

The Letters of John

Sunday, March 12, 2017

3 John

Introduction

“The gospel will make your soul prosper and affect the way you live and give.”

I. Gaius – The Humble (v.1-8)

v.2 – *“goes well with your soul.”* – Even though spiritual growth can come through sickness and affliction, it is good to pray for good health.

v.3 – *“the brothers came and testified to your truth...”*

It is one thing to self-promote, but it is another when others speak of you!

Proverbs 27:2 - *“Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.”*

v.8 – Generous heart for the gospel

“In God’s magnificent economy of grace, the least believer can share the blessings of the greatest, and no one’s good work will go unrewarded.” J. MacArthur

II. Diotrefes – The Proud (v.9-11)

Dio is one who seeks sinful personal ambition. Selfish ambition is never satisfied and always seeks to expand.

James 3:16 – *“For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.”*

- a) He likes to put himself first
- b) He doesn’t acknowledge John’s or Gaius’ authority
- c) Talking wicked nonsense
- d) He refuses to welcome the brothers
- e) He stops others from welcoming them as well
- f) He even put them out of the church

v.11 – *“Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.”*

III. Conclusion (v.12-14)