## III John 1:9-14

## Review...

- The Book if divided by addressing THREE people...
  - o **III John 1:1-8** The encouragement for Gaius
  - o **III John 1:9-11** The warning for Diotrephes
  - o **III John 1:12-14** The testimony of Demetrius
- Good Testimony
  - o Gaius presumably a church leader John was writing to had a GOOD testimony...
  - o Spiritually PROSPEROUS because of was BELOVED and walked in THE Truth [Jesus]
  - o HOSPITABLE by FAITH he LOVED [φίλος] both BELIEVERS and UNBELIEVERS...
  - o HELPFUL he brought UNITY to the church by supporting other ministries!

## BAD TESTIMONY...

- $1^{ST}$  Being Hurtful... vs. 9-11
  - o 1<sup>st</sup> Love being FIRST... vs. 9
    - I wrote to the church...
      - This was NOT the FIRST letter John had written to the CHURCH...
      - We do NOT know which letter John is referring to the Gospel I John II John...
      - It could even be a letter that was not recorded in the Bible...
      - But he wrote to the CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] we do NOT know which Church...
      - Presumably the CHURCH where Diotrephes was the PASTOR!
    - But Diotrephes who loves to have the preeminence among them does not receive us!
      - DIOTREPHES [Διοτρεφής] ironically his name means to feed ZEUS [chief of Greek gods]
      - He would NOT read the letters from John to the CHURCH because...
      - PREEMINENCE [φιλοπρωτεύω] to LOVE [φίλος] to be FIRST [πρ $\tilde{\omega}$ τος]
      - He was NOT willing to allow anyone else like JOHN have authority in the CHURCH...
      - Because he wanted everyone to ONLY look to him for answers!
    - Called to Jesus...
      - People would rather put their FAITH in someone they can see then a God they cannot see...
      - It is easier to follow a MAN then it is to follow an INVISIBLE God **Hebrews 11:1**
      - But MEN pastors are a poor substitute for Jesus...
      - They have LIMITED resources LIMITED knowledge and make MISTAKES...
      - Therefore any pastor who points men to himself LOVES to be FIRST is to be AVOIDED...
      - Because the PURPOSE of a pastor is to point others to JESUS!
    - Called to SERVE...
      - I Corinthians 4:1 "Let a man so consider us as MINSTERS of Christ."
      - MINISTER [ὑπηρέτης] a slave on a Roman ship rowed under the deck hard working...
      - No one would ever see and under rower it was a humbling POSITION a MINISTER!
      - Sad to say the church has lost sight of that today MINISTER has become a title...
      - Rather than working hard for God it describes one who tells others what to do...
      - A good pastor is a MINISTER comes early and leaves late SERVES the people...
      - Therefore any pastor who longs to be in CHARGE LOVES to be FIRST is to be AVOIDED...
      - Because the PURPOSE of a pastor is to MINISTER to the people!
      - I Peter 5:3 "[Do not] lord over those entrusted to you!"

- o 2<sup>nd</sup> Confrontation... vs. 10
  - Therefore if I come I will call to mind his deeds which he does!
    - John was NOT sure if he would be able to come he was OLD [the elder]
    - But IF he came he would talk to DIOTREPHES about what he had DONE [ἔργον]
    - Any time you get a bunch of sinners together [even Godly ones] there will be problems...
    - There is no such thing as a perfect church they do not exist...
    - The question is what to do if the PROBLEM is a PASTOR in the church...
    - Too often we ignore what is happening justifying it is not our problem...
    - What we fail to recognize is that the BAD example does affect us...
    - And we need to be involved in our church take a stand for Jesus!
  - ACCUSING a Pastor...
    - I Timothy 3:19 "Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses."
    - When an ACCUSATION is brought against a PASTOR it must be VERIFIED...
    - To prevent someone from making a false ACCUSATION personal attack or agenda...
    - We must NOT just listen to one side take the time to hear the whole story!
    - **Proverbs 18:17** "The first to speak... sounds right until the cross-examination begins."
  - CONFRONTING sin...
    - **I Timothy 3:20** "Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all that the rest also may fear."
    - SINNING [present] NOT talking about something in the PAST but an ongoing action...
    - If a Pastor is VERIFIED to be living in SIN the PRIDE of DIOTREPHES was sin...
    - We must [imperative] REBUKE them bring light or to expose them...
    - The reason for EXPOSING the SIN of a Pastor is to set an example!
    - If people see a Pastor living a compromised lifestyle with NO consequences...
    - Then they will begin to think it is acceptable to God follow a BAD example...
    - But the sin of a Pastor is EXPOSED people learn to FEAR living in sin!
    - **Galatians 5:9** "A little leaven [sin] leavens the whole lump."
    - When sin goes unchecked it encourages others to sin...
    - Just as a little mud can quickly contaminate make all the water unclean...
    - A little SIN can quickly spread out and infect a whole family or church...
    - Therefore a Pastor is to be EXPOSED publicly to TEACH people to FEAR sin!
- o 3<sup>rd</sup> Harsh words... vs. 10
  - Prating against us with malicious words!
  - There were TWO things John would CONFRONT Diotrephes about...
  - FIRST his PRATING and MALICIOUS words…
  - PRATING [φλυαρέω] to make FALSE accusation by saving EVIL [πονηρός] things!
  - In the same way a short person who wants to look tall stands next to a shorter person...
  - A pastor who wants to seem GOOD talks BAD about other pastors!
  - One way to spot a PASTOR who LOVES to be FIRST is because he is always attacking others...
  - Attacking their THEOLOGY other Pastors do not teach the right things...
  - Attacking them PERSONALLY other Pastors do not live a godly life...
  - But the ATTACKS are FALSE they come from a SELFISH motivation making them EVIL...
  - Because the RESULT of the ATTACKS is division within the CHURCH!
- o 4<sup>th</sup> Not HOSPITABLE... vs. 10
  - Not content with that he himself does not receive the brethren!
    - SECOND John would CONFRONT Diotrephes about his lack of HOSPITALITY...
    - Diotrephes was NOT content to only ATTACK other pastors...

