

JOURNEY WITH JOHN



2 & 3 JOHN

SERMON OUTLINES

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Pray, Perceive, and Persevere

3 John 1-15

Sermon Series Summary

2 & 3 John are the shortest letters in the New Testament and often they are some of the most overlooked letters due to their brief content. As we study through these letters we soon observe that the brief content holds great relevance for modern day Christians. We observe that John emphasizes the themes of walking in truth, walking love, standing for your faith in the midst of persecution, and equipping yourself with discernment. All of these themes point to the need for each Christian to “Persevere in the Faith” in a culture that is striving to weaken the faith, weaken the Gospel, and deter you from following the Lord. Join us as we “Journey With John and Persevere in the Faith.”

Series Theme Passage

3 John 11 – Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

Main Passage

3 John 1-15 (ESV) – ¹The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

⁵Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. ⁹I have written something to the church, but Diotrephes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

¹¹Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ¹²Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. ¹³I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

Big Idea – God’s Word Motivates You to Model the Master

Three Lessons Learned from Three Examples

Lesson #1 – Pray for Fellow Christians to Persistently Pursue Christ

3 John 1-4 (ESV) – ¹The elder to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ²Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. ³For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. ⁴I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in these verses compel Christians to pray for one another to persistently pursue Christ and finish faithfully.

Lesson #2 – Perceive the Difference Between the Faithful and the False

3 John 5-10 (ESV) – ⁵ Beloved, it is a faithful thing you do in all your efforts for these brothers, strangers as they are, ⁶ who testified to your love before the church. You will do well to send them on their journey in a manner worthy of God. ⁷ For they have gone out for the sake of the name, accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ Therefore we ought to support people like these, that we may be fellow workers for the truth. ⁹ I have written something to the church, but Diotrophes, who likes to put himself first, does not acknowledge our authority. ¹⁰ So if I come, I will bring up what he is doing, talking wicked nonsense against us. And not content with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers, and also stops those who want to and puts them out of the church.

- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in these verses compel Christians to use discernment as found in the Word of God in order to discern the difference between the faithful and false followers of the Lord. Surround yourself with other faithful followers that will encourage you in the faith.

Lesson #3 – Persevere in the Pursuit of Truth and Righteousness

3 John 11-13 (ESV) – ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius has received a good testimony from everyone, and from the truth itself. We also add our testimony, and you know that our testimony is true. ¹³ I had much to write to you, but I would rather not write with pen and ink. ¹⁴ I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face. ¹⁵ Peace be to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends, each by name.

- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in these verses compel Christians to persevere in the pursuit of truth and application of truth in order to live a righteous life that honors the Lord.

Memory Verse

3 John 11 (ESV) – Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

Challenge

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to apply the truths you have discovered in the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, help others discover more about Jesus this week by...

- Inviting others to a Sunday Morning Service
- Handing out one of the information booklets from the front foyer
- Asking others how you could pray for them