

Testimony of the Truth
3 John 1:12-15
Series: Christian Hospitality

1. Introduction –

- a. Last week we compared and contrasted two men, Gaius and Diotrephes.
- b. These men identified themselves as Christians, and both would affirm their belief in Christ.
- c. We concluded that salvation is by faith alone, through Christ alone. We also concluded that the life that is saved by Christ is radically rebirthed.
 - i. The person adopts the way of the Master. Christ's desires, mode of thinking, behavior and the like become the new believer's standard.
 - ii. Diotrephes, through his actions, demonstrated that his confession was false and that his very works were evil.
- d. We were enjoined from:
 - i. Leading by putting oneself first
 - ii. Gossiping
 - iii. inhospitality
 - iv. hindering believers from good works
 - v. pettiness

2. Verse 12 – Demetrius – Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true.

- a. Demetrius - Throughout this epistle John uses the literary device of contrast. After depicting the evil deeds of Diotrephes, John now introduces Demetrius, who "is well spoken of by everyone."
 - i. John mentions him because of the good report that was circulating.
- b. Has received a good testimony
 - i. For a Christian it is of utmost importance to have a good testimony.
 - ii. **Daniel 6:4-5** Then the high officials and the satraps sought to find a ground for complaint against Daniel with regard to the kingdom, but they could find no ground for complaint or any fault, because he was faithful, and no error or fault was found in

him. (5) Then these men said, “We shall not find any ground for complaint against this Daniel unless we find it in connection with the law of his God.”

- c. From
 - i. Everyone
 - 1. **Philippians 1:27** Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
 - ii. From the truth itself
 - 1. Because John writes about “walking in the truth” (3 John 1:4), that is, the truth of the gospel of Christ, we infer that Demetrius lived according to the mandates of God's Word so that his life showed clear evidence of the truth (1 John 2:8).
 - 2. In other words, Demetrius lived in scriptural obedience.
 - 3. **Matthew 7:21** "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
 - iii. John's Testimony
 - 1. He assures Gaius that the testimony John has written concerning Demetrius is true because he is personally acquainted with him. Gaius, then, may place full confidence in John.
- 3. Verse 13 – More to say – I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink.
 - a. Two Reasons
 - i. The reason may be that John wanted to communicate matters orally.
 - ii. Also, the matter concerning Diotrephes was delicate and had to be addressed in person.
- 4. Verse 14 – Face to Face – I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.
 - a. In intimate fellowship.
- 5. Verse 15 – Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

- a. Peace be to you.
 - i. Shalom – used by Christ after His resurrection on multiple occasions.
 - 1. **Ephesians 6:23** Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii. This final blessing for Gaius in regards to peace comes from more than just a hopeful desire. It is an honest prayer that Gaius might be blessed with the peace of God.
 - 1. On what basis?
 - a. Because Gaius is a believer, he can have the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guards his heart and mind.
 - iii. Gaius was in a difficult place. His hospitality put him at odds with a very powerful Diotrephes.
 - 1. However, even in the midst of the hardest of circumstances, Christians can be at peace if they are living in Christ.
 - b. The friends greet you.
 - i. All Christians are united in friendship with each other because we are united in obedience to Christ.
 - 1. **John 15:14** You are my friends if you do what I command you.
 - c. Greet the friends, ...
 - i. ...each by name.
 - 1. We are to know each individual Christian within our sphere as a small part of the body of Christ.
 - ii. **Romans 16:16** Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.
6. Benediction –
- a. **Ephesians 5:19-21** addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, (20) giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, (21) submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.