



## **II JOHN**

Study 1: Page 1...Intro/vs 1-3

Study 2: Page 5... Verses 4-7

Study 3: Page 10...Verses 8-13

## **III JOHN**

Study 4: Page 13...Verses 1-8

Study 5: Page 17...Verses 9-14

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Scripture being studied in red.

Other use of scriptures used in blue.

Side comments in pink.

## THE SECOND and THIRD EPISTLES of JOHN

1

### *An introduction and general idea*

It is thought that both the 2nd and 3rd Epistles (letters) of John could have been written about the same time possibly even on the same day, and sent out for circulation to all the Churches. John who was called ‘The disciple that Jesus Loved’ and wrote ‘The Gospel of John’ which has been called ‘The love Book’ he somewhat changes his tone in two of his Epistles, being the first and second letters.

It is believed he wrote these letters while he was in Ephesus, probably between 80-95 AD, near the end of his life.

Both 1 & 2 Epistles of John addresses a common theme. There were false teachers who were believing and practising religious heresy. These teachings were springing up in many of the churches so Johns letters served to identify them as deceivers of The Truth. Without mercy he identifies the lie and corrects the falsehood whilst also encouraging the believers in The Truth. Second John warns believers not to even let these false teachers into their homes, that is how serious this matter is (**This is even so today**). Third John was written to Gaius and is a letter of encourage him in The Truth of The Gospel and reminding him live in the Spirit of Love.

Second John presents a Commandment, Warning and encouragement whilst third John delivers the Duty of Hospitality along with a personal encouragement for Gaius.

You would note that the Epistles of John have no name attached and in fact Epistles 2 and 3 simply state from ‘The Elder’. So how do we know John wrote these letters? Earlier writings from a man named Polycarp who was taught by The Apostle John confirms the writings of John, equally within his letters (Polycarp) includes phrases from Mat, Mark, Luke, Acts, Rom, 1 and 2 Cor, Gal, Eph, Phil, 1 and 2 Thess, 1 Tim, 1 and 2 Peter, 1 John, and Jude. This is a strong indication that the early church already considered the Gospels, Acts, and the Epistles as inspired Scripture. However there is a Greater Witness than Polycarp and that is The Mighty Holy Spirit. The Bible is a Spiritual Book which carnal minds cannot glean or understand, such will always try to discredit the Living Book. There are other ways to prove the authentication of these writings but I have deemed that foolish as The Holy Spirit Himself witnesses that these as from John under His Mighty Power, therefore the name of the human author is immaterial just as it is for all the other books. Amen.

However, why do I trust Polycarp’s writings? He gave his life for The Lord and such is recorded in the history books which anyone can read and understand, such a man is worthy. Polycarp’s last words were written down by witnesses on the day of his execution, they were: "**Eighty and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong.**" "**How then can I blaspheme my King and Saviour? You threaten me with a fire that burns for a season, and after a little while is quenched; but you are ignorant of the fire of everlasting punishment that is prepared for the wicked.**" Polycarp was burned at the stake and pierced with a spear for refusing to burn incense to the roman emperor. His very last recorded words were "**I bless You, Father, for Judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of The Martyrs I may share The Cup of Christ.**" Do I believe Polycarp regarding his penned words “The Apostle John wrote these writings, hence the Epistles.”

## **Absolutely!**

Scripture being studied in red. Other use of scriptures used in blue. Side comments in pink.

II John 1:1 The Elder, To the elect lady and her children, whom I love In Truth, and not only I, but also all those who have Known The Truth,

2:1 The Elder...The word Elder can be taken as in meaning either an age or a position within the Church. Some commentaries have this as John stating an age thing, others as a position thing, whilst others simply say it means both! I prescribe to it being both an age and a title term that comes from within the Church. The Greek word for 'Elder' is 'Presbyteros' and describes both "An age person or teacher of The Gospel". John was in his nineties when he wrote these letters and therefore a very old man, especially for those days, and also the last surviving Disciple of the 12 that walked with Jesus. The Church had given him much respect due to both his age and that he was the only eye witness alive that had seen, touched, heard, and walked with The Christ. Hence they did not call him 'an elder' but 'The Elder' this of course is another reason why he did not put a Christian name to the Epistles as all knew him as 'The Elder'. Remember, John was not just an Apostle but the last one living which means he held the highest office possible within the Church. The word Apostle holds the same idea of the Old Testament Prophets that directed Israel, an Apostle directs the Church as the Prophets directed Israel. 1:1...To the elect lady There is no doubt that this woman was held in high regard by those that knew her, but who was she? In the Greek the two words ἐκλεκτῆ κυρία Translates into 'the elect lady' but if you remove the last word κυρία it can be translated into 'Kyria' some commentaries lean to this being her name. Others claim her to be Mary the mother of Jesus but this of course is wrong as that would make her 115 to 125 years old plus John's writings have made it clear he was the last one living to see, touch...etc. The Lord. Personally I do not lean towards either of those ideas if you leave those two Greek words together as I believe one should (ἐκλεκτῆ κυρία) they simple translate into...the Elect lady. This holds another school of thought that the term Elect Lady means 'church body' but John has clearly sent this to a particular family. However The Holy Spirit has placed it into the Bible for the church to read and use. This lady is just like myself, and you! A member of the family of God! She is called by John as the Elect lady as she has come out from under the dominion of the evil one and moved from the world of unbelief onto and into The Faith, hence as she was so are you and I, a very important part of the Christian family. John simply reminds her by these words regarding the relationship between them; she is a member of that Elect company of believers of which he is 'The Elder'. I have cut and pasted this part of a commentary as it makes good sense...It is futile to ask who this lady is. There have been various conjectures, some of them absurd; but we know no more than the letter itself tells us. Evidently the lady and her children were not among the great ones of the earth; they have made no name in the world. And herein lies one of the chief lessons of the Epistle. Those mentioned in it were ordinary people, such as any Church in any generation might produce. But because they were faithful, and endeavoured to live up to their calling, the Apostle loved them, and all true Christians loved them, and he dared to assure them that "Grace, Mercy, and Peace from God The Father and from Jesus Christ The Son of The Father" should be their portion. Any Christian minister may give the same assurance to faithful Christians, however humble and inconspicuous, they may appear. They may win no place in the history of the world that is passing away; but they have a place in The Heart of Him who abideth for ever.

