

3RD JOHN 1:12-14 #27

1. IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY THROUGH THE THREE EPISTLES OF JOHN. IN THIS LAST BRIEF LETTER, HE COMMENDS TWO PERSONS AND WARNS ABOUT A THIRD.

2. IN VERSE 11, HE TELLS HIS READERS NOT TO IMITATE EVIL BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD. AN EXAMPLE OF EVIL IS DIOTREPHE, WHO HE SAYS LIKES TO TAKE THE LEAD AND WILL NOT ACKNOWLEDGE JOHN'S AUTHORITY. HE ALSO REFUSED TO WELCOME BRETHREN AND TRIED TO EXPEL SOME FROM THE CHURCH.

3. JOHN ALSO COMMENDS TWO OTHERS GAIUS AND DEMETRIUS BOTH OF WHOM HE SAYS HAVE A GOOD REPORT - QUITE A CONTRAST BETWEEN THEM AND DIOTREPHE.

4. IN THE LAST TWO VERSES, JOHN EXPLAINS SUCH A SHORT LETTER. WE SYMPATHIZE WITH JOHN WHO PREFERS PERSONAL FACE TO FACE COMMUNICATIONS RATHER A WRITTEN LETTER.

5. BUT GOD HAD A PURPOSE AND PLAN FOR JOHN TO WRITE THIS SHORT LETTER. JOHN GIVES HIS FINAL BLESSING WITH THE FAMILIAR "PEACE TO YOU". JOHN REMINDS DEMETRIUS OF THE COMMON TIES THAT CHRISTIANS HAVE EVEN IF WE'RE SEPARATED BY DISTANCE.

6. HE SAYS CALL THEM BY "NAME". WE'RE TO STAY IN TOUCH. WE ARE BLESSED IN OUR TIME TO BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE ALMOST WITHOUT HINDERANCE WITH OUR CELL PHONES.

7. AS CHRISTIANS WE CAN HAVE PEACE EVEN IN THE MIDST OF DIFFICULT TIMES. READ JESUS' STATEMENT IN JOHN 14:27.