

1. THE NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN FOR MISSIONARY WORK 3 John 5-8 Somethings involved:

1. Hospitality. "Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers." 3 John 5,6. What Gaius had done:
- (1) Gaius had supplied hospitality for brethren: those known to him personally.
 - (2) Gaius had supplied hospitality to those not personally known to him.
 - (3) From what follows in this letter it seems that Gaius had been sharply criticised by Brother Diotrephes (a domineering church boss) for what he had done.

2. Hospitality often enjoined in the New Testament.

- (1) Enjoined on all Christians. Rom. 12:13; "Distributing to the necessity of the saints, given to hospitality."
Heb. 13:2; "Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body."
1 Peter 4:9; "Use hospitality one to another without grudging."
- (2) Named a among special qualifications of elders: 1 Tim. 3:2; "Bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach."
Titus 1:8; "But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate."

3. Gaius's hospitality acknowledged. 3 John 6. How acknowledged?

- (1) By those who had benefited by his hospitality. (BRETHREN AND STRANGERS) HOW?
1. They had openly spoken of his charity (love) before the church. Perhaps Ephesus

4. Hospitality encouraged.

- (1) In bringing them forward on their journey after a godly sort (worthily of God) "thou doest well." 3 John 6

2. MISSIONARY WORKERS "For his name's sake (Christ) they went forth taking nothing of the gentiles." 3 John 7. Their motives:

1. "For his name's sake (Christ) they went forth." Any other purpose than this is useless.
2. "Taking nothing of the gentiles." The Lord and even the apostles asserted:
(1) "That they which proclaim the gospel should live of the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:14
(2) "For the workman is worthy of his meat." Matt. 10:10.... Contrast Luke 22:35,36

3. MISSIONARY HELPERS "We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth." 3 John 8

1. Our duty to help them...to communicate, share with him. Gal. 6:10
2. That they should take anything from the heathen or unbelievers. That the church should support them until the heathen...unbelievers have been taught.
3. In supporting the missionaries we become "fellowhelpers to the truth." 3 John 8

4. DIOTREPES A SOURCE OF TROUBLE TO THE CHURCH. 3 John 9-11 His trouble:

1. He loved to have the preeminence among them. He may have been, preacher, elder, deacon. This is all we know about him.
2. He who would be first and chief of all, or he would be nothing, is an evil and dangerous character. Some lessons he needed to learn: 29:13
 - (1) A man's pride shall bring him low; but honor shall uphold the humble spirit. Prov. 16:18
 - (2) Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18
 - (3) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogance, and the evil way, and froward mouth, do I hate. Prov. 8:13 Before honor is humility. Prov. 15:33
 - (4) For whosoever exalteth ^{himself} shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. Luke 14:11

DEARBORN VALLEY

Church of Christ

17200 WEST OUTER DRIVE

DEARBORN, MICHIGAN

[The following text is extremely faint and largely illegible, appearing to be bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. It contains several paragraphs of text, possibly including a sermon or a set of instructions.]

3 John 5-14

3. Diotrephes defamed the fairest reputation. "Prating against us with wicked words."

Here two evils come to light:

(1) Prating: Loquacity; running on with speech. The reproaches were mere tattle, worth nothing, irrelevant. Lessons needed:
(Garrulousness)

- * 1. Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." James 1:19.
- 2. If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." James 1:26
- 3. We should beware of the slavery of the tongue, and the sin of gab.

(2) Slander. "With wicked words." When a man has done wrong to another there are only two courses open. They are:

- 1. He must openly confess the wrong. Get rid of it. Or,
- 2. He will continue to say hard, false, wicked things about the one he has wronged hoping thereby to justify himself. Diotrephes followed this course apparently.

2. THE GOOD DEMETRIUS AND HIS COURSE IN LIFE 3 John 12-14 His faithfulness:

- 1. He had a good report of all men. 3 John 11. The facts speak for themselves.
- 2. When stood beside the truth, John had a good report. And of the truth itself. 3 John 11
- 3. Had a good report of John. The most precious testimony is the truth itself. Here it is backed up by John an inspired man of God.
- 4. Demetrius is an example to be imitated. NOTE: Good character is not always accompanied good reputation, but in the case of Demetrius it was.
- 5. This is all we know of this Demetrius. We have no way of knowing what the outcome of this quarrel was so far as revelation is concerning. I would say that in the long run, moving in quietness, humbleness, and meekness of spirit that Gaius was the victor.
 - (1) One other Demetrius mentioned in Acts 19:24. He was a silversmith of Ephesus and led in the riot against Paul's preaching there.

* James 1:19

- 1. Let every man be swift to hear: We gladly hear the teaching on baptism, faith, repentance ETC. But we often do not like to hear lessons on self-control, good deeds, Christian living ETC.
- 2. Let every man be slow to speak: A mad person is all out of control.
 - (1) at Antioch the Jews became upset and contradicted Paul. Acts 13:45
 - (2) Some Christians became angry with Paul because he told them the truth. Gal. 4:16
- 3. Let every man be slow to wrath: Slow to get angry at the teaching of the word and slow to harbor anger against God.
 - (1) In the Bible we read of a king who became so angry at the word of God that he took his pen knife and cut the page out that he was reading. Jeremiah 36.