What we do know is, this woman and most of her children were walking according to The Spirit of Holiness and it would seem she had been assigned by The Holy Spirit to run a home Church. The Holy Spirit makes no distinction between a man and woman, however He does have an order which needs to be kept (see Eph 5:22-25). Gal 3:28 makes it clear there is no longer male or female: for you are all one In Christ. The Bible does not put unjust barriers in front of God's children Acts 2:17 says "In the last days, God Says, I will Pour out My Spirit on all flesh. And your sons and daughters will prophesy, and in Cor 11:5 "But every woman that prays and Prophesies and in 1 Cor 14:3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. The word Prophesies in the Greek is 'propheteia' and means "To predict or foretell or to serve as an inspired speaker" Hence woman can preach His Word and Teach it amen and amen. A good study of 1 Cor 14 tells us the Corinthian church was doing things in a loud and disorganized fashion, in that they were talking over the top of each other so Paul wrote that woman should not shout out but remain silent, this was not and does not mean they were not to be involved with The Holy Spirits moving within the Saints. 1:1...and her children This reinforces that this is not a letter sent to the Church body but to a lady and her children, within this letter are both warnings and encouragements which again reinforces she was a spiritual leader. One would imagine she was, or had been married as she had children and in those days having a child out of wedlock was very foolish as it could end in death. We will speak more on her children in the following verses. 1:1...whom I love In Truth John is declaring his love for this lady and her children this is not a sexual love but that which comes from God. John used the word 'Agapao' not 'phileo' which is the word that expresses human fondness 'Agapao' the word John used here means the God type of Love and he fullstops it with In Truth. These last two words are important as they add an even greater strength to the word Love. All the family of Christ must Love by The Power of Truth as outside of Truth there is only falsehood, being In Truth means that this Love comes from a greater and more Trusted Source. There is another reason for John using the word 'Truth', heretics were trying to push their lies so John simply, but in Power states that true Love can only come by being 'In' The Truth, that is being In The Holy Spirit and abiding by the Law that comes from the Sacrifice of The Son of God. 1:1...and not only I, but also all those who have known The Truth, John declares he is In the Truth but not he alone but ALL those that have Known The Lords Power of Love. This lady and her children would have seen people murdered for upholding their faith so the words but also all those who have known The Truth takes on and even more real and powerful meaning.

### II John 1:2 For The Truth's sake, which dwells in us and will be with us forever:

What this means is The Truth will not and in fact cannot change ever, our understanding of truth may change but His Truth shall never do so! For The Truth's sake John and all the others love this family because they love The Truth, it could have been written for Christ's sake this Love is shared abroad. Those who love The Gospel of Truth will rejoice in all the effects which it produces be it in the their home, church, work place or playground, love will never fail us as it is in us, as we shall see! 1:2...which dwells in us Truth has taken up a permanent living quarters within the heart of all who love The Son of God. And this Truth is our Teacher Who will show us all things which Jesus Christ has done for us through His Work at the cross. 1:2...and will be with us forever: The time given for Him to live within us is not for a short moment but eternity, He has come to us to make our hearts His permanent home. He has promised "I will never leave you" and He means it. Amen.

II John 1:3 Grace, Mercy, and Peace will be with you from God The Father and from The Lord Jesus Christ, The Son of The Father, in Truth and Love.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace all come from Truth! 1:3 Grace, Mercy, and Peace These words speak of the ongoing Sanctification process, even though we received them all when we were Justified (First believed) John is speaking of these Blessings manifesting themselves to the believer and within the believer on a daily basis. Grace is God's undeserved favour toward believers, Mercy is His Pity for those who are in trouble and distress, Peace is the well-being that results when grace and Mercy are recognized by the believer. The Holy Spirit brings to us all these Blessings when we are Saved and from that point as The Great Gardener He grows them. However there is a requirement that all believers need to keep in mind and that is The Holy Spirit only Works within what Jesus said and did Jn 14:26 The Holy Spirit will Teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I Said to you. 1/ Focus: The Work of Jesus at the cross must be the focus for believers, for every thing comes to us from God through this Mighty Work of Christ's (see 1 Cor 1:17-18). 2/ Object of faith: The Finished Work of Jesus at the Cross, His Body and Blood was given up at that place and in that He overcame every problem man can face (see Rom 6:3-14). 3/ Power Source: The Holy Spirit becomes The Power Source for man when he focuses on the complete Sacrifice of The Son of God (see Rom 8:1-2,11). 4/ Outcome: Victory, this brings praise and worship for a perfectly complete victory provided by Jesus Christ which removes all works (see 1 Jn 5:4). Sadly many in the church have for their 1/ Focus: The law, If one does not have their eyes on Grace and Mercy then they will be caught in the law. 2/ Object of faith: Instead of it being the Finished Work of Jesus at the Cross, they are practising law in works. Power Source: self. 4/ Outcome: Failure. 1:3...be with you Meaning the elect lady and her children, however as this is a Living Word it equally speaks to all that are found walking by faith in The Holy Spirit 1:3...from God The Father and from The Lord Jesus Christ, This speaks of the willingness of both The Father and The Son doing which no one else could. For God so Loved the world that He gave His only Begotten Son...They shared and agreed on this great Act of Love before Creation was put into place 1 Peter 1:20 He (Jesus) was Chosen before the Creation of the world, The Holy Spirit has John write this which makes Jesus Christ equal to God The Father in that they are both Deity. They exist in a state of perfect parallel equality whilst maintaining their independence within a Holy Order...God is The Father and Jesus Christ is The Son! 1:3...in Truth and Love. There is no chance of even a slightest exaggeration as this is as the rest of the Bible, directed by The Holy Spirit who is Truth and Love, and in Who those that penned these writings were submerged into and filled with. Hallelujah. And to finish with Eph 4:8 Wherefore He Said, When He (Jesus) ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave Gifts unto men. People, the word Gifts speaks about The Holy Spirit Who came to Save, and Tell us about Christ, but first Jesus had ascended on High and that happened through the work He did at the cross. Man was held captive but Jesus took captivity captive meaning He triumphed over sin, satan, the world, and death, and indeed, every spiritual and physical enemy of His and His people removing anyone that will believe from bondage onto and into sweet freedom.

