

3rd JOHN

INTRODUCTION

- I. Those that accept 2nd John as canonical commonly accept 3rd John.
- II. Therefore, all arguments against and for it canonically, to include internal and external evidence, follow the same line of thought as brought out by the introduction to 2nd John.
- III. Its language and similarity to 2nd John has coined this epistle as its “twin sister”.
- IV. In contrast to the schism of allegorical views to 2nd John as being written to the church, there is no question that 3rd John was definitely written to an individual, a man named Gaius. 3Joh.1
- V. This places 2nd and 3rd John in the company of a select few epistles written solely to individuals including Philemon, 1st and 2nd Timothy and Titus.
- VI. The time and purpose of writing for 3rd John.
 - A. The time of writing is concluded as in the same time frame of 2nd John, immediately following 1st John circa 90-95AD.
 - B. It has a three-fold general purpose:
 1. To provide personal encouragement and exhortation to the recipient, Gaius. Vss.1-8,11
 2. To relate the author’s intentions to address a certain individual, Diotrephes, for his stubborn, rebellious and arrogant approach to the truth and his spiritual authorities. Vs.9-10
 3. To validate one named, Demetrius. Vs.12
- V. Outline:
 - A. Introduction. Vss.1-4
 1. Personal salutation. Vs.1
 2. Personal sentiments. Vss.2-4
 - B. The obligation to Divine good production, especially hospitality. Vss.5-8
 1. The reward of hospitality. Vs.5
 2. The report of hospitality. Vs.6
 3. The reasons for hospitality. Vss.7-8
 - C. The danger of arrogance as an authority and towards authority. Vss.9-12
 1. Arrogance exemplified. Vs.9
 2. Arrogance condemned. Vs.10
 3. Arrogance contrasted. Vss.11-12
 - D. Conclusion. Vss.13,14