

Key Terms in 3 John

“Truth” (6x plus “true” 1x) is the key word in 3 John. Gaius (v. 3), Demetrius (v. 12) and, of course John, walk in the truth. This is set in opposition to Diotrephes (vv. 10-11) who clearly does not. Another key term is “testified” (2x) or “testimony” (3x). With exception to verse 6 where the term is coupled with “love,” these terms are always linked to the truth.

The Third Letter of **JOHN**

You Walk in the Truth

- 1 The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in **truth**.
- 2 Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.
- 3 For I was very glad when brethren came and **testified** to your **truth**, *that is*, how you are walking in **truth**.
- 4 I have no greater joy than this, to hear of my children walking in the **truth**.
- 5 Beloved, you are acting faithfully in whatever you accomplish for the brethren, and especially *when they are* strangers;
- 6 and they have **testified** to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.
- 7 For they went out for the sake of the Name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles.
- 8 Therefore we ought to support such men, so that we may be fellow workers with the **truth**.
- 9 I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.
- 10 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.
- 11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. The one who does good is of God; the one who does evil has not seen God.
- 12 Demetrius has received a *good* **testimony** from everyone, and from the **truth** itself; and we add our **testimony**, and you know that our **testimony** is **true**.
- 13 I had many things to write to you, but I am not willing to write *them* to you with pen and ink;
- 14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we will speak face to face.
- 15 Peace *be* to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.