

Insights From 3 John

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Insights From 3 John

by Jonathan Cooper

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Introduction

One of the ways I've been studying the Word of God is by making a list of everything that each book of the Bible teaches. This has resulted in more than a thousand pages of material. Although it's interesting and I've learned a lot from writing it, that's a lot of bullet points to read through!

The purpose of this book is to extract the most interesting insights from that massive list. This isn't intended to summarize each book of the Bible because that's what my "Chapter Summary of the Bible" is for. It's also not intended to list the major points of each book because you're probably already familiar with them. Finally, it's not intended to offer in-depth commentary because that's what my regular commentary is for. This book is simply a collection of points that I found interesting.

I hope there's some material here that you find edifying.

Jon Cooper
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3 John

- Love needs to be accompanied by the truth (3 John 1:1).
- It's not a sin to wish that the saints of God would prosper or have good health. God didn't command His people to take a vow of poverty, which can be seen by the fact that John wanted Gaius to prosper in the material things of this world (3 John 1:2).
- It's possible for our soul to prosper and be in good health even if we're poor or sick (3 John 1:2).
- Those who walk in the truth have the truth within them (3 John 1:3). This means our actions reveal our true nature.
- The apostle John said that his greatest joy was that other people would walk in the truth (3 John 1:4).
- We must act faithfully both toward those who are part of the church, and those who are not (3 John 1:5).
- The apostles didn't believe that what happened within a church was a private matter that shouldn't be discussed with those who didn't attend that specific church. This can be seen by the fact that the apostles wrote letters which discussed specific problems that churches were having, and then had other churches read those letters (3 John 3:6, Colossians 4:16, 1 Thessalonians 5:27).
- It's good to recognize and encourage people who are doing good (3 John 1:6).
- It's good for churches to financially support missionaries so that those missionaries don't have to put a financial burden on the people they're evangelizing (3 John 1:7).

- John didn't believe it was wrong to call out evildoers by name, or publicly rebuke them for something they did within the context of a specific church. He also didn't believe in hiding the sins that were going on in a church. Instead he publicly rebuked them (3 John 1:9).
- John didn't follow the Matthew 18 procedure for reconciling with Diotrephes because the issue wasn't a private matter between him and Diotrephes. Instead it was a public matter because Diotrephes was casting people out of the church and refusing to receive missionaries (3 John 1:10).
- Those who do good are of God. Their works demonstrate their faith. However, those who do evil are not of God. Their works demonstrate that they lack faith and haven't been saved. This means you can tell if a person's faith is genuine by their actions. Those who do good are of God, and those who do evil are not of God (3 John 1:11).
- John implies that those who do good have seen God in some way (3 John 1:11).
- The apostle John called out by name a person in the church who did evil (Diotrephes) and a person who did good (Demetrius). It's common in modern churches to refuse to “name names”, but the apostle John was very specific about who was doing good and who was doing evil (3 John 1:12).
- John listened to reports from brethren who came to visit him, who told him of good and evil things that were being done in the churches. John didn't rebuke those messengers for talking about church scandals, but instead took their reports seriously and then took steps to correct the issues (3 John 1:9-12).

- John specifically asked Gaius to greet friends by name. He also placed great value in visiting people in person so he could talk with them face to face (3 John 1:14).
- John wished peace upon Gaius (not suffering, pain, tribulation, and death). It's not wrong to pray that God would give people peace. (3 John 1:14).