**Focus: Object of faith: Power Source: Outcome: Stay in The Truth and get it right!**

**AMEN**

Scripture being studied in red. Other use of scriptures used in blue. Side comments in

2 John 1:4 I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in Truth, as we received Commandment from The Father.

The Apostle John obviously had a close connection to this family 1:4 I rejoiced greatly He gave praise to The Lord with extreme gladness regarding the news received! And that news was 1:4...that I have found some of your children walking in Truth The word walk in the Greek means 'to order one's behaviour, to conduct one's self' and when we see a brother or sister doing so it brings great joy and encouragement onto us, just as it did for the Apostle John. John wrote found some of your children...This does not necessary mean that her other children were walking in darkness, but that John has received word regarding certain members of her family! 1:4...as we received Commandment from The Father. The Father Himself has given the commandment! It has never changed as the Commandment is Love, and True Love cannot be changed. This commandment has been made known to man by what Jesus Christ Said and did. Love is what should drive a believers mind, Love should embrace and drive all our other virtues and graces. It requires faith and can only be tested by a right and true belief. It produces purity, because it is from God. Love renounces and removes the old me, the old you, which the Bible calls 'the old man'. It wants and desires one to be unselfish as it looks toward the good of others. It develops humility within a believer teaching one not to trust 'self,' but to rely totally on God The father, folks Love thinks more of others than one's self.

II John 1:5 And now I plead with you, lady, not as though I wrote a new Commandment to you, but that which we have had from the beginning: that we Love one another.

John shows his hearts desire 1:5 And now I plead with you, lady, The Apostle did not command or try to order her using either his position or his respected age and past history but rather pleaded with her. John was the last one living who had walked talked touched and seen Jesus and the mighty Works The Christ did. One would think he would have related over and over again to others, due to their questions that which had happened in the days of The Lords Holy Presence on earth. 1:5...not as though John is saying there is no confusion here, It's not as if, or It's not like The Lord is making things hard for you/us. He has, and always will keep it simple so we can follow! 1:5...I wrote a new Commandment to you, This speaks about what all believers should learn from the beginning of their Salvation experience, to love God and each other, to walk in His Truth always. 1:5...but that which we have had from the beginning: that we Love one another. This is the hall mark of a true believer, that they love God and one another. The Holy Spirit is not placing extra burdens upon the church to do something new but reminding us of that which has always been. In the beginning, God Created man and woman with the purpose that the two love each other and become one. God did not create Adam for Adam's sake or Eve for Eve's sake. God created Adam for Eve and Eve for Adam. Likewise, God created Adam and Eve for His Own Love, and His Own Joy. God did not create Adam and Eve for the sake of knowledge, power or money. God The Father does not need knowledge, power or money, nay He Created them to love each other and to Love Him as He Loved them. God's Holy Purpose was to raise Adam and Eve in the body of love and to eventually fill the world with such love.



Love was meant to be man's reason to live but mankind fell, however Love visited the earth and went willingly to a cross to die for sinful man, opening up the doors of heaven. So for a true believer love is the God-given purpose, the reason for our existence. John in writing down The Lords Command of Love shows that he lived in such a state of mind and spirit. Many jump straight into the Ten Commandments with these writings and they are of course right at least up to a degree as it has always been about love, but really the Command John is enforcing here is what Jesus Christ Said to His disciples [Jn 13:34](#) "A new Commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have Loved you, that you also love one another. We shall see this as a truth soon. It is not possible for a person to love as we are requested to unless we have The Holy Spirit Living within us, and how much we love one another depends on how much we are willing to surrender ourselves over to The Will of The Spirit. You see the new Commandment Jesus gave comes with 'A Gift' greater than any gift anyone else could give us. All believers receive freely The Gift of The Holy Spirit, this was not the case in the Old Testament times.

**II John 1:6 And this is Love, that we walk according to His Commandments. This is the Commandment, that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it.**

The original text actually states **and this is THE Love**. The word 'the' enforces a singular point, 'the' attaches a specific, individual object, target or thing to a meaning. **1:6 And this is Love, that we walk according to His Commandments**. We have seen from verse one thus far the word 'Command' used four times. The Holy Spirit though John is telling the elect lady and all others (**us**) that this is a directive from The Father, so we had better listen. Are we walking in the correct fashion concerning these Commands? And how do we know that we are? The answer to both questions is simple. We are walking in the correct fashion witnessed by our desired obedience which in turns allows us to personally know such is true, due to our walk of faith being Governed and directed by The Holy Spirit. **1:6...that as you have heard from the beginning, you should walk in it**. As mentioned above this is not speaking of keeping the Mosaic law of Commandments which man heard from the beginning but rather the Gospel of Love, which they heard when the Gospel was preached to them in the beginning of their Salvation walk, folks just as they heard in the beginning so we also had a beginning, did we not hear that The Son Obeyed The Fathers Command? [John 15:10](#) "If you keep My Commandments, you will abide in My Love; just as I have kept My Father's Commandments and abide in His Love." **1:6...you should walk in it**. The Holy Spirit is saying through John to **walk in it!** So what does 'walk in it' mean. Who are we Baptized into? Who are we kept in? Walk ye therefore In The Holy Spirit! In it means in His Truth, In His Spirit, In Christ Jesus, In obedience. Folks, this is a warning not to lose the understanding of the Commandment of God, John pleads with the elect lady and her children to walk in His (**God's**) Love. We must not lose the Great Spiritual Principle of Charity through the craftiness of wicked people who water down The Gospel of Truth.

**II John 1:7 For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in The Flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.**

Think about the word 'many' **1:7 For many deceivers...** we are not talking about a small hand full of people but many, they were infiltrating the churches of John's day with untruths.



