

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

A PILGRIM'S WALK THROUGH

# THE NEW TESTAMENT

## 3 JOHN



Reading: 3 John 1: 1-13

### Introduction

- A connecting theme through John's 3 letters.
- 1st John - Fellowship with the Father and Son commended.
- 2nd John - Fellowship with false teachers condemned.
- 3rd John - Fellowship with true Christians encouraged.

### 1 The Reason For John Writing This 3rd Epistle

- Itinerant evangelists/teachers dependant on hospitality of the churches.
- Diotrephes refused to accept them and threatened ex-communication of those who did welcome them.
- Gaius had stood up to Diotrephes and John writes to commend him.
- Book written to address pride in church leaders.

## 2 A Prayer For Gaius [vs 2]

- Gaius was a good man. [Titus 1:8].
- He may have had some underlying health issue.
- He is spiritually very healthy and John prays that his body would be likewise.

## 3 A Rebuke For Diotrephes [vs 9-10]

- Diotrephes wanted to have the '*pre-eminence*.'
- He wanted to be the boss but he was a bully.
- The NT pattern for church leadership is not '*lording it*' over people.
- It is through '*servant leadership*.' [Matthew 20:26].
- Diotrephes would not allow himself to be accountable to others.
- He spoke evil of the Lord's servants.

## 4 A Commendation For Demetrius [vs. 12]

- Demetrius had a '*good testimony*'.
- A testimony is a believer's story of how they were saved AND
- Their reputation as a Christian. [Hebrews 11:5] and [Acts 22:12].
- Your testimony is very important. Guard it.
- [Proverbs 22:1] "*A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches*."

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**Teaching Biblically · Thinking Biblically · Living Biblically**

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