

The Good...
The Bad And The Ugly
(3 John)

Great things often come in small packages

3 John: shortest book in Bible

Writer: the elder (old). Rv.2:10

Receiver: Gaius. No address

- Beloved: 4x (1,2,5,11).
- I love in truth: 6x (1,3,4,8,12, *truth*) [*true*].
 - Truth: in harmony with facts
 - Necessary for Christians, too

John's prayer (2):

No other author prays for health and wealth of addressee.

- **Prosper.** Lit., have good journey (life).
- **Health.** Lk.5:31. It is proper to pray for the sick
- **As soul prospers.**

I The Commendation, 3-8

Commends Gaius for his work

3: 'for'

- Diotrophes rejected John's epistle and preachers.
- John rejoices that Gaius received them.
 - Truth in you (emphatic)
 - Walks in truth (acts on knowledge)
 - Ep.4:15.

Words often do not match walk.

4: John: no greater joy...

- Children walking in truth. 1 Jn.1:7; 2 Jn.4.
 - Children: fatherly affection; his joy bound up in their spiritual welfare (Gal.4:19-20).
 - Their belief and behavior match.
 - 3-4, Gaius has this effect on John.

How would I affect John?

5: you do faithfully ... for brethren (strangers)

1. Secret to success: pass it on.
2 Tim.2:2
 - Jg.7:21; Mt.10:42
2. Received strangers (fellow workers,
8): lit., love of strangers. Hb.13:2

As 2 John: what to do with preachers?

¹2 Jn.10-11: do not receive them

²3 John: receive them

6: borne witness of your love

They told John about
good work Gaius was doing...

- Worthily of God; preachers of truth represent God; treats them as they would Lord Himself.
 - Mt.10:40
 - Ep.6:6-7
 - Tit.3:13
- You will do well. Mt.25:21, 23

2 Samuel 10:1-5

Mt.25:40

Ac.9:4

7: preachers were spending /
being spent to spread truth

2 Co.12:15

- Took no wages from Gentiles
- Would they work to exhaustion and exposure if Lord's body still in tomb?
- Does v.7 describe me?

8: pun

We ought to receive those who refuse to receive things from Gentiles (7-8)

- These are not deceivers to turn away (as 2 Jn.9-11).

It matters what we believe . . .

Thus, it matters who we support

- Fellow workers for truth.

I The Commendation, 3-8

Commends Gaius for his work

II The Contamination, 9-11

Diotrephes, danger to Gaius

9: John wrote church; Diotrephes rejected him.

- Domineering: loves preeminence
 - Put himself first.
 - “I’m number one”
 - Took best seats
 - Probably a leader in congregation

9: John wrote church; Diotrephes rejected him.

- Domineering: loves preeminence
- Disdainful: does not receive us.
1 Pt.5:3

10: If I come, I will expose...

- Prating against us: talk nonsense about someone (prattle); bring unjustified charges against. 1 Tim.5:13
- Does not receive brethren; kept some out; forbids those who would (8).
- Cast others out of the church. Mt.20:26
 - Diotrephes: pride, hatred, selfishness, stubbornness...by example.
 - Diotrephes: danger to Gaius.

Compromise?

Confront? Lk.9

11: serious warning

- Maintain godly disposition regardless of what others say or do.

I The Commendation, 3-8

Commends Gaius for his work

II The Contamination, 9-11

Diotrephes, danger to Gaius

III The Consideration, 12-14

Parting thoughts to friends

12: Demetrius

- Threefold praise –
 1. Good (testimony) report of all.
 2. Good report of truth itself. He does not merely speak truth, but lives it. His own conduct commends him.
 3. Good report of John. (Always speaks truth, Jn.21:24)

13-14: True friends

- Doesn't detract from written words, but emphasizes need to see friends.
- Peace. Jn.20:19, 21, 26.