These people as many today are filled with seducing spirits 1 Tim 4:1 The Spirit clearly Says that in later times some will abandon The Faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. These horrid people are not happy with the lie they have attached themselves with as their pride is so puffed up it needs to see others fall into the trap they have placed themselves into! Folks if any of us fall into these false doctrines then it is a deliberate act of stupidity on our behalf, we know better! Just as they did but they have willingly, knowingly chosen the path of korah (just to name one of many) who rebelled against God's order. These people do not take their deception out into the world, as worldly people will not listen to such foolishness but rather they prey on Christians that are weak in the word or just struggling in general, or of course new in The Faith. 1:7...have gone out into the world This means they have left the teachings of The Holy Spirit, walked willingly away from the church back into the death grip of the world. Even though they themselves are weak they have seducing spirits aiding them to deceive as many as possible with convincing untruths, hence the twisting of Scripture. 2 Tim 4:3...but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves (false) teachers; They will turn their ears away from The Truth and turn aside to myths. If mankind's pride is not arrested it will drive him/her to self service which is an insult to God The Father as His Son did it all at the Cross, He left nothing undone and to suggest He did is blasphemy. Mankind wants to have some control over his/her life, yes many surrender their hearts to God but hold certain never spoken underlining conditions that allow them the right of control when desired. So what happens to such people that decide to deliberately walk after their own gospel of lies? Hebrews 10:29-30 How much more severely do you think one deserves to be punished who has trampled on The Son of God, profaned The Blood of The Covenant that Sanctified him, and insulted The Spirit of Grace? For we know Him who Said, "Vengeance is Mine; I will repay," and again, "The Lord will Judge His people." It would have been better if these people had not been born! 1:7...who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in The Flesh. These people do not truly believe that Christ was born into a Fleshly Body, hence that He became man! They believe that Jesus was a man, and that He walked on this earth but that is where it ends. Why would I type such words? You see, if someone does not believe that Jesus completed everything that was needed to be completed at the cross then they do not believe that He was Perfect or in fact God in the Flesh as they preach the need for self-works to bring about the completion of their Salvation. This minimises The Truth reducing the birth, life, and Work Jesus did at the cross as a partial work, an inconclusive activity, an indecisive finishing of tasks with loose ends that need man's input to please The Father, wow scary stuff. 1:7...This is a deceiver and an antichrist. John as he did in his first Epistle uses strong words regarding those who deny or pervert The Truth, Jesus called John "the son of thunder," jealously protective about the honour of his Lord's Birth, Life, Death and Resurrection. John hated erroneous teachings and this good hatred came from a firm understanding of The Truth, which in turn came from a profound love of The Truth. It is easy to copy and even exceed the righteous anger shown by John which I have foolishly done in the past, sadly our strong words can come from an expression of a heated temper, and a man who loses his temper in an argument cares more about himself than about The Truth (pride). We need to be aware that we must first hold an equal understanding of Truth, and live our lives according to The Power of Jesus' Love, if we are not living and displaying such a humble love mixed with compassion and mercy we need to shut up!

These ‘no mess around’ words of the Apostle are driven by a strong love and desire to see the elect lady and her children develop a greater awareness of falsehood, equally his words come from a powerful conviction that the **deceiver and antichrist** movement is growing in mass numbers, these are forerunners of the man of sin that is yet to come, and in whom the mystery of iniquity already has begun to do it’s evil work, the words **deceiver and antichrist** do not point to any one particular person, but rather a set of men/women, that live contrary to Christ, and oppose who He is and what He has done. Today John’s words hold an even stronger message for the believing church, for there are many untruths and inner pressures that press against believers in the world today, family members, friends, in the work place, schools, universities, governments, play grounds, even life long partners and children can fight with us over His Truth, all that list provides inner pressures for us to live through, for such people we need to be praying for them in The Love and Salvation Power of our Lord Jesus Christ, they are not as such antichrist but rather dead at the moment to The Truth. But the **deceiver and antichrist** come from within! They can be prominent church leaders or members that oppose the True Teachings of Jesus Christ, such are cunning and crafty workers of evil, filled with darkness, such comes from within the church, let us be aware at all times checking doctrinal applications with The Truth, for God’s Truth always points to Mercy and Grace forged in Love, proved through the Work Jesus Christ did at the cross, in short all things should lead to His Sacrifice. People, it is **possible** to rationalize and misinterpret ‘the’ Scriptures until we invent justification for our desired sin! A true relationship with The Father cannot be reduced to a mere acceptance of philosophy. If we assert that we are walking with The Holy Spirit but condemn others as sinners then the doctrine we live by has not translated into an action or state of a life changing Power, which only leaves death! Why do I write all truth points to the cross? Because no matter how good or holy we may want to believe we have come, we all sin and fall short of God’s required standards, without the Work of The Son of God on the cross and spilling of His Blood we would be left with our self-righteousness which would condemn us into hell. Hourly we need to thank Him for His Sacrifice which supplies us abundantly with forgiveness. The church is so concerned with sin outside of it’s doors it **has ceased to see the truth and danger of the sin within!** The Holy Spirit through Paul wrote [1 Timothy 1:8-10](#) **We know that the law is good if one uses it properly** (Praying by faith ‘In Christ’ for lost souls). **We also know that the law is made not for the righteous** (One is only righteous if they are ‘in Christ’ covered by His Righteousness making them law keepers) **but for lawbreakers and rebels** (As we all were), **the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious, for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for the sexually immoral, for those practising homosexuality, for slave traders and liars and perjurers—and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine.** Paul makes it clear the law will continue to do it’s job regardless of the churches views, so we may as well do that which we are meant to do, live by Love, and preach Jesus Christ Crucified for our sins! Paul writes directly after this [1 Timothy 1:15-17](#) **Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst.** (Paul makes it clear he was a sinner, and that he was still a sinner by using the present words **I am the worst** rather than ‘I was the worst.’ He fully understood that there was no sin worse than his as no one else's sin damned him, the law which works in the world found him guilty and convicted him to eternal damnation) **But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive Eternal Life** (The list above of lawbreakers that Paul wrote of need our prayers and

mercy not our self righteous judgment, as Paul even though he was not acting out any seen sin, we fall short of God's Holy requirements due to our flesh which automatically condemns us as sinners). **Now to The King Eternal, Immortal, Invisible, The only God, be Honour and Glory for ever and ever. Amen.** And I write 'amen and amen' for He deserves praise and worship as we are no longer hell bound due to His wonderful Wisdom, Love, Mercy and Grace which had bought us freedom from sins hold. People, the church is being infiltrated by rebellious people posing as Christians teaching deceptions, such as we need to fight some holy war against other human beings we call 'sinners', just those words alone should cause us to shiver in the spirit. True, sin is not expectable, but we need to be wise as to how we deal with such as we all sin! We need to fight against sin, firstly by being honest about who and what we are and the state of the church, then with those outside of the church! How? By being honest in prayer about who we really are with thanks giving for Who Jesus is and what He has done for us! How? In the Power of Love. How? By and in The Holy Spirits Love, for it is by Mercy in Grace through Christ we receive The Gift of The Mighty Spirit of Life, only He who is changing our hearts thoughts and desires can change the hearts of others.

Next week our study starts with **2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.** You see The Lord wants to continue to change our hearts. The Lord wants us to remain in His care.

**AMEN !?**

II John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we do not lose those things we worked for, but that we may receive a full reward.

