

**Series "Following After God"**  
**"The Faithful Life"**  
**3 John 1:1-8**  
**Study-20**

**1 John** – is written so that one may have "Fellowship With God"

**2 John** – is written so that one may avoid "Fellowship With False Teachers"

**3 John** – is written so that one would share "Fellowship With Faithful Christians" Only those who embrace the truth are to be shown hospitality.

**Introduction to 3 John:**

**The Author** – 3 John 1

**Reasons for believing the Elder to be John:**

1. Vocabulary and subject matter close to 1st John;
2. Attributed to John by the early Church;

**When Written** – Probably in the year 90 AD.

**Where it was Written** – The place of the writing was probably Ephesus.

**Written To** – Gaius

**Background** –

**Purpose** –

1. To assure Gaius of his love and prayers (vv. 1-2);
2. To commend Gaius for walking in the truth (vv. 3-4);
3. To commend Gaius for his hospitality (vv. 5-8);
4. To rebuke Diotrephes for his arrogance (vv. 9-10);
5. To commend Demetrius to the Church as a faithful brother (vv. 11-12);
6. To inform Gaius of his plan to visit (vv. 13-14).

**Theme** – 3 John – "Fellowship With Christian Brothers"

**Key Words** – Truth – 7X, Beloved – 4X

**The key thought** – The duty and delight of Christian hospitality!

**Key Passage** – 3 John 1:5-6

## Outline –

- 1. Verses 1-8 – Gaius The Diligent**
- 2. Verses 9-11 – Diotrephes The Dictator**
- 3. Verses 12-14 – Demetrius The Dependable**

- 1. Verses 1-2 – He Was Loved In Truth**
- 2. Verses 3-4 – He Walked In Truth**
- 3. Verses 5-8 – He Supported Others In Truth**

### **1. Verses 1-2 – He Was Loved In Truth:**

3 John 1

The elder; Greek word meaning “elderly, older; or a senior”; Used in Jewish society “of an old man who by virtue of age was capable of giving wise counsel.”

to the beloved, “esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love” word 4X, 1,2,5,11

Gaius – His name means "lord"

whom I love in truth; The word “truth” 7X

John 14:6 – Jesus Christ is “the truth”

John 17:17 – God’s Word is “truth”

Jesus has given us “the Spirit of Truth”; John 14:16-17; 16:13

3 John 1:2

Beloved, “esteemed, dear, favorite, worthy of love”

Prosper – Literally “to have a good journey”; metaphorically to “succeed, or prosper”

good health; “fit and well, to be safe and sound”

1. That there were physical problems with Gaius, and John was writing to him praying that he would be healed.

2 Cor 4:16

2. That John was giving a greeting to Gaius. We would say, "I pray all is going well, that you are feeling well and you are growing in the Lord!"

How Would We Define "Being Prosperous?" Do words like Love, Truth, and Soul fit into the Definition?

## **2. Verses 3-4 – He Walked In Truth:**

3 John 1:3

What a contrast to Diotrephes whose witness was bad. 3 John 1:10

Romans 12:9

Walking – "daily conduct, lifestyle, habitual behavior"

Psalm 1:1-3

1 Thess 2:13

3 John 1:4 Literally "Greater joy have I none than this"

2 John 1:4

Heb 13:7

Romans 12:14-16

Am I walking in the Truth? Is the truth really in me? Is it coming through my daily walk?

## **3. Verses 5-8 – He Supported Others In Truth:**

3 John 1:5

Matt 10:41

Heb 13:2

3 John 1:6

Romans 12:13

Hospitality was a necessity and a duty in the NT.

1 Peter 4:9

1 Tim 3:2

1 John 3:16-19

3 John 1:7

John Gives 3 Reasons Why We Should Support Preaching The Truth:

1. Reasons To Support: For they went out for the sake of the Name,

2. Reasons To Support: accepting nothing from the Gentiles.

1 Cor 16:1-2

3 John 1:8

Galatians 6:6-10

1 Corinthians 9:7-11

3. Reasons To Support: that we may be fellow workers with the truth.

2 John 1:10-11

**Application:**

1. How Would I Define "Being Prosperous?" Do words like Love, Truth, and Soul fit into the Definition?
2. Would Others Say That I am One Who Walks In The Truth?
3. We should fight apostasy and refuse to entertain false teachers, but are we willing to open our homes and wallets to promote the truth?