

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **3John 1-14**.
- B. The apostle John recognizes three men in this short letter. We can learn something of value from each one in how to improve our Xian lives.
- C. You will notice that even though this letter was written a long time ago many of the same problems/situations exist today. The letter is relevant to our needs.

I. GAIUS, THE ENCOURAGER.

- A. See 3John v1-8.
- B. Gaius may have been one of John's converts, but John calls all Xians his children (1Jn. 2:1,12,18).
- C. Gaius was in good spiritual health.
This health is the result of nourishment with the word, and then "working out" with godly exercise (1Tim. 4:6,7).
- D. We must avoid contamination and keep ourselves pure (2Cor. 7:1; 2Pet. 1:4; Jas. 1:27).
- E. Gaius had a good testimony.
Some brethren joyfully reported about him to John. Gaius was, in their minds what a Xian ought to be.
We must live the truth:
 1. Jesus Christ is the truth (Jn. 14:6).
 2. We are sanctified in that truth (Jn. 17:17).
- F. Gaius had a ministry.
I don't believe Gaius was a preacher or teacher. He had a ministry showing hospitality (Heb. 13:2).
- G. Gaius did this to honor God, be a witness to the lost, and to help him remain obedient. If we chose to practice hospitality we can reap the same blessings.

II. DIOTREPHES, THE DICTATOR.

- A. See 3John v9,10.
- B. Diotrepes insisted on "being boss," and having his own way. Notice that Diotrepes would not receive John. This was true due to John being able to challenge Diotrepes right to be boss. John was a threat to Diotrepes.
- C. This wicked man did three things:
 1. He lied about John with false and empty charges (v10a).
 2. He rejected John's associates (v10b). Guilt by association?
 3. And he disciplined those who disagreed with him (10c).
- D. Here are some practical ways to identify a "modern day Diotrepes:"
 1. They like to talk about themselves.
 2. They like to judge and condemn rather to build up.
 3. They are experts in putting labels on other Xians.
 4. They base their fellowship on personalities rather than X.
- E. The Scriptures are clear--no fellowship with apostates (2Cor. 6:14; 2Jn. 8-10).

III. DEMETRIUS, THE EXAMPLE.

- A. See 3John v11-14.
- B. As Xians we are to live in such a way that others can follow our pattern and be faithful to X.
- C. Paul said it was good to imitate him, as he followed X (1Cor. 11:1).
- D. Notice the command in Philippians 3:17.
- E. Paul told Timothy, that even as a young man he can set an example for others to follow (1Tim. 4:12).

- F. Demetrius was a man worth imitating because he had a "good report" from the church fellowship and from the Word itself.
- G. What kind of example are you? Are you someone's hero? Would you 'tell someone trying to find salvation to live as you live?

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. John concludes his letter with some thoughts about other matters. He wants to talk with the church personally on some things, rather than write. Some subjects are always best handled in this way.
- B. John closes in a positive and encouraging manner.
- C. The three men of 3rd John:
 1. Gaius... the encourager.
 2. Diotrephes... the dictator.
 3. Demetrius... the example.
- D. Which one are you?
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.