

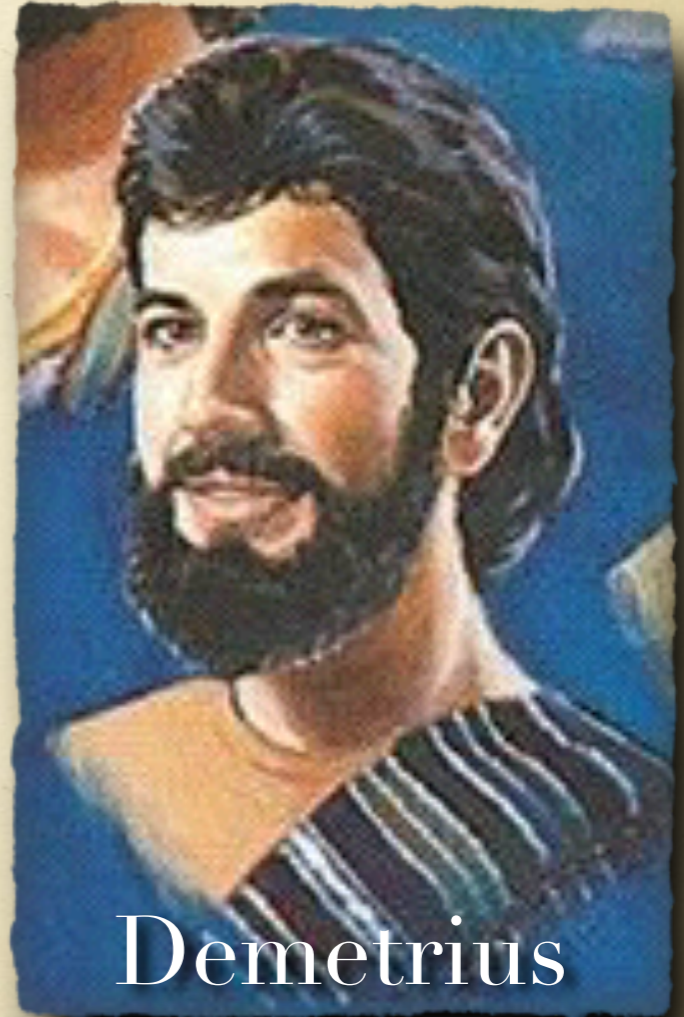
# Three Men & A Bible



Gaius



Diotrephes



Demetrius

*Big Lessons From A Small Epistle*  
*Lessons From The Book of 3 John*

# Three Men & A Bible



- Written in the last decade of the first century probably in Ephesus.
- Similar to 2 John in its focus on "Love" and "Truth."
- 2nd John warns against supporting false teachers / 3rd John commends supporting those who teach the truth.
- Another comparison - 2nd John condemned false teaching, or heresy, while 3rd John condemns a lack of love resulting in "schisms."

# Three Men & A Bible



- John writes to a man named Gaius (v. 1).
- John commends him for his faithfulness to God (vv. 2-4).
- John also commends Gaius for the love he displays in welcoming the itinerant teachers who traveled from church to church in the first century (vv. 5-8).

# Three Men & A Bible



- This is in contrast to the practice of Diotrophes, who rejects John's authority and like a dictator puts out of the church any who disagree with his leadership (vv. 9-10).
- John urges Gaius to keep on doing good and commends another leader named Demetrius whom both of them know (vv. 11-12).
- John closes this letter as he did 2 John, expressing his desire to see Gaius soon and talk about these issues at greater length (vv. 13-14).

## 3 JOHN (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> The Elder, To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth: <sup>2</sup> Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. <sup>3</sup> For I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth *that is* in you, just as you walk in the truth. <sup>4</sup> I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth. <sup>5</sup> Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,

## **3 JOHN (NKJV)**

<sup>6</sup> who have borne witness of your love before the church. *If* you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well, <sup>7</sup> because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.

