

SUNDAY OCTOBER 30, 2016

the

Reminder

The weekly newsletter of the church of Christ in Bellaire, Texas

Can Anything Good Come Out of 3rd John?

There are some books of the bible that we often neglect. Sometimes, it's a book like Leviticus, that seems way too tedious. Maybe it's a book like Song of Solomon, that seems way too strange. Or perhaps it is a book like 3 John, that seems way too short. There are only 15 verses in the whole letter; is there anything worthwhile to take from a book that has so little to say? Consider three cool (yet not necessarily connected) takeaways from 3 John:

1) Pay attention to your health- spiritually!

John starts the letter to Gaius by saying, *"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul."* (v.2) The apostle is telling his friend that he wishes for his body to be just as healthy as his soul. Do you wish that? What if, when you woke up this morning, God had transformed your physical body to match the condition of your spiritual life? What would you look/feel like? Would you be malnourished from starving yourself of the bread of life? Would you be swollen with pride and covetousness? Would you be sick and corrupted by your lusts? Or would you stand firm in the faith, healthy, strong, and well? This is a challenging question. We put a lot of time, money, and effort into improving the health, strength, and appearance of our physical bodies. What are we doing for our spiritual bodies?

2) Don't push brothers away- bring them close!

The bulk of this short letter deals with how christians treat other christians. He first commends Gaius for receiving, supporting, and showing hospitality to some brothers that were strangers, but were working hard for the Lord. We should be doing the same! No matter how well (or little) we know someone, we ought to encourage those who are doing good for the Lord. A brother gives a good talk on Wednesday night? Tell them that! You notice a sister doing a good job of meeting the needs of other members? Help her out! We are not spectators of God's work, we are *"fellow workers for the truth."* (v.8) While Gaius was doing a good job of this, there was another man that wasn't. John says that Diotrephes *"refuses to welcome the brothers, stops those who wants to, and puts them out of the church."* (v.10) Why was this guy such a jerk? Because he *"liked to put himself first."* (v.9) Sadly, we often push others away (intentionally or unintentionally) because we want to be first. We like to be recognized for good work, so we don't recognize others. We like to call the shots, so we don't take advice from others. We like to have friends, so we become bitter when others are hanging out with "our friends." *"Beloved, do not imitate evil, but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God."* (v.11)

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Bellaire

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Who Are We?

A group of God's children, striving to maintain the organization, doctrine and worship as taught in the New Testament.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:
9:30 AM Worship
11:00 AM Bible Study
Wednesday:
7:30 PM Bible Study

**"For the Lord knows
the way of the
righteous, but the way
of the wicked will
perish." Psalm 1:6**

SERVICE

Welcome –
Hymn Director – W. Hodge
Opening Prayer– B. Ward
Morning Lesson – D. Broadwell
Announcements – M. Pharris
Closing Prayer – J. Martin

EVANGELISTS

Daniel Broadwell
Steve Garrett

ELDERS

Brian Haley
Mark Mann
Mike Pharris

DEACONS

Scott Clanton
David Davila
Dan Kimbrough
Jesse Knapp
Alex Morolez
Gregory Williams

BIBLE CLASSES

How to Study the Bible

- Jesse Knapp

Kings

- Michael Krueger
- Justin Seale

Graded classes for children

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email: danieljday@gmail.com

3) Texting is lame- talk to people!

As we said already, John doesn't say a whole lot in this letter. But that doesn't mean that this is all he wanted to say to Gaius. *"I had much more to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face."* (v.13-14) In fact John says the same thing at the end of 2 John, but adds *"so that our joy may be complete."* Face to face conversation is much more meaningful than reading what someone has written. So, if it's possible, do your best to have conversations with people in person. In today's society, we have become so attached to technology, and we are consumed with email, texting, Facebook, etc, and are starting to lose the art of personal communication. Important things should be shared face to face. Sometimes we are in a circumstance where we cannot communicate personally and are forced to use technology. But often times it is too uncomfortable to give someone a compliment, get to know someone, or offer a needed rebuke, so we hide behind a text message or email. Next time you are tempted to do that, think of 3 John!

-Daniel Broadwell

NEWS AND NOTES

Continue praying for those of our number who have ongoing health issues. **Bob Stark, Deb Haley, Janice Kimbrough, Jan Cooper, Curby Stech, Laura Claburn, Don Hurd, Fran Spencer, and Johnny Martinez.**

Steve and Muffy Garrett are in Colorado for a meeting this weekend.

Zonia Davilia is recovering from surgery. Let's pray for her.

Pray for **Johnny Martinez** as he suffers from shingles.

Anna Mickel is struggling with pneumonia and shoulder problems.

Patricia Butler continues to go through her cancer treatments, so please continue to pray for her.

Terri Sams continues to battle her cancer. Pray for her and her husband **Lenny**.

Next Sunday afternoon, **November 6**, will be our monthly **singing and prayer service**. Please make plans to attend.