**3 John 1, 10/19/2018**

**Opening**

* Are your in a good health condition? Is it important to be healthy? How to be healthy?
* As a student or as a faculty, is it important to give good talks? Why? What are the impacts?
  + As a Christian, is it important to treat others with love and truth and to do things well?
* Last week, we talked about not to arbitrarily receive others to our homes. Why not? Is there a criteria whom to receive and whom not to?
* If there are difficulties in a family, what to do? If there are difficulties in a church or in a Bible study group, what do to?
* What did we study last time? 2 John. Greeting. Walking in Truth and Love (The Elder’s Joy and Request; The Elder’s Concern; The Elder’s Warning). Final Greetings. Today, we shall study 3 John. Read the Bible.

**Introduction to 3 John** (ESV Study Bible)

* Author: The apostle John.
* Date: As for 2 John, John probably writes from around Ephesus in the last quarter of the first century.
* Theme: The theme of 3 John is steadfastness in the face of opposition. The recipient of the letter, Gaius, faces a troublemaker named Diotrephes. By “walking in the truth” (vv. 3, 4), Christians can embrace and live out the apostolic message that John conveys in all his letters.

**Outline** (ESV Study Bible)

1. Greeting: The Elder’s Joy at Gaius’s Faithfulness (vv. [1–4](https://www.esv.org/3+John+1%3A1%E2%80%934/))
2. Praise for Gaius’s Support for Itinerant Christian Workers (vv. [5–8](https://www.esv.org/3+John+1%3A5%E2%80%938/))
3. Concern about Diotrephes (vv. [9–10](https://www.esv.org/3+John+1%3A9%E2%80%9310/))
4. Advice and Commendation of Demetrius (vv. [11–12](https://www.esv.org/3+John+1%3A11%E2%80%9312/))
5. Closing with Promise to Visit (vv. [13–15](https://www.esv.org/3+John+1%3A13%E2%80%9315/))

**Greeting (1-4)**

* How do you greet others, here and back in your hometown? Do you like the greeting here in v. 3?
* 3 John 1 Love in truth could mean simply “truly love” as a Christian brother, or it could refer to the “truth” of the gospel, in the service of which the lives of John and Gaius are intertwined. ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 2 Wishes for good health were standard in the openings of ancient Greek letters, but John prays for Gaius’s health and also expresses care for his soul. Though spiritual growth can come through sickness and affliction (cf. Ps. 119:67, 71), it is right to pray for good health, as Jesus’ earthly healing ministry also demonstrated. ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 3 The brothers came. Apparently John had been visited by Christians from Gaius’s church, who told John of Gaius’s faithful Christian life. Truth is fidelity to Christ and his commands. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + How to be healthy?
  + How to be truthful?

**Support and Opposition (5-12)**

* 3 John 5–8 Praise for Gaius’s Support for Itinerant Christian Workers. Whereas 2 John 10 warns against supporting the wrong people, John affirms Gaius’s work on the behalf of faithful laborers, even though they are “strangers” (3 John 5). ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 6 Send … on their journey in contexts like this carries the sense of sending with necessary material (e.g., financial) support. The word with this sense is found also in Rom. 15:24; 1 Cor. 16:6, 11; 2 Cor. 1:16; Titus 3:13. Worthy of God. Those laboring at large for the gospel work not for themselves but for the One who sends them. ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 7 The workers accepted nothing from the Gentiles, that is, the non-Christian populace. Just as Paul normally did not accept aid from those among whom he labored (1 Cor. 9:14–15, 18; 2 Cor. 11:8; 1 Thess. 2:9), the workers did not want to be accused of hawking their message for personal gain. ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 12 Normal postal service could not be entrusted with Christian correspondence like this letter. So someone like Demetrius served as courier. ESV Study Bible.
* Discussion
  + Shall we accept offerings from non-believers? Why or why not?
  + Is it important to treat others with love and truth, and to do things well?

**Final Greetings (13-15)**

* 3 John 13–15 Closing with Promise to Visit. John echoes the words of 2 John 12. Sometimes pastoral oversight requires physical presence for successful execution. ESV Study Bible.
* 3 John 15 Friends. An unusual term for fellow believers; but see John 15:15. Each by name. John’s pastoral care is not remote and bureaucratic but personal, as Jesus commended and modeled (John 10:3, 14). ESV Study Bible.
  + John 15:14-15. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.
* Discussion
  + If Apostle John were to write to us today, what would he write?
  + How about if you want to write to your children in the future, what will you write?

**Wrapping up**

* How to walk in love and truth?
* What are your favorite verses in this chapter?

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