John writes just as Paul did 1:8 Look to yourselves, This is not a statement that you or I can by self power govern our hearts, but rather we are to examine with honesty our hearts condition. Paul wrote in 2 Cor 13:5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are **in The Faith**. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified. John and Paul by The Holy Spirit is telling us that we need to safeguard our hearts and minds by being in Christ Jesus. We need to look at ourselves to see if we are in ‘The Faith’, not ‘a faith’. The Faith always points to, and only to Who Jesus was and is, and what He did for lost man. When the church is out in the world fighting against every sin that pops up then the church is indeed there...In the world...It does not belong there, it belongs In Christ, yes, we are in this world but not part of it Rom 12:1 tells us Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind... And John 17:14 says I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. When The Book of Revelation is being acted out by a sinful world do not look surprised as we have been informed by The Master Himself through His Word. Fellow Believers, who Saved your soul? Was it by your own initiative? Was it by another persons wisdom and power? Nay! It was by the work and Power of Jesus’ Sacrifice which was brought to you by The Power and Love of The Holy Spirit. God Spoke and Acted first Isa 45:22 "**Look unto me, and you will be Saved**, He Spoke and we heard! The Holy Spirit Alone has The Power to Call on sinners, and sinners have the power to believe or reject. Rev 3:20 Behold, **I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My Voice and opens the door...** People The Spirit brings the ability for man to say ‘yes or no’. Am I saying that we ignore sin, that we allow sin to rule, that we leave the world to sink in it’s sin? **NO**, utterly and certainly not, we are to fight the fight of Faith! The answer to man’s sin problem is found in what Jesus did at the cross, His Sacrifice holds all that mankind needs to come out from under sins hold. Where sin abounds the object of the churches action should be to make sure 1/ We are secure in ‘The Faith’ least we ourselves fall 2/ That our actions and words are driven by The Love of Jesus. If we have that right 3/ We will not make war against sinful man (as we were no better) 4/ But rather allow The Holy Spirit to show His Love through us. Meaning the Power that Saved us can freely Work in others through us, Amen? 1:8...that we do not lose those things we worked for, Firstly, the only work we can do is self surrender in faith, allowing The Holy Spirit to make us more like Jesus, folks, we cannot even change the smallest heart condition within us. What does John mean by ‘lose things’? Simply, it speaks of a gradual falling away from Truth, it starts with faith being weakened which allows, bit by bit our Joy, Peace, gladness Love and understanding of truth to be slowly, horribly eroded. If we buy into false and erroneous teachings then all the Work that The Holy Spirit has done within us becomes twisted and confused, and sadly it is by our own foolish self-will that we fall over, this ‘**could**’ end up with the loss of ones complete Salvation. Again I write, look at what is working within us, are we desiring to have our own hearts changed? Do we see the need to have our hearts changed? Or do we think we have arrived at being ‘most holy’ thus able to take the speck out of another man’s eye.

Jesus Said in [Matt 7:3](#) **And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank that is in your own eye?** Folks, stay in The Love of The Spirit for it is in that place where the specks and planks are removed, live and act by Truths right motives, store up Joy, Peace, and Love within your soul and others will follow you due to The Holy Spirit's Presence. [1:8](#)...**but that we may receive a full reward.** Again we see that we can lose part or all that we had. Anything we lose is eternal, never to be given back. I want it all, I want to be as close to The Lord as possible! The reward Spoken of here is a great reward something not to be lost in part or full, The Lord does everything awesomely mightily and this reward fits right into the place of awesomeness. We receive the full reward by being faithful, by trusting in His Sacrifice, by allowing Him to change our hearts into that which truly represents His Loving Actions and Person, thus others are also changed!

**II John 1:9 Whoever transgresses and does not abide in The Doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in The Doctrine of Christ has both The Father and The Son.**

This verse tells us it is possible for to walk away from the safety of one's Salvation. [1:9](#) **Whoever transgresses and does not abide in The Doctrine of Christ does not have God.** This person or persons has allowed false doctrine to move them away from The Truth. Their transgression causes them to no longer abide in Christ's Truth which means they have moved themselves away from God, which means God The Holy Spirit is not able, due to their unrepentant hearts to work within them. They once lived in The Truth of Jesus' Sacrifice, they once said yes to Jesus, for one cannot transgress against The Doctrine unless they have known it, abided in it! These people have not stopped believing in 'god' or in 'jesus the spirit or the gospel' but have rather moved their faith from What and Who Saved them onto something else. [1:9](#)...**He who abides in The Doctrine of Christ has both The Father and The Son.** This confirms The Lord's Words [Jn 14:6](#) **Jesus said, "I am The Way and The Truth and The Life. No one comes to The Father except through Me.** We must abide in The Doctrine of Christ to be with The Father. The word doctrine simply means an act of teaching or that which is taught. However, in Scripture the meaning is broader than a simple reference to information passed on from one person to another or from one generation to the next. Christianity is founded on The Message of The Good News, and The Good News comes from The Doctrine of Christ which is rooted and grown in the importance of The Birth, Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, such is found in nothing else, and nobody else full stop! In Scripture, then, all doctrines come from 'The Doctrine,' His Sacrifice which defines and describes this wonderful Message, this was set in place before time was even introduced. [1 Peter 1:20-21](#) **He was Chosen (Jesus Christ) before the Creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through Him you believe in God, Who Raised Him from the Dead and Glorified Him, and so your faith and hope are in God.**

**II John 1:10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this Doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him;**

Very strong words! [1:10](#) **If anyone comes to you and does not bring this Doctrine,** The Doctrine of Christ is the only pathway to Salvation. John is not speaking about those that have not heard The Good News or even of those that hold to another religion or faith, but to people that have heard and believed, and then chosen not to just walk away, but to create another message based on lies. [1:10](#)...**do not receive him into your house** This seems to go against the basic teachings of Christianity, to close the door on them!



But John takes it even further **1:10... nor greet him**; Why then so harsh? These people who once held onto The Message of Jesus' Sacrifice have trampled upon His offering and made little of the pain that The Father and Son went through. False teachers and deceivers were not allowed to enter their homes nor were they welcome in the church, and this stands today as a truth. This does not mean we are not to pray for them! By closing the door of fellowship to them they are left to their own devices which could in the end allow them to see the madness of their actions and words, plus of course it keeps those in the homes and churches safe from their crafty demon filled deceptions. However 'if' any of these people were to repent then the door of fellowship would be opened to them.