<sup>8</sup> We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

## 3 JOHN (NKJV)

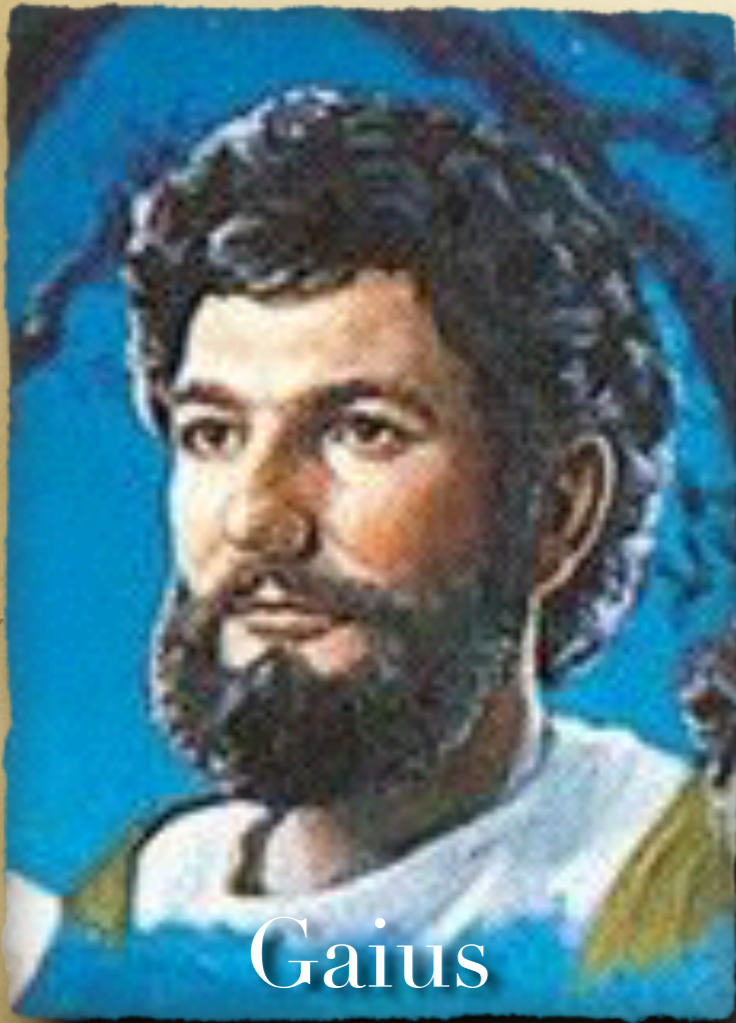
<sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. <sup>10</sup> Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting *them* out of the church. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

## 3 JOHN (NKJV)

<sup>12</sup> Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. <sup>13</sup> I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink; <sup>14</sup> but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face. Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.

# Three Men & A Bible

## ***THE COMMENDATION OF GAIUS - (1-8)***



- Written to Gaius... (*Three people have the name Gaius in the New Testament...*)
- Gaius who Paul baptized - (1 Cor 1:15; Rom 16:23).
- Gaius of Macedonia who was arrested with Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:29).
- Gaius of Derbe who went with Paul and Timothy to Asia (Acts 20:4).
- Do not know if he is the same Gaius.