- He also REFUSED to RECEIVE [take the hand] of other BROTHERS...
- Meaning if you were not from HIS church then you were not part of THE church!
- There are PASTORS who think their CHURCH is the only CHURCH but they are WRONG...
- There is just ONE church ONE body Ephesians 4:4
- But it is NOT a particular DENOMINATION it is the Body of CHRIST I Corinthians 12:12
- God has allowed there to be many DENOMINATIONS within HIS Church...
- Each with a slightly different FLAVOR different FOCUS- but all with the SAME Lord...
- The reason is so that the church can minister to all different kinds of people!
- I Corinthians 9:22 "All things to all men that I might by all means save some."
- One person might be more comfortable in the traditions of a Traditional church...
- Another might be blessed by the lively worship of a Pentecostal church...
- Another might draw closer to God in a church that focused on teaching the Bible...
- There are many churches for many different kinds of people!
- [Diotrephes] forbids those who wish to putting them out of the church!
  - Diotrephes added to his FAULT by refusing to let others fellowship outside HIS church...
  - If someone was determined to fellowship OUTSIDE they were BANISHED...
  - He refused to let them come back to HIS church [better for that person to not go back]
  - Christ is NOT divided therefore the Church of Christ should not be divided...
  - There is only ONE Jesus ONE cross there is only ONE salvation ONE heaven...
  - There is only one heaven there are not different ROOMS for various DENOMINATIONS...
  - We are going to spend eternity together we should start getting along now!
  - **I Corinthians 12:25** "There should be no [division] in the body... the members should have the same care one for another."
- It is OK to have a CHURCH...
  - There is nothing wrong with preferring a particular CHURCH...
  - The problem comes when we follow MEN rather than having unity in JESUS...
  - We focus on our DIFFERENCES rather than coming together as a FAMILY...
  - We make our identity a CHURCH rather than simply CHRIST...
  - Causing division within the BODY hindering the power of the Gospel...
  - We wonder why more people do NOT believe in Jesus why churches are EMPTY...
  - The church of God today is not KNOWN for its unity its KNOWN for its differences!
- o 5<sup>th</sup> Bad Example... vs. 11
  - Beloved!
    - BELOVED [ἀγαπητός] those who has received the unconditional LOVE of God!
    - Those who BELONG to Jesus BELONG to HIS church!
  - Do not imitate what is evil!
    - Do NOT follow [μιμέομαι] and EVIL [κακός] EXAMPLED of Diotrephes...
    - Who LOVED to be FIRST who ATTACKED other pastors with FALSE accusations...
    - Who caused DIVISION refusing to have fellowship with other DENOMINATIONS!
  - [Instead follow] what is good!
    - GOOD [å $\gamma\alpha\theta$ ó $\varsigma$ ] refers to our HEART or morals...
    - In other words do NOT follow MAN FOLLOW the conviction that comes from the LORD!
    - We KNOW the CONVICTION John is talking about...
    - The CHECK we have in our SPIRIT when a PASTOR says something WRONG...
    - We might be tempted to IGNORE it thinking the PASTOR knows better but we need to…
    - Acts 17:11 "[Search] the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things [are] so."
  - He who does good is of God but he who does evil has not seen God!