### **II John 1:11 for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds**

This is not a case of believers having a debate over the meaning of words within doctrine, but rather a complete unrepentant evil driven by seducing spirits. In the last verse we are told not to let them into our homes nor to even greet them. But, as I wrote above, we are to pray for such people unless The Holy Spirit directs differently. The King James uses the words **biddeth him God speed** where many other bibles have translated it as **Anyone who welcomes them shares in their wicked work** either way saying God speed, or simply welcoming them in presents a picture of acceptance, which is a blessing unto them, so don't bless them, but rather say, may God bring you back to The Truth, or may God bring you out of the darkness and into The Glorious Light of His Son, then bid them farewell and close the door, and then pray for them!

### **II John 1:12 Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.**

There are other things that this home church has in need of hearing. John uses a the Greek phrase (**stoma pro stoma**), which literally means "mouth to mouth." The idea is two people directly communicating without any barriers or distance. Personal visits have a different importance, and a different feel, to distance communication. This is still true even today as it allows those gathering to get a far better gauge of where everyone is emotionally, physically, and spiritually. The fact that John writes **come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full** makes me feel that John had concerns about the false teachers and the elect ladies possible acceptance of them, equally it appears he had confidence in The Spirit that a face to face meeting would bring the desired outcome!

### **II John 1:13 The children of your Elect sister greet you. Amen.**

This is another ladies children sending their greeting to the Elect lady. These are not mere words but hold a deeply sincere love. May God bless us as we aim towards such care and love.

**And that ends the study on 2 John**

**AMEN**



**THE THIRD EPISTLE OF  
JOHN**

Scripture being studied in red. Other use of scriptures used in blue. Side comments in pink.

**3 John 1:1 The Elder, unto the beloved Gaius, whom I love in Truth:**

John does not use his name but the title **The Elder** just as he did in the letter of 2 John which we have just completed. **1:1 The Elder, unto the beloved Gaius** This could be the same Gaius that is mentioned in **Acts 19:29 The people seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Paul's travelling companions from Macedonia...** and **Rom 16:23 Gaius, whose hospitality I and the whole church here enjoy** and **1 Cor 1:14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius** If this is the same one and only person it tells us that he was probably younger than Paul and John, and that he did not see The Lord in Person 'at least' whilst The Christ Walked on the earth. The reason I state that is The Apostle John was the last one living that had walked with Jesus! (**However Jesus could have appeared to Gaius after the Resurrection as He has to countless numbers**). **1:1...whom I love in Truth:** Faith at least true Faith, always has the Power of **Love** driving it! John's Faith in Christ Jesus gave him through The Holy Spirit The Power to love with a greater Love that unsaved man has any knowledge of, as his love was Powered in **Truth!** We can 'know The Truth' and thus be set free (see **Jn 8:31-32**) And 'we have fellowship when we live by The Truth' (see **1 Jn 1:6**) Jesus plainly Said "I am The Truth"! So John wrote **I love in Truth** meaning he loves in and through Christ.

**3 John 1:2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.**

We must not take these words and turn them into a prosperity doctrine! **1:2 Beloved,** John continues to demonstrate by word The Love of God. **1:2...I pray that you may prosper in all things** This indeed refers to financial prosperity which our Lord is more than willing to give unto His children. Look at the people in room, each have a roof over their heads, beds to sleep on, food in the fridge, homes with heating and so on. If you put ink on paper you may get a shock to see what you have spend or wasted your money on, and indeed how many \$\$ have been wasted! **1:2...and be in health,** That is John's prayer, his desire, that prosperity and healing come upon Gaius. As it is with prosperity so it is with the healing, I strongly believe that The Lord's desire is for all be healed. So you would ask, why do we have sick believers? And sadly my answer is I simply do not know, but I do have some thoughts on this subject **1/** We must live in and by Faith and that Faith must be in Who Jesus is and what He did, not what we want Him do for us! **2/** We do live in as it were old tents (**Bodies**) They are worn and become so much more each day, hence, they age naturally. **3/** We certainly need to press into The Holy Spirit desiring to become more like Jesus each day. **4/** In doing so we will slowly cease to draw any joy from anything this old world has offered up to us in the past. I wish I could write something a bit more enlightening for you but that is all I have on the subject, however I do believe if we press into these points mentioned above we will see a better standard of life arise within us, I am 100% confident of that. **1:2...just as your soul prospers.** This speaks of one's spirit, the greatest prosperity one can have as all other things go back to the ground (**including money**). The spirit is eternal meaning it can never die. **Mat 6:19-21**"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. We must make sure we keep our spirit in His Truth, we are told in 2 Cor 13:1 to examine our Faith. Again, as I wrote just above, press into The Holy Spirit, desire to become like Jesus, require nothing from this world, desire only His Will.

**3 John 1:3 For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and Testified of The Truth that is in you, even as thou walk in The Truth.**

As it should be, I for one have need to look even more so towards The Lord! **1:3 For I rejoiced greatly** The Apostle does not hold back about the joy he felt on hearing Gaius's spiritual condition. In fact in the previous verse is a witness of his joy, praying every possible type of blessing onto Gaius. **1:3 when brethren came and Testified** This is not hear say or gossip but testimonial truths provided from trusted sources. **1:3 of The Truth that is in you,** The reason for John's rejoicing was that **The Truth** was Living in Gaius. John wrote Epistles 2 and 3 if not on the same day then within a few days from each other. The gnostic lie was being preached in the areas of the elect lady and Gaius. As I have already stated John was the last man living that had walked with The Master, he had seen miracles performed that defied description. He saw Jesus hung on a cross! He watched Christ die! And then "All praise to God Almighty" he touched and spoke with The Resurrected Lord of Glory. And yet, even with such a strong and undeniable Testimony many walked after seducing spirits leaving the words directed by The Holy Spirit through John to depart from their hearts, leaving only the ticking time of deaths pangs to take it's newly found captives down to the grave. **1:3...even as thou walk** The word 'walk' proclaims Gaius's actions or works, which starts inwardly, allowing The Holy Spirit to teach the believer that the old sinful man needs to be changed into the new man, all believers need to become Christlike, and as Gaius governed his behaviour correct in the spirit by The Faith, this was happening. The word 'thou' in the Greek stresses the same cannot be said about some others, they had gone after seducing spirits. **1:3...in The Truth.** All believers must walk in The Spirit, only in Christ can one be truly changed **Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in The Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.** This is what Sanctification is all about, immediately at our conversion The Holy Spirit enters into our darkened spiritual hearts and brings Life, with the sole purpose of making us over a time Christlike **Romans 7:18-21 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.** We must walk in The Spirit, we must stay in The Spirit. Sadly many believers are taught incorrectly or even not at all about the Sanctification process and move away from that which The Spirit is doing onto fleshly works.

