

Book of 3 John

1. 3 John

1) Observation: Who is the recipient of 3 John, and how is his faith likely to have been? (1:3, 5-6)

2) Interpretation: While John expresses interest and affection towards Gaius (1:1, 2, 5), he does not hide his negative emotions and evaluation towards Diotrephes (1:9-10). Based on this, speculate on the background situation that underlies the letter.

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): In the passage, God proclaimed the gospel to the 1st-century church through itinerant preachers referred to as "strangers" (1:5), "they" (1:6), "those who have gone out for the sake of the name" (1:7), and "the brethren" (1:10). Through what means or channels did you encounter God and experience His grace?

3.2(God Meeting Us): John praises and encourages Gaius by saying, "You are faithfully doing whatever you do for the brethren" (1:5), "You are doing a good job" (1:6). How do you treat and support those who labor and dedicate themselves to proclaiming the gospel?

3.3(God Refinding Us): John informs the church about the attitude and approach they should have towards people around them, especially those who are dedicated to spreading the gospel (verses 7-8). How is your church or community practicing "Christian hospitality" in a concrete way?

3.4(God Inspiring US): While discussing Diotrephes, who represents an unhealthy leadership unable to practice "Christian hospitality," John describes the negative impact of his leadership (loves to be first, does not receive the brethren, speaks wicked words against them, hinders and casts them out) and the conflicts and problems he causes within the community (verses 9-10). When conflicts arise due to unhealthy leadership within the church, how should we address this issue?

4) Real Life Today: Verse 2 contains John's desire to commend and bless Gaius, not so much as a statement that says, "If you do well in your faith, you will be blessed, healthy, wealthy, and happy in the church." Do you have someone like Gaius to whom you want to express such commendation and blessings? Is there someone in the church or community whom you look up to as an example of faith and a model of life that you want to emulate?