

# Bible Snapshots



## Third John – Hospitality and leadership Author – John

- Author – see the last Bible snapshot about First John. Same author.
- John writes against schisms. An ambitious church boss named Diotrephes refused to recognize John's authority by treating people sent by him with harshness. He warns Gaius against this tyrannous man.
- The letter is written to Gaius. Three people in the New Testament bear this name: Gaius of Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:14); Gaius of Macedonia (Acts 19:29); and Gaius of Derbe (Acts 20:4). The Gaius to whom John wrote could have been any of these, as it appears to be a common name. However, it could have been a different Gaius altogether. Whoever he was, he evidently was one of John's converts, for he is referred to as "beloved" four times. John commends him for his hospitality and charity and is set in contrast to a man named Diotrephes, who is a proud and overbearing spirit in the church. John also mentions Demetrius in a very complementary way.
- The contrast of these characters are designed to teach us the difference between good and bad leadership in the church.
- Second John has only 1 chapter, 14 verses and only 299 words.

### Key verses – 4, 8

### Key words / phrase – truth / follow...that which is good (11)

### Outline

- I. Introduction (1-4)
- II. Confirmation of Gaius (5-8)
- III. Condemnation of Diotrephes (9-11)
- IV. Commendation of Demetrius (12)
- V. Conclusion (13, 14)

### Truth is -

A basis for love (1)

A indwelling reality for guidance (3)

An encouragement for Faithfulness (5, 6)

A guide for togetherness (8)

A tool for good (11)

A bond for fellowship (13, 14)

A motive for consideration (2)

A source of Joy (4)

An incentive for service (7)

A discerner for schisms (9, 10)

A testimony for godly living (12)

### Spreading the truth –

By the life (1, 2)

Hospitality (5, 6)

Unity (8)

Doing good (11)

Personal contact (14).

Testimony (3)

Sacrificial service (7)

Rebuking hypocrisy (9, 10)

Correspondence (13)

### How not to be a leader

**Be Selfish** (9) – This is the exact opposite of what Christ encouraged, as did Paul (Phil 2)

**Serve self first** (9) – The greatest commands are love God and love man...before self

**Refuse God ordained authority** (9) – Diotrephes refuse to receive the people sent by John, no doubt because they were a threat to his Lording over the church. We can do this today when we refuse the preaching of truth, the word of truth and any action of leaders that are based in truth.

**Be a slanderer, gossip, backbiter or complainer** (10)

**Refuse hospitality** (10)

**Refuse those teaching truth** (10)

**Align yourself with wickedness** (10)