

THE THIRD LETTER OF JOHN

{*This is either a General Letter (or Epistle) or it is a genuine personal letter about church matters from the Elder or "πρεσβυτερος" to his friend Gaius. It was necessary to clarify something about the relationship to a missionary who was being resisted by an arrogant local church official named Diotrephes.*}

INSCRIPTION

{*"Third John" Aleph, A & B. "The Third Epistle of John" 049 & many minuscules. "The Third Epistle of the Holy Apostle John" L. "The Third Catholic Epistle" 1852 & 1881. "The Epistle to Gaius" 1243.*}

SALUTATION

<III John 1-4>

¹ The Elder sends his greetings to dearly loved Gaius, <*A common Roman name. Five individuals in the New Testament have this name. The name means "commended."*> the person whom I truly love.

² Dearly beloved, I pray that you are prospering in everything and that you are in good (*or, robust*) health. I know that your soul prospers ³ [for] ¹ I am overjoyed that the brothers arrived and told me of your fidelity to the truth and how you are living with obedience to the true life. ⁴ There is no greater [joy] ² than to hear that my children are living in truth!

COOPERATION AND OPPOSITION

<III John 5-12>

⁵ Dear friend, you are acting in a faithful manner (*or, are loyal*) in everything you do for the believers (*literally, brothers*), especially when they are strangers. ⁶ They have testified in the presence of the Church about your love. You will do well to help them (*or, Please help them*) on their journey in a manner that befits those who are in God's service (*or, worthy of God's service*). ⁷ It is on behalf of that Name <*i.e. Christ*> that they have set out and it is their custom not to accept anything from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to have it as our duty to support such people in order that we might be fellow workers.

⁹ [I wrote] ³ something to the church. However, Diotrephes, <*Known only from the unfavorable comment here. The name means "nurtured by Zeus".*> who loves to have the prominent place among them refuses to accept our suggestions (*or, listen to us*). ¹⁰ It is for this reason that, should I arrive, I will bring attention to his activities (*or, censure his actions*). He speaks maliciously as with false tales. But, not content with this, he, himself does not welcome believers (*literally, brothers*) and he hinders those who desire to do this <*i.e. welcome other believers*> and expels them from the congregation.

¹¹ Dear friends, do not imitate what is evil but rather do good! The one who does good is a child of God. The evil-doer has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius <*One of eight persons in the New Testament with that name. The name means "belonging to Demeter". Demeter was the Greek goddess of agriculture.*> has a good reputation from everyone and also from the truth itself.. We add

1 {C} Omitted by Aleph & some minuscules.

2 {B} The word for "joy" varies in the manuscripts

3 {C} There are variants but without important differences.

our own witness (*or, testimony*) to this and you are aware that our witness (*or, testimony*) is true.

FINAL GREETINGS

<III John 13-15>

¹³ I have a great deal more to write to you but I prefer not to write (*literally, pen and ink*) it on paper (*or, papyrus*), ¹⁴ but rather I hope to visit you soon and then we will speak face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be with you. Our friends here send you greetings. Greet our friends there individually (*literally, by name*). [Amen.]⁴

⁴ {C} Added by minuscules 614 & 1852.