# Three Men & A Bible

## ***THE COMMENDATION OF GAIUS - (1-8)***



Gaius

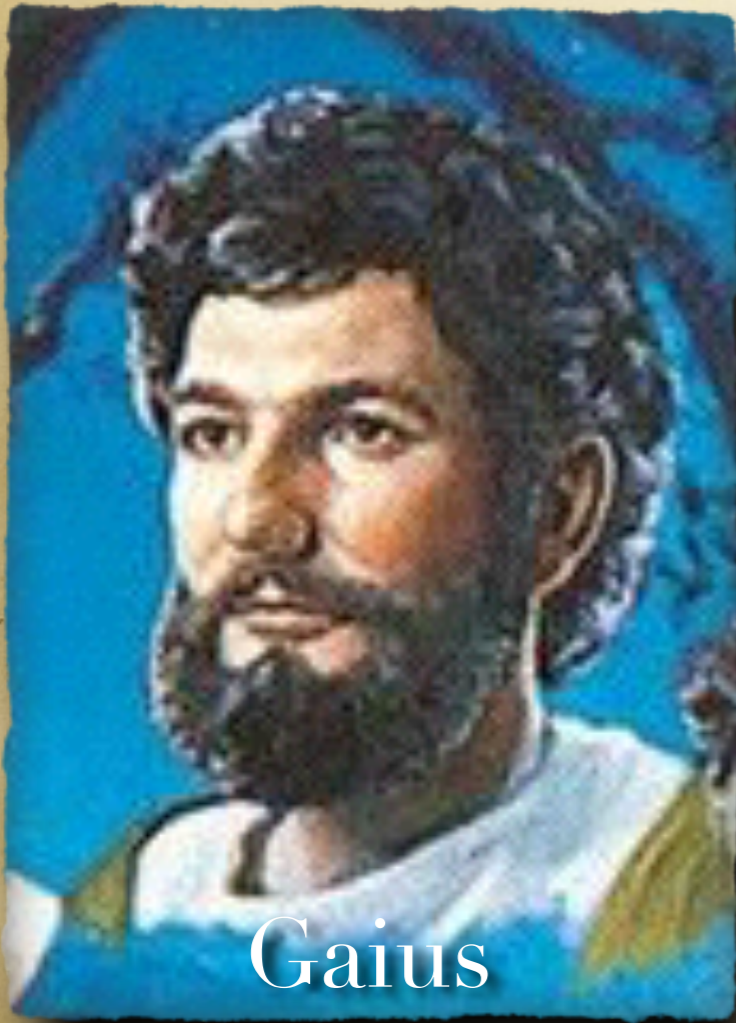
➤ Could be Gaius was a member of the congregation John had written to in 2 John Cf (3 Jn 9).

### ***3 JOHN 9 (NKJV)***

<sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

# Three Men & A Bible

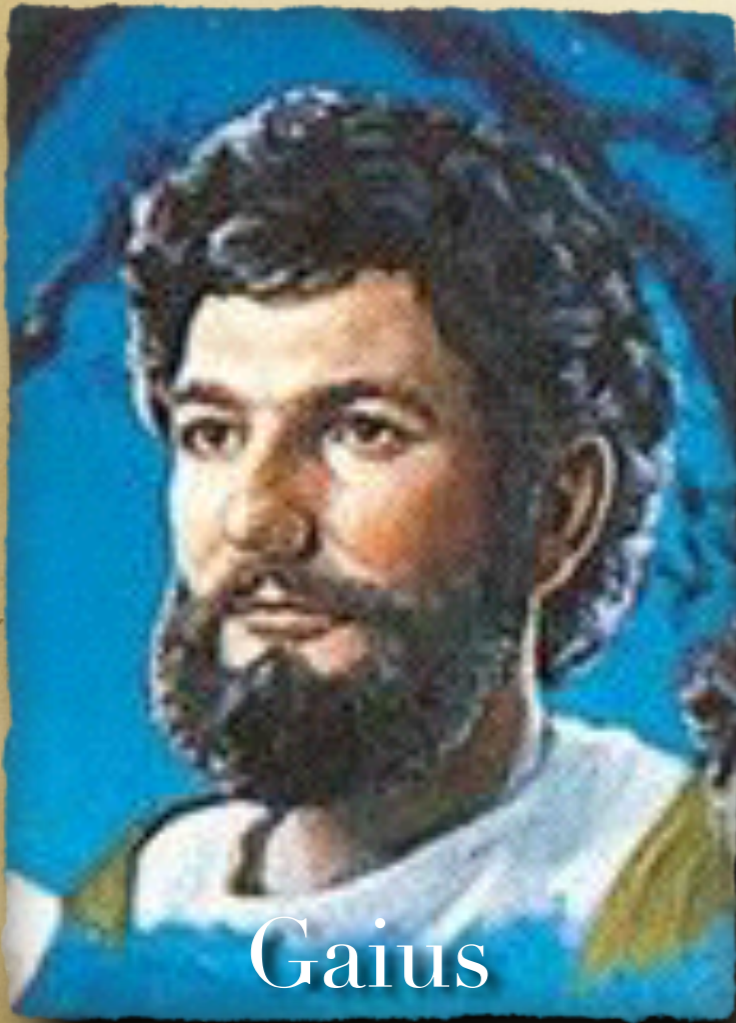
## ***THE COMMENDATION OF GAIUS - (1-8)***



