

Study 12

Read 3 John 9-15

Summary- John had already written to the church, but Diotrephes, because of his arrogance and selfishness, would not listen to him. Because of that, John was going to reprimand him for his wicked and unjust accusations, lack of hospitality, and threatening other believers, so that they also refused hospitality, lest they be thrown out of the church.

We are not to follow the lead of those who do evil, but of those who do good. Workers of good are of God. Workers of evil do not have a relationship with Him, or even truly recognize Him. Demetrius was one of these workers of good, having a good testimony before everyone, including John and his friends, and the truth itself.

Though John had many things to write, he would rather say them face to face, and planned to visit them shortly. In closing, he offers a blessing of peace and personal greetings.

Central Teaching- Do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.

Key Verse- 11

Ten things this passage says-

Diotrephes loved to be first among the saints in the church.

His selfishness and arrogance caused him to reject what the apostle said.

John was not going to allow these wicked deeds to remain hidden.

Diotrephes went beyond merely not accepting their words to unjustly and wickedly accusing them.

Diotrephes not only refused to be hospitable himself, but he threatened the other members with expulsion from the church if they did not also refuse to be hospitable.

We are not to imitate what is evil, but what is good.

Those who do good are of God; those who do evil have not seen God.

Demetrius received a good testimony from everyone, including John and the truth itself.

John and those with him testified faithfully, unlike Diotrephes.

John had a personal relationship with the church members, wishing them peace and greeting them by name.

John's letter was impersonal and uncaring.

Questions-

1. What were Diotrephes' character problems? V9
2. Was he an acceptable leader for a church to have? Why or why not? V9 (Mt. 20:20-28, Php 2:5-11, 1 Ti 3:3, 1Pe 5:3)

3. What did Jesus' leadership teach us about the qualities a good leader should have? V9
4. Why is it a bad idea for one leader to have too much control or headship over a church?
V9
5. What 4 things was Diotrephes guilty of, according to this verse? V10
6. What do you think his motives were in doing these evil deeds? V10
7. What did John say he was going to do about Diotrephes' sin when he came? What is the biblical method of dealing with sin within the church? V10
8. What should we imitate? Why? V11
9. What should we not imitate? Why? V11
10. What did Diotrephes' actions demonstrate about his spiritual state? V11
11. What did Demetrius' actions demonstrate about his spiritual state? V11
12. Why do you think this verse was placed between the descriptions of Diotrephes and Demetrius? V11
13. Why did Demetrius have such a good testimony? V 12

14. Who testified to his good character? V12

15. What does it mean that “the truth itself” testified to his character? V12

16. How would you know that someone’s testimony was true? V12

17. What could be one reason behind John’s high praise of Demetrius in this verse? V12

18. Why do you think that face-to-face communication seemed preferable to written communication to John? V13

19. Why do you think God might have delayed this face-to-face communication between John and these churches, when that is how John preferred to communicate? What benefits might they have had on his character, for the church, and for us today? V14

20. Who is the Giver of peace? V15

21. Can anyone who is not a believer have this gift? V15

22. What is the bond of friendship that we as Christians have? V15

23. When he says to “greet the friends by name,” what does this indicate about the quality of Christian friendship? V15