

The Third Epistle of John

18

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses that the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we are studying of the third epistle of John. This short letter was written by the apostle John, probably about the same time as **1 John** and **2 John**. This letter is similar in structure and content to **2 John**. Note in particular these points of similarity:

3 John 1 **2 John 1**
3 John 4 **2 John 4**
3 John 13-14 **2 John 12-13**

The purpose of **3 John** is also similar to **2 John**. A trouble-maker named Diotrephes had refused to welcome some teachers sent by John. Whereas the church John had written to in **2 John** had erred by welcoming gnostic teachers, this church had caused trouble for genuine teachers of the Gospel. John wrote this letter to commend Gaius for supporting these brothers and, indirectly, to warn Diotrephes that John would deal with him if he comes.

As you read **3 John**, answer the following questions for yourself:

- What two things did John pray for Gaius? (**verse 2**).
- What gave John great joy? (**verse 3-4**).
- What did John instruct Gaius to do? (**verse 6**).
- It was for whose sake that these itinerant teachers went out? (**verse 7**).
- Why should Gaius and his church show hospitality to them? (**verses 7-8**).
- Why did Diotrephes "have nothing to do with us"? (**verse 9**).
- If John comes, how would he deal with Diotrephes? (**verse 10**).
- How was Diotrephes causing trouble for John? (**verse 10**).
- What is Gaius to imitate and what is he not to imitate? (**verse 11**).
- Who is from God? (**verse 11**).
- Who has *not* seen God? (**verse 11**).
- How does **verse 11** relate to the issue of Diotrephes?

Memory Verse

Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

3 John 11

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is His Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!