

How Is Your Spiritual Health

III John 1-8

September 15, 2024

I. Background Material

A. Author and Recipient

1. John - 85, 90 A.D.
2. Gaius: Common Roman name "I am glad"
 - a. A companion of Paul and native of Macedonia. He was seized in the riot at Ephesus, Acts 19:29
 - b. Also, a companion of Paul, from Derbe in Lycaonia
 - c. A Corinthian converted and baptized by Paul who was Paul's host in Corinth. Romans 16:23; I Corinthians 1:14
 - d. Recipient of this book

B. Purpose

1. To express concern about his poor health
2. To rejoice about his spiritual well being
3. To warn about Diotrephes
4. To commend Demetrius (He may have carried this letter to Gaius)

C. Theme

1. I John: Fellowship – its nature and place
2. II John: Fellowship – its limits
3. III John: Fellowship – its extent

D. Outline

1. Introduction – vs. 1, 2
2. Commendation – vs. 3-8
3. Condemnation – vs. 9, 10
4. Exhortation – v. 11
5. Recommendation – v. 12
6. Conclusion – v. 13

II. Introduction – vs. 1, 2

A. Author and recipient – v. 1

1. John and Gaius – see background material

B. Prayer – v. 2

1. That he would prosper in all respects

2. That he would be in as good physical health as he is spiritually

III. Commendation of Gaius – vs. 3-8

A. For his conduct – vs. 3, 4

1. Others bore good testimony of him that he was walking in truth – v. 3
2. John rejoiced about Gaius's spiritual condition – v. 4

B. For his Hospitality – vs. 5-8

1. He was consistent in his dealing with the brethren
2. He was especially hospitable to strangers
 - a. Romans 12:7, 10, 13
3. Strangers (traveling believers) praised Him (Gaius) for his living deeds – v. 6a
 - a. Philippians 2: 3, 4
4. He did his work in a manner worthy of God – v. 6b
 - a. Excellence vs. Extravagance
 - i. I Corinthians 10:31; Hebrews 6:10
5. Traveling teachers praised for their initiative and standards – v. 7
 - a. Question: should money be accepted from non-believers for God's work?
6. John recommends that these brethren be supported – v. 8