

God's Masterwork, Volume Seven

The Final Word — A Survey of Hebrews – Revelation

3 John: Three Men in a Church

A SURVEY OF 3 JOHN



The Heart of the Matter

On only a few rare occasions does the New Testament lift the veil and allow us entrance into the inner and intimate workings of a particular local church. This letter is one of those choice moments . . . and we find the scene most interesting. Here are three men who are singled out by John for our observation and instruction. Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius, while actual personalities in the early church, represent for us three different types in the church today. We'll find much that is practical for our churches today as we examine these fifteen verses together. Let's pay close attention to each of these three individuals. Not only will we see others portrayed in their lives, we may even see something of ourselves.



Discovering the Way

1. 2 John and 3 John Back-to-Back

John's second and third letters were written by the same writer during the same era, but they have different purposes and they were sent to different places.

2 John

Contrasts
Addressee

3 John

Problem

Need

2. An Examination of the Letter

John gave a word of encouragement to Gaius in verses 1–8, a word of confrontation against Diotrephes in verses 9–11, a word of affirmation to Demetrius in verse 12, and a word of farewell in verses 13–15.

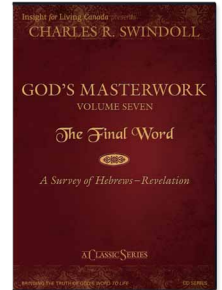


Starting Your Journey

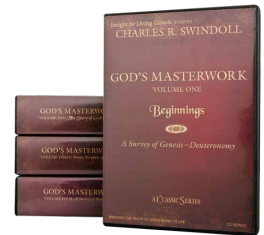
Three principles apply to our churches today. First, variety will always be present, so let's preserve it. Second, disunity must never be tolerated, so let's resist it. Third, as long as Christ is given the preeminence, we can face any challenge.



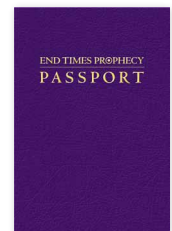
Tools for Digging Deeper



God's Masterwork,
Volume Seven: The Final
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THIRD JOHN

	Encouragement of Gaius	Confrontation of Diotrephes	Affirmation of Demetrius	Conclusion
	<u>Sickly (?)</u> <u>Obedient</u> <u>Hospitable</u> <u>Loving</u> <u>Supportive</u>	<u>Proud</u> <u>Rigid and negative</u> <u>Accusing</u> <u>“Church boss” complex</u>	<u>Good testimony</u> <u>Community</u> <u>Scriptures</u> <u>John</u>	<u>Letter is abbreviated</u> <u>John hopes to visit</u> <u>Shalom!</u>
	VERSES 1–8	VERSES 9–11	VERSE 12	VERSES 13–14
Tone	Confirming	Denunciating	Endorsing	
Relationships	To the truth of God	With other Christians	In the world	
Emphasis	Keep it up!	Stop it!	Good for you!	
Paraphrase	I love you, and I pray for you (1:1–2)	I call attention to your deeds (1:10)	I hear good things about him (1:12)	
Theme	Holding to the truth with a loving attitude			
Key Verse	1:11			
Christ in 3 John	Jesus is the Name, for whose sake believers minister (1:7–8).			

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