

III JOHN

CHAPTER ONE

1) [This is being written by] **the elder to my dear** [friend] **Gaius, whom I love in the truth.** [Note: This probably means [whom I truly love@].

2) [My] **dearly loved** [friend], **I am praying that you will do well in everything** [materially?], **and that you will have** [good] **health, just as your soul** [i.e., your spiritual life] **is doing well.** 3) **For I was very happy when some of the brothers came and told me that you are being** [faithful] **to the truth** [i.e., the word of God], **and that you are living according to it,** [as well]. 4) **I do not have any greater joy than to hear that my** [spiritual] **children are living according to the truth.**

5) **Dear** [friend], **you are accomplishing a faithful work whenever you do something for the brothers** [traveling in the Lord=s work], **especially when they are strangers** [to you]. 6) **These people testify about your love** [for them] **before the** [assembled] **church. You will be doing a good thing to send them on their journey in a way that is pleasing to God** [i.e., by furnishing them with travel expenses for their ministry]. 7) **For they went out,** [ministering] **for the sake of** [Jesus=] **name, without taking** [any money] **from Gentiles** [i.e., non-Christians]. 8) **Therefore, we should show hospitality to such men, so that we can be fellow-workers** [with them] **in** [the cause of] **the truth.**

9) **I wrote a letter to the church** [there], **but Diotrephes, who loves to be first** [in importance] **among the members** [of the body there], **does not receive us** [i.e., he did not listen to or acknowledge the authority of us apostles]. 10) **So, if I come** [to visit you], **I will remind you of what he is doing,** [such as] **using wicked words to talk nonsense against us** [apostles]. **And, not being satisfied with that, he** [also] **refuses to welcome the** [other] **brothers, and prevents** [other] **people from doing so** [i.e., from welcoming these brothers], **and even kicks them out of the church** [for trying to].

11) **Dear** [friend], **do not imitate what is evil, but** [only] **what is good. The person who does what is good is** [a child] **of God;**

541

the one who does evil has not seen God [spiritually]. 12) Demetrius has been given [a favorable] commendation by everyone, and [is commended] by the truth itself. We [apostles] also give him [a favorable] commendation and you know that our testimony [about these things] is true.

13) I had many things [I wanted] to write you about, but I do not want to do it with pen and ink, 14) because I hope to see you soon, and [then] we can speak face to face.

15) May there be peace in your lives. Our friends [here] send you their greetings. [I ask that you also] greet each of our friends [there] by name.