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3 John

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3 John

Chapter 1

¹{From John} the Church Leader. To Gaius, my dear friend, whom I truly love. ²Dear friend, I am asking God to make everything go well for you and to keep you healthy physically, just as you are healthy in respect to God. ³I know that you are healthy in respect to God because some fellow believers came here and told me about your truthful way of living. They said that you live according to the true message about Jesus. That makes me very happy. ⁴This is what makes me the very happiest—when someone tells me that the people whom I have helped to follow Jesus are living according to the true message from God! ⁵Dear friend, you are serving Jesus loyally whenever you do things to help fellow believers, even those whom you do not know. ⁶⁻⁷Some of them have reported before the congregation {here} how you have shown that you love them. Such people are traveling in order to be obedient to Jesus and they have decided to allow only fellow believers to help them as they travel. Therefore it is good that you give such people what they need for traveling in a {generous} way that honors God. ⁸In fact, all of us {who believe in Jesus} should give these people whatever they need. Then it will be as though we are working alongside them as they help others to know God's true message.

⁹I wrote a letter to your group of believers to tell them to help those other believers. However, Diotrephes, who wants to dominate your group, refuses to do this. ¹⁰So when I arrive there I will publicly tell everyone what he does: He says bad things about us that are not true. In addition to doing that, he also refuses to welcome the believers {who are traveling in order to do God's work}. He even prevents those who do want to welcome them and forces them to leave the group of believers!

¹¹Dear friend, do not copy a bad example {like that}. Instead, do the good things that you see good people doing. {Remember that} people who do good deeds truly belong to God. But anyone who keeps doing what is bad does not know God.

¹²People widely praise Demetrius as a good person. The way that he lives according to God's true message also makes it clear that he is a good person. We also confirm that he is a good person, and you know that what we say is true.

¹³There are many {more} things about which I could write to you. But I do not want to write to you {about them} in a letter. ¹⁴Instead, I hope to come and see you soon. Then we will talk directly with one another. ¹⁵I pray that God will help you live peacefully. The believers {here} greet you. Please greet for us {each of} the believers {there} individually.

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