- John prayed Gaius would prosper physically & spiritually - 1-2
- Had a good reputation - 3a
- Walked in the truth - 3b
- Gave John great joy - 4
- Was hospitable toward all - 5-6a; cf. Matt. 10:10; Rom. 12:13; 1 Tim. 3:2, 5:10; Heb. 13:2.
- Was encouraged to continue supporting gospel preachers - 6b-8

# Three Men & A Bible

## ***THE COMMENDATION OF GAIUS - (1-8)***



- Brethren told of his "truth in Him" - 3b
- Seen by his actions ("*walking*") - 3c,4
- Could see his faithful work with brethren & strangers - 5
- Those strangers also attested to Gaius' goodness - 6
- Strangers accepted because they were acting "for the sake of the Name" - 6,7
- On that basis, Gaius welcomed them as "fellow-workers for the truth" - 8

# Three Men & A Bible

## **CONDEMNATION OF DIOTREPHES - (9-10)**

<sup>9</sup> I wrote to the church, but Diotrophes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us. - 3 John 9 (NKJV)



Diotrophes

- **Self-promoter** -- strove to be first - 9a
- **Insubordinate** -- would not receive the [authority of] apostles - 9b
- **Slandorous** -- slandered apostles - 10a
- **Vindictive** -- did not receive certain brethren, casting those who did out of the church - 10b

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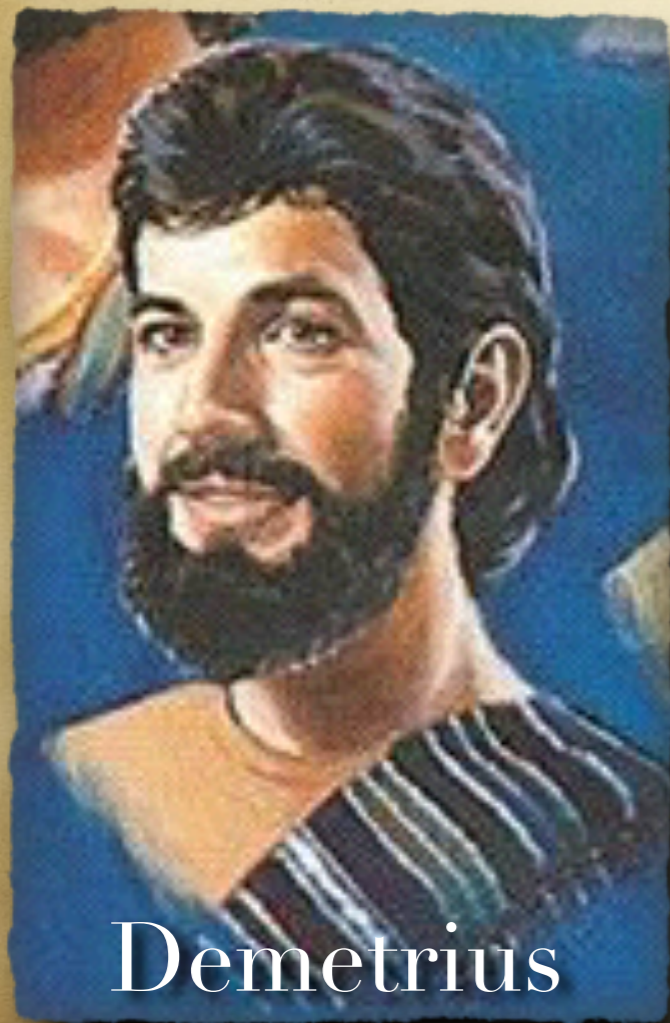
### ***3 JOHN 11 (NKJV)***

