God's Masterwork, Volume Seven
The Final Word—A Survey of Hebrews–Revelation
3 John: Three Men in a Church
A Survey of 3 John

The Heart of the Matter
On only a few rare occasions does the New Testament lift the veil and allow us entrance into the inner and intimate workings of a particular local church. This letter is one of those choice moments . . . and we find the scene most interesting. Here are three men who are singled out by John for our observation and instruction. Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius, while actual personalities in the early church, represent for us three different types in the church today. We'll find much that is practical for our churches today as we examine these fifteen verses together. Let’s pay close attention to each of these three individuals. Not only will we see others portrayed in their lives, we may even see something of ourselves.

Discovering the Way
1. 2 John and 3 John Back-to-Back
John's second and third letters were written by the same writer during the same era, but they have different purposes and they were sent to different places.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 John</th>
<th>3 John</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addressee</td>
<td>Addressee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Problem</td>
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<td>Need</td>
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2. An Examination of the Letter
John gave a word of encouragement to Gaius in verses 1–8, a word of confrontation against Diotrephes in verses 9–11, a word of affirmation to Demetrius in verse 12, and a word of farewell in verses 13–15.

Starting Your Journey
Three principles apply to our churches today. First, variety will always be present, so let’s preserve it. Second, disunity must never be tolerated, so let’s resist it. Third, as long as Christ is given the preeminence, we can face any challenge.
## Third John

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Encouragement of Gaius</strong></th>
<th><strong>Confrontation of Diotrephes</strong></th>
<th><strong>Affirmation of Demetrius</strong></th>
<th><strong>Conclusion</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sickly (?)</td>
<td>Proud</td>
<td>Good testimony</td>
<td>Letter is abbreviated</td>
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<tr>
<td>Obedient</td>
<td>Rigid and negative</td>
<td>Community</td>
<td>John hopes to visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospitable</td>
<td>Accusing</td>
<td>Scriptures</td>
<td>Shalom!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loving</td>
<td>“Church boss” complex</td>
<td>John</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Supportive</td>
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### Verses
- **Verses 1–8**
  - **Tone**: Confirming
  - **Relationships**: To the truth of God
  - **Emphasis**: Keep it up!
  - **Paraphrase**: I love you, and I pray for you (1:1–2)
  - **Theme**: Holding to the truth with a loving attitude
  - **Key Verse**: 1:11
  - **Christ in 3 John**: Jesus is the Name, for whose sake believers minister (1:7–8).

- **Verses 9–11**
  - **Tone**: Denunciating
  - **Relationships**: With other Christians
  - **Emphasis**: Stop it!
  - **Paraphrase**: I call attention to your deeds (1:10)
  - **Theme**:                |
  - **Key Verse**:            |
  - **Christ in 3 John**:     |

- **Verse 12**
  - **Tone**: Endorsing
  - **Relationships**: In the world
  - **Emphasis**: Good for you!
  - **Paraphrase**: I hear good things about him (1:12)
  - **Theme**:                |
  - **Key Verse**:            |
  - **Christ in 3 John**:     |