**3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in Truth.**

This is the love that John held in his heart! **1:4 I have no greater joy** This joy is born from the love one believer has unto another, the great commandment that Jesus gave His children to live in **Jn 15:12 -13 This is My Commandment, that you love one another as I have Loved you. Greater Love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.** This is a solid self denying love that does not rest unless their is a positive result for others regardless of the outcome to one's self. **1:4...than to hear that my children** John had become their spiritual father in the right sense, he loved to hear the things that they were doing and always rejoiced at their Godly desire to serve firstly the Lord then their church family.

**1:4...walk in Truth.** As I wrote before the word **walk** constitutes an act of action being done, in this case walking in The Holy Spirit with complete obedient surrender unto His Desire and Directions, this is of great joy unto John.

**3 John 1:5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,** We need to learn from these acts of love **1:5 Beloved, you do faithfully** The Lord has not called us to be successful, but to be faithful! **1:5...whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,** The faithful work and loving labour that Gaius performed was directed toward the brothers mentioned in **vs 3**, who were reporting back to John about how Gaius was walking in The Truth. They are the brothers whom Gaius helped financially and in other ways as they spread The Gospel. The words '**Brethren**' and '**strangers**' refer to people that worked in some manner within the ministry of Jesus Christ. John is singing the praises of this great Christian who is ready to entertain travelling preachers of The Gospel even when he does not know them personally, hence many of them were complete strangers to him. These people were not Gaius' personal acquaintances or dear friends, who would naturally receive his hospitality, he knew them only because of their faith, and that was enough for this loving supporter of Truth. John commends his high level of hospitality.

**3 John 1:6 who have borne witness of your love before the church. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well,** We should all be accused of this **1:6 who have borne witness of your love before the church.** Many believers who walked the dusty roads to teach, preach and evangelize The Word of God had received blessing upon blessing from Gaius, and they in turn have proclaimed his kindness that went above and beyond that which most would give. It would appear that not many from the church which Gaius came from shared the same devotion. **1:6...If you send them forward on their journey** The Godly task is indicated in the words, '**send them forward,**' this was an action the true church was to do in support of the work of God's preachers. "**send them forward on their journey**" is '**propempe**' in the Greek and means to '**bring on the way, accompany or escort, send them forward**' **1:6...in a manner worthy of God,** There are at least two meanings that might be attached to this expression. It could mean that Gaius is to support these brethren in the same manner he would support The God of heaven Himself. Or it could mean that he is to treat these preachers in the same way God would treat them. In either case, it requires the very best treatment that he can possibly give. **1:6...you will do well,** Great is the reward of obedience. Look after the saints that work for God don't discredit them, pray and seek God on their behalf. The word '**Well**' is the Greek is '**kalos**' and literally means '**beautiful...pleasing**'. We sometimes say to others "beautiful job, done when" and slap them on the back. If we like Gaius treat God's workers correctly it will be considered as '**beautiful and well-pleasing**' to God.

**3 John 1:7 because they went forth for His name's sake, taking nothing from the Gentiles.** The desire to serve. **1:7 because they went forth for His name's sake,** These preachers were of course Called and Gifted by The Lord to do such awesome work. These men and women walked the roads preaching The Good News in The Name of The Most Holy One. In those days to do such was dangerous and also demanded for a time anyway they must leave their loved ones behind, but they looked through the dangers and sacrifices on and into a Greater Truth, they truly walked with Jesus.

**1:7...taking nothing from the Gentiles.** Most of the people that turned to The Lord in those days and onto our days have been gentiles due to the prophecies concerning Israel. These preacher, teachers etc. Were going into areas that no one had gone before, taking the Message of The Gospel to the four corners of the world...This is history in the making folks, hallelujah. It would appear Apostle John followed and taught Paul's teaching of not taking money from the gentiles, at least to start with, showing that Christianity was not like the heathen practises of that day that loved gold, silver and so on. As the churches grew in understanding with the moving of The Holy Spirit they provided love offerings one church area to another as hard times struck.

**3 John 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for The Truth.**

God sends and we should receive. **1:8 We therefore ought to receive such,** This is speaking about those who labour in The Word and Doctrine of Christ. They have been sent by The Lord, He has Called and Anointed them in and by The Holy Spirit to preach His Word which becomes obvious when we hear their words. The church **ought to receive such,** as to not do so is as good as rejecting God Himself! **1:8...that we may become fellow workers** We all work together but we are not all preachers, teachers, evangelists, prophets etc. Not every one can leave his or her home to go and preach, but we can all participate by supporting those who do. These men and woman bring to our ears The correct Holy Spirit given Doctrine clothed in Christ Jesus' Sacrifice, without such we would all fall from The Truth one by one as our ears tune into cleverly laid out demonic lies. These workers of Truth should not just receive our hearing ears but all that they need, so that they are able to continue as stress free as possible the deliver God's Word! Folks, those that go have to be sent which should be obvious, so those that send are partakers of the same ministry, as are those they encourage in His Name, therefore we should all aid in which ever way we can these workers of Truth in their travels. **1:8...for The Truth.** Jesus Christ can do anything and provide everything but He has not left us to be just seat warmers. We all need to be praying that the one's we send remain in The Truth, we all need to aid each other in the learning of His awesome Word. We all need to encourage, endorse, and correct each other in Love.

Scripture being studied in red. Other use of scriptures used in blue. Side comments in pink.

3 John 1:9 I wrote to the church, but diotrephes, who love to have pre-eminence among them, does not receive us.

Did this church receive or reject John's letter? 1:9 I wrote to the church, The church in mind was having problems with correct Doctrine, and as is always the case it was being caused by someone within the church moving away from The Truth. This letter was not passed on by the man of deceit to the rest of the church, hence we see this letter being sent to Gaius.

1:9...but diotrephes And here is his name, revealed for all to see as he was in every word a deceiver, an antichrist. This man opposed John openly suppressing and opposing John's Gospel and Epistles/letters even to the point, as we shall see to the removing by force anyone that stood by John's words!(No capital letter for he who dishonours Jesus).

