

Why Were Gaius And Demetrius Right?

I. Introduction:

A. In previous lessons, we learned of the errors of Diotrephes (**III John 1:9-10**).

1. We saw an example of a man being marked [noted] for his sinful; divisive behaviors (**Romans 16:17-18**).
2. In contrast, it is good to consider that the faithful can be marked for good behaviors (**Philippians 3:13-21**).

B. It is good for us to identify and recognize the difference between the faithful and the unfaithful, knowing who to properly imitate (**III John 1:11**).

1. Once proven faithful, we can help ourselves by following the example of those that are living aright (**II Thessalonians 3:7**).
2. Of course, there is a qualifier (**I Corinthians 11:1**).
3. The question for me, you, us - can we be followed (**Titus 2:1-8**)?

II. Body: Consider Gaius And Demetrius (**III John 1:1-8; 12**).

A. Gaius [*seemingly a common name; Acts 19:29, Acts 20:4, Romans 16:23, and I Corinthians 1:14*] was well reported of (**I Thessalonians 3:6-9**).

1. The truth was in him (**Colossians 3:16** and **I John 2:24**).
2. He walked in the truth (**I John 2:3-6** and **II John 1:4**).

B. Gaius behaved faithfully, lovingly, godly towards brethren that journeyed his way (**I Peter 4:8-11**).

1. Those brethren spoken of, whether known or strangers, were said to have turned to the saints rather than to the Gentiles for "His name's sake"; this tells us we are talking of faithful brethren (**Romans 16:1-2**).
2. In contrast to Diotrephes, Gaius received faithful brethren as he should have (**Romans 15:5-7** and **Colossians 4:10**).
3. Can faithful brethren know we'll look out for them (**Matthew 25:31-46**)?
4. In Gaius we learn that receiving faithful brethren, which Diotrephes refused to do, makes us fellowhelpers to the truth (**I Corinthians 16:10-11**).

C. Demetrius had a good report of all men, including the faithful whose record was true. Thus, he had a "good name" (**Proverbs 22:1**).

1. Beyond men, the truth testified of Demetrius' faithfulness (**John 3:19-21**).
2. Learn in Demetrius to live in a way that the word of God shows you to be faithful (**Psalms 119:9-16** and **Luke 6:43-49**).

III. Conclusion: "*Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace*" (**Psalms 37:37**).