



# Daily Bible Habit

## The Letters Of John

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### Focus Points...*For 3 John*

#### Listen...

- \* To John's short letter of commendation of Demetrius. Demetrius was to replace the false teacher, Diotrephes, and bring health and healing, joy and stability to a hurting Church.

#### Prayer:

Lord, I come to You again as I prepare to read Your Word. Be with me. Give me Your Holy Spirit. Open my heart, that I too, may be encouraged as John encouraged his children. Amen.

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#### Commentary:

Like John's Second Letter, Third John is also quite short. However, it is one verse longer than Second John. Like John's Second Letter, it is a letter which follows the conventional form for letters in the ancient Roman world.

Unlike Second John, Third John is a personal letter to Gaius, one of John's "dear friends" (v. 1). Gaius was one of John's "children" who was "walking in faith" (v. 4). More than that, it appears Gaius was a formal or informal leader in the church who faithfully witnessed the "Name"\* against those who opposed Christ.

It also appears that Gaius had an important role in defending and encouraging the church during Diotrephes' rebellion and resistance to God. Through First John and Second John, we find Jesus' warnings against deceivers.

Diotrephes may have been one of the deceivers John warned of in 1 John and 2 John. Entrenched in his own desire to be first, he will have nothing to do with John (v. 9). "If I come," John wrote,

"I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church." (9-10)

John replaced Diotrephes with the appointment of Demetrius.

"Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone—and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true."

The church has suffered. With Diotrephes gone, Demetrius and Gaius are their only real hope for getting the Church back on its feet. Ever the passionate

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apostle, John was eager to go back to these churches to strengthen them by giving personal, face-to-face encouragement and commendation of his fellow-servant in the Lord, Demetrius.

\* The "name" is simply a designation for Jesus Christ, the "Name" by which all are saved (cf. Acts 2:21).

**Prayer:**

Lord of the Church, keep all Your children in the Church faithful to You. Give to Your Church faithful pastors, apostles, ministers and missionaries to lead and direct Your Church to greater faithfulness and passion to declare Your grace. Amen.

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