Interestingly, the name diotrephes in the Greek means 'zeus-nursed' zeus was the chief of the god's within the Greek belief system, so his name literary meant as I understand it 'the head god that looked after the lesser god's'. The custom in the early church was for a Christian Greek to discard his pagan name and take on a Christian name, which it seems he did not do. The problem appears to be two fold in that this man of darkness did not abide in The Truth, witnessed by what John wrote to Gaius, and he also liked to have pre-eminence (meaning...being first, number one, top dog, the big shot, Mr right and so on...) 1:9...who love to have pre-eminence among them, This speaks about how he saw himself within the church order. He used cunning and deceitful methods to gain ascension over weaker believers in the faith slowly gaining the authority he so badly desired within the church. This level of self imposed control came through lies, bullying and political positioning rather than The Holy Spirits provision. 1:9 I...does not receive us. This man and his followers would not except John's, Gaius's or any other believers words, which means they rejected openly The Holy Spirits Council.

3 John 1:10 Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his works which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.

'If' John was unsure. 1:10 Therefore, if I come, Some commentaries say his age made it hard for him to travel and that I can believe, but I think there was a greater reason in that he was waiting on The Lord for direct guidance, one would imagine he more than likely was asked to travel to many areas due to the wave of evil that had come from the gnostics.

1:10...I will call to mind his works which he does, prating against us with malicious words. Again another reason I think he was waiting on The Lord, the words he is putting down in ink are Holy Spirit inspired! So The Spirit through John wrote...I will...I shall...call to mind, his works, prating, and malicious words. We see here that his words in fact translated into 'works' by his constant prating against believers, his evil words gained him a brief moment in time a place of heightened authority. 1:10...And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church. There can be no doubt he welded some power. He has openly attacked the great Apostle without fearing God, he rejected the brothers that John had sent, and to full stop his stupidity he cast out of the church anyone that wanted to hear John's messengers. Such foolish acts can not and for sure did not go unchallenged. diotrephes was no longer the one under the spot light but John, to remain silent would cause massive problems for the church going forward.



**3 John 1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.**

There can be no doubt that in this exhortation John has diotrephes particularly in his thoughts **1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.** John exhorts Gaius not to imitate diotrephes example, but follow that which is good. Remain in The Faith and be a follower of God The Father, imitate Him in acts of kindness and love, be merciful as He is, copy the deeds of Jesus Christ, who went about doing good, and declared it to be more blessed to give than to receive. Remember those good men and women that went before you and tread in their steps, who have shown love to the name of Christ, by ministering to His saints. **1:11...He who does good is of God,** He who does good is one that holds fast to The Truth, one that lives in Christ, one who understands The Sacrifice and remains by Faith under The Teaching of The Holy Spirit, that is a child of God, such will become like his Lord who is Kind and Merciful. This person is Born of God and has passed from death to Life, which his love for the brothers and sisters proves. This shows The Grace of God, The Strength of Christ, and the Blessed Assistance of The Holy Spirit, Who without, one could not be good or holy! **1:11...but he who does evil** Meaning, such a man has had no spiritual Saving sight of The Living God. We see here the importance of understanding as best we can of what Jesus Christ did for us at the cross. No one can come to The Father least it be through Christ's Sacrifice! And for that to become possible God had to become a man as God Himself cannot die. The Almighty King became flesh so that He could lay down His Life for wicked man, paying the sin debt which was beyond man's possible ability to reach and pay. **1:11...has not seen God.** I repeat again the only way to see The Father is through Jesus Christ, He is The Way The Truth and The Life. Note he who does good is of God! It does not say they have seen The Father! Nay, we shall see The Father in all His Glory once we get to heaven. He that does evil has not seen God actually implies not only have they not seen God but there is a good chance they may never see Him. Even at The Great White Judgment Seat it is Jesus Who presides at the Judgment Seat.

**3 John 1:12 Demetrius has a good testimony from all, and from The Truth itself. And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is True.**

Demetrius? **1:12 Demetrius** We have little information on this man. It is thought that he probably was the deliverer of this Epistle. But it is impossible to determine that with total certainty, but there is one circumstance which seems to make it probable in that he was a member of the same church with Gaius, and had united with him in showing Christian hospitality to these strangers, and possible he was one that stood against the evil that was coming from within that church. **1:12...and from The Truth Itself.** This is outstanding, Demetrius was so faithful to The Truth that even The Truth was a Witness on his behalf.

**1:12...And we also bear witness, and you know that our testimony is True.** Again outstanding, This man Demetrius has been introduced to us without any warning, John just brings in the person called Demetrius. It would seem to be an example of the good which Gaius can imitate. John spoke in the warmest terms of Demetrius and produces a threefold testimony to his character. He had a good testimony from 'everyone,' i.e. from every Christian who knew him but perhaps especially from those in the elder's immediate circle. He could also receive a testimonial from "the truth itself." This can be taken to mean that if The Truth Spoke out, it too would testify that Demetrius's life was in accord with its own standards. It is possible for a person to miss obtaining human favour and yet to enjoy God's favour.



Even if the deceiver Diotrephes and his group might disapprove of Demetrius, yet he would be upheld at and by God's Approval. Finally, John adds his own testimony, and reminds Gaius that he knows him to be a Truthful Witness. John's word can be trusted over against any possible insinuations from Diotrephes. Thus the full complement of three witnesses provided to uphold Demetrius.

**3 John 1:13 I had many things to write, but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink;** John wants to personally speak to Gaius. Some may say that at times written words can convey to the reader an incorrect understanding of the message intended, and that is most certainly possible however if the believer is filled with and walking in The Holy Spirit seeks understanding of that which he/she has read The Lord will not let them down. **1:13 I had many things to write,** John has a list of things to say and I am not sure that it is all about the gnostic antichrist. At the time of John writing this Epistle he was in his early nineties and would pen the book of Revelation 6 or 7 years later so it is thought that John did indeed go to the church and call out diotrephes regarding the issues that confronted Gaius's fellowship, hence The Lord dealt with the issues that were coming from diotrephes and followers.

**3 John 1:14 but I hope to see you shortly, and we shall speak face to face.**

**Peace to you. Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.**

There is no record of this visit taking place but I believe that it happened due to the amount of time John had left on earth, plus John strongly desired to see Gaius face. **1:14 Peace to you.** Regardless of the issues that faces Gaius and other members of the church John by The Holy Spirit reminds them that they are in this world but not part of it, so The Peace of God is indeed within them, this is a wonderful aid for us all to take stock of what we are feeling for that will determine how we act! One holds onto The Lords Peace by staying attached to The Truth which causes one to praise and worship Him. **1:14...Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name.** And this is what Peace brings, family closeness. Jesus calls His sheep by name, The salutation is not to be given in a general way, but to each individual separately and John as The Elder or if you will 'shepherd of the Churches' imitate The Good Shepherd by knowing all the his sheep of his pasture.