- THE [o] doing GOOD [ἀγαθοποιέω] is of GOD...
- Meaning the CHECK we have from the SPIRIT is GOD speaking to our HEART...
- And if we do not have the CHECK if we FOLLOW the EVIL [κακοποιέω] example of MEN...
- Men like Diotrephes it shows we have not SEEN [know] God!
- If GOD is in our HEART He is going to give us a GOOD example to follow...
- The EXAMPLE: NOT love to be first NOT attack other pastors falsely...
- NOT cause division in the body by refusing fellowship with other denominations...
- Because we are to have HOSPITALITY UNITY LOVE in the BODY of CHRIST!
- **John 13:35** "All will know that you are My disciples if you have love for one another."
- $2^{ND}$  REDEMPTION... vs. 12
  - o 1st The TESTIMONY...
    - Demetrius has a *good* testimony from all!
      - DEMETRIUS the name only appears THREE times in the Bible...
      - He was a RICH idol maker in the city of Ephesus Acts 19:24
      - Ephesus was known for the Temple of DIANA SEVEN wonders of the ancient world...
      - People traveled from all over the world to worship there and they bought IDOLS...
      - But the GOSPEL had been so effective people stopped buying IDOLS Acts 19:26-27
      - So DEMETRIUS stirred up a RIOT 25 thousand people crying out great is DIANA!
    - Is this the same DEMETRIUS...
      - There is NOTHING to say this is the same person...
      - But John did Pastor in the city of Ephesus where DEMETRIUS was from...
      - It would be just like God to take one of Christianity greatest ENEMIES...
      - A man who once caused DIVISION by making false ACCUSATIONS against a PASTOR [Paul]
      - Because he did not like being SECOND to the Gospel he LOVED being FIRST...
      - And turn around and make him someone who had a TESTIMONY [μαρτυρέω]!
      - Meaning there is HOPE for ANYONE to repent and come to Jesus...
      - It does not matter whether we think we are a GOOD person or BAD...
      - Jesus gift of salvation is available to EVERYONE who will receive it...
      - No sinner is beyond His reach no sin so great He cannot forgive it!
      - Romans 5:20 "Where sin abounded GRACE abounded much more."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> The WITNESSES...
    - From the truth itself!
      - The WITNESS of DEMETRIUS was seen by EVERYONE  $[\pi\tilde{\alpha}\varsigma]$
      - That INCLUDED from THE Truth [τῆς ἀληθείας] referring to Jesus John 14:6
      - This is the MOST important WITNESS because Jesus sees the HEART Hebrews 4:13
      - And having a good WITNESS means we are changed from the INSIDE out!
      - Christianity is NOT about following RULES that just changes the OUTSIDE...
      - It is about KNOWING Jesus which TRANSFORMS us on the INSIDE!
      - **II Corinthians 5:17** "If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away behold all things have become new."
    - And we also bear witness!
      - The WITNESS of DEMETRIUS also included PASTORS...
      - John includes himself [we] but also alludes to other church leaders!
      - PASTORS are there to PROTECT the CHURCH I Peter 5:2-3
      - Therefore they watch out for those who just SAY that have a TESTIMONY...
      - They OBSERVE and make sure they are not wolves in sheep clothing Matthew 7:15
    - And you know that our testimony is true!
      - The WITNESS of DEMETRIUS also included the CHURCH...

- Because the whole CHURCH could SEE [εἴδω] it was true that DEMETRIUS had changed!
- Luke 6:27 "Judge not and you shall not be judged..."
- I have heard people say you CANNOT judge me only God can judge me...
- And to some extent I think I understand what they mean but they are WRONG!
- We CANNOT judge why someone does something what their MOTIVE is...
- Because only God knows the motive of the heart Psalm 44:21
- But we absolutely can JUDGE the actions of someone by comparing them to the Word...
- And when we SEE [εἴδω] a CHANGED life it is PROOF that person has a good TESTIMONY!
- $3^{RD}$  Final greeting... vs. 13-14
  - o 1st Face to face... vs. 13-14
    - I had many things to write but I do not wish to write to you with pen and ink!
      - This was NOT the only thing John had wanted to WRITE about...
      - There were LOTS  $[\pi o \lambda \acute{o} \varsigma]$  of other subjects he had desired to go over...
      - But he did not want to do it with INK and STICK [describing old pens]
      - We do NOT use INK and STICKS anymore we tent to use cell phone and computer...
      - But I can relate to John they are NOT the best way to communicate...
      - EMAILS and TEXT lack emotion intonation and facial expression...
      - They are OK for basic information but they are no substitute for FELLOWSHIP!
    - I hope to see you shortly and we shall speak face to face!
      - John HOPED [ἐλπίζω] to come and SEE them soon and speak MOUTH to MOUTH...
      - To have GOOD fellowship by TALKING with each other!
      - There are those who argue CHURCH in not necessary...
      - We can read our Bibles worship without other believers!
      - Going to CHURCH does not save us but it does keep us from following BAD examples...
      - God calls us to FELLOWSHIP with one another in CHURCH with different CHURCHES...
      - So we help keep each other in check keep each other accountable to God!
      - **Hebrews 10:25** "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some but exhorting one another and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> Peace to you... vs. 14
    - Peace to you!
      - What would John SAY when he saw the church in person PEACE [ἰρήνη] to you...
      - Notice John does NOT come proclaiming himself he came declaring PEACE...
      - Who is our PEACE it is Jesus who is the HEAD of the CHURCH!
      - Ephesians 2:14 "[Jesus] Himself is our peace [ἰρήνη]."
    - Our friends greet you. Greet the friends by name!
      - John finishes by saying LOVE [φίλος] greets us to warmly take our hand...
      - And we should greet each other in LOVE [φίλος] by NAME!
      - Because when we have PEACE Jesus we will have LOVE  $[\phi(\lambda \circ \zeta)]$  for each other...
      - And when we are HOSPITABLE we will have a GOOD testimony...
      - A CHURCH united in LOVE so the world around us SEE Jesus in us!