<sup>11</sup> Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

# Three Men & A Bible

## **CONFIRMATION OF DEMETRIUS - (12)**

<sup>12</sup> Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all, and from the truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is true. - 3 John 12 (NKJV)

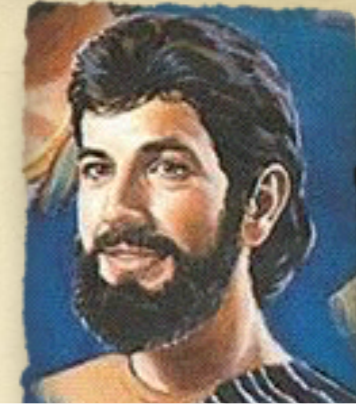


Demetrius

➤ Demetrius was offered as a pattern for Gaius, because he had a good report... - 3 John 12

- From all the brethren
- From the truth itself
- From John and the apostles

# Three Men & A Bible



GAIUS

DIOTREPHES

DEMETRIUS

Had & held to truth

Rejected truth

Good report from  
the brethren

Accepted brethren  
in truth

Refused those who came  
with the truth.

Good report from  
the truth itself

Did a faithful work  
towards all

Cast supporters of truth  
out of the church

Good report from  
the apostles

Aided & assisted  
those acting in the  
Name

Slandered the apostles &  
those who spoke the  
truth

An example worthy  
of following

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



➤ Christians Are Not Always What They Should Be...

- We may have to serve in the face of opposition from other brethren
- Will we allow this to effect our service?
- Will we allow this to effect our salvation?

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



[www.pictures4bibles.com](http://www.pictures4bibles.com)

➤ The importance of our influence & example ...

- We are to follow what is good so we can influence good - (Mat 5:13-16; Phil 2:14-16)
- What example are we setting in the local church? Who are we imitating? - 1 Cor 11:1; Eph 5:1; Heb 12:1,2; 1 Pet 2:21-26

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



➤ The "Spirit Of Diotrophes" is TOO often allowed to Reign

- Members allowed Diotrophes to dominate - would not take a stand for the truth for fear.
- Diotrophes was successful because there was a certain climate of complacency & cowardice within the local church. (Rev 21:8)

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



### ➤ The Importance of Supporting Gospel Preachers:

- A Testimony To Our Faithfulness our love for God & the lost - vs5,6
- We Obey God... vs 8a; cf. Gal 6:6; 1 Cori 9:11
- We are Fellow Workers For The Truth... vs 8; Phili 1:3-5; 4:15-16; 2 John 10-11; Mat 10:40-42

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



[www.pictures4bibles.com](http://www.pictures4bibles.com)

- We are either benefitting the kingdom & the truth or damaging its effectiveness by our words & deeds!
- Are we more like Gaius & Demetrius, or more like Diotrephes?

# Three Men & A Bible

## *LESSONS FROM 3 JOHN*



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*Lessons From The Book of 3 John*

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Gaius



Diotrophes



Demetrius

**Charts by Don McClain**

Prepared & Preached April 10, 2016

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Now, therefore," says the Lord, "Turn to Me with all your heart With fasting,  
with weeping, and with mourning." — Joel 2:12

# God Is Calling Yet



## Charts by Don McClain

Prepared April 7-9, 2016

Preached April 10, 2016

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# ***1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16 (NKJV)***

<sup>12</sup> Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. <sup>13</sup> Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine. <sup>14</sup> Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.

# ***1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16 (NKJV)***

<sup>15</sup> Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. <sup>16</sup> Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.