperously in the family of God by living in peace and greeting one another in Christ. Will you live prosperously in the family of God today by wishing someone today “Peace to you” and greeting them by name?

HALLELUJAH !

7

Conclusion

Living prosperously in the family of God means that we appreciate the love John had for Gaius and his friends in that local assembly. John was very glad to hear that Gaius was walking in the truth, indicating that nothing brought him more joy.

John prayed for the prosperity of Gaius in soul and body. He knew that Gaius had been acting faithfully and commended him in his epistle. He received a report from the brethren visiting that local assembly. They said that Gaius was walking in the truth and Demetrius was doing well. In contrast, they reported that Diotrefes opposed John and the apostles, preferring instead to make himself first in the assembly and put out of the assembly all those who received the brethren.

John warned that he would put things in order, if he came there. John indicated he had many things more to say to Gaius but did not want to do so with pen and ink. John looked forward to seeing Gaius face-to-face. He closed his epistle by bidding them peace and greetings from his friends. John also asked that Gaius greet the friends by name.

The third epistle of John provides a look into the very warm heart and relationships that the apostle John had with different churches. We can all share in the joy of John when we hear about our beloved children walking in the truth.

HALLELUJAH !