

3 JOHN

THE THIRD LETTER OF JOHN

- 1 From the Elder: greetings to my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth. 2 Jn 1+
2 My dear friend, I hope everything is going happily with you and that you are as
3 well physically as you are spiritually. •It was a great joy to me when some brothers 2 Jn 4
came and told of your faithfulness to the truth, and of your life in the truth.
4 It is always my greatest joy^a to hear that my children are living according to 1 Jn 3:19+
the truth.
5 My friend, you have done faithful work in looking after these brothers, even
6 though they were complete strangers to you.^b •They are a proof to the whole
Church of your charity and it would be a very good thing if you could help them
7 on their journey in a way that God would approve. •It was entirely for the sake
of the name^c that they set out, without depending on the pagans for anything; Mt 18:5p
Jn 8:24 1
8 it is our duty to welcome men of this sort and contribute our share to their work Mt 10:10,41
1 Tm 5:18
for the truth.

Beware of the example of Diotrephes

- 9 I have written a note^d for the members of the church, but Diotrephes, who
10 seems to enjoy being in charge of it, refuses to accept us.^e •So if I come, I shall
tell everyone how he has behaved, and about the wicked accusations he has been
circulating against us. As if that were not enough, he not only refuses to welcome
our brothers, but prevents the other people who would have liked to from doing
11 it, and expels them from the church. •My dear friend, never follow such a bad
example, but keep following the good one; anyone who does what is right is a 1 Jn 1:3+
7+
child of God, but the person who does what is wrong has never seen God.

Commendation of Demetrius

- 12 Demetrius^f has been approved by everyone, and indeed by the truth itself. 1 Jn 5:6
We too will vouch for him and you know that our testimony is true. Jn 19:35;
21:24

Epilogue

- 13 There were several things I had to tell you but I would rather not trust them 2 Jn 12
14 to pen and ink. •However, I hope to see you soon and talk to you personally.
15 Peace be with you; greetings from your friends; greet each of our friends by name.

a. 'Joy', var. (Vulg.) 'privilege'.

b. Probably missionaries sent by the apostle to the communities of Asia Minor.

c. The name of the Lord; i.e. the Good News or gospel which carries the name of Jesus Christ to the pagans.

d. Perhaps 2 Jn.

e. Lit. 'Diotrephes loving being (or anxious to be) their leader' is not receiving us'; by rejecting John's missionaries they reject John himself.

f. Either a leading member of that community or one of the missionaries recommended to Gaius.

THE LETTER OF JUDE

Address

Ac 12:17+ From Jude, servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James; to those who are 1
called, to those who are dear to^a God the Father and kept safe for Jesus Christ,
2 P 1:2 wishing you all mercy and peace and love. 2

The reason for this letter

My dear friends, at a time when I was eagerly looking forward to writing to 3
you about the salvation that we all share,^b I have been forced^c to write to you
Ac 9:13+ now and appeal to you to fight hard for the faith which has been once and for all
||2 P 2:1 entrusted to the saints. •Certain people have infiltrated among you, and they 4
are the ones you had a warning about, in writing, long ago, when they were
Ga 5:13 condemned^d for denying all religion, turning the grace of our God into immorality,
1 P 2:16 and rejecting our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.^e
1 Jn 4:1
2 Jn 10

The false teachers: the certainty of their punishment

1 Co 6:3 I should like to remind you—though you have already learnt it once and for 5
||2 P 1:12 all^f—how the Lord^g rescued the nation from Egypt, but afterwards he still
Nb 14:26-35 destroyed the men who did not trust him. •Next let me remind you of the angels 6
1 Co 10:5 who had supreme authority but did not keep it and left their appointed sphere;^h
||2 P 2:4 he has kept them down in the dark, in spiritual chains, to be judged on the great
Gn 6:1-2 day. •The fornication of Sodom and Gomorrah and the other nearby towns was 7
Gn 19
2 P 2: 6-9 equally unnatural,ⁱ and it is a warning to us that they are paying for their crimes
Mt 10:15p in eternal fire.

Their violent language

||2 P 2:10-12 Nevertheless, these people^j are doing the same: in their delusions they not 8
only defile their bodies and disregard authority,^k but abuse the glorious angels
Dt 34:6+ as well. •Not even the archangel Michael, when he was engaged in argument 9
Nb 10:13+ with the devil about the corpse of Moses,^l dared to denounce him in the language
Zc 3:2+ of abuse; all he said was, 'Let the Lord correct you'. •But these people abuse 10
anything they do not understand; and the only things they do understand—just
by nature^m like unreasoning animals—will turn out to be fatal to them.

Their vicious behaviour

Gn 4:8 May they get what they deserve, because they have followed Cain; they have 11
||2 P 2:15 rushed to make the same mistake as Balaam and for the same reward; they have
1 Jn 3:12 rebelled just as Korah did—and share the same fate. •They are a dangerous 12
Nb 22:2+ Rv 2:14 obstacleⁿ to your community meals, coming for the food and quite shamelessly
Nb 16 only looking after themselves. They are like clouds blown about by the winds and
Pr 25:14 bringing no rain, or like barren trees which are then uprooted in the winter and so
||2 P 2:13,
17-18