

III John (*Introduction*)

III John is probably written around the same place and time as I & II John. Refer to the Introduction to I John for general information about John and the possible time this letter is written.

John refers to himself a “*the elder*” in this letter.

I John seems to be a general letter designed to be circulated throughout the churches and II John may have been written to a particular local church. III John was written to a particular individual, Gaius.

Gaius was probably a member of one of the local churches in Asia Minor near Ephesus. He had housed and helped several traveling preachers. John praised him for it. It may be that John was planning to visit Gaius’ local congregation. He would probably expect to stay with Gaius.

John was very upset with Diotrephes (vs. 9-10). John had written a letter to the church where Gaius attends, but Diotrephes had opposed John for some reason. Perhaps he refused to allow the letter to be read to the congregation. John promised to deal with him when he visited the church. It doesn’t seem to be a matter of false doctrine or heresy. It could be a matter of pure pride!

John praised Demetrius in this short letter. All three of these names are gentile names. They are probably gentile Christians worshipping somewhere in Asia Minor. Paul may have established their congregation or at least have been very instrumental in doing so.