

1.

ANOTHER POSTCARD FROM A PASTOR

3 John

Introduction. _____

I. **FIRST, NOTE A PRACTICING CHRISTIAN NAMED GAIUS WHO IS DELIGHTFUL (3 John 1-8).**

- A. First, notice the *description* of Gaius (1b) “... *unto the well-beloved* . . .”
- B. Secondly, note John’s *desire* for Gaius (2).
- C. Thirdly, consider John’s *delight* in Gaius (verses 3-4).
- D. Fourthly, think about Gaius’ *diligence* (verses 5-7).
 - 1. First, his diligence is referred to as having a *reputable* faith (verse 5a).
 - 2. Secondly, his diligence is reflected by his having a *reliable* love (verse 6a).
 - a. Notice how his reliable love is *encouraged* (verse 6a).
 - b. Note, too how his reliable love is *exemplified* (verse 6b) “... *after a godly sort* . . .”

2.

E. Fifthly, consider the *demand* on Gaius (verse 8).

- 1. First, note how supporting world evangelism involves a *responsibility* (verse 8a).
- 2. Secondly, notice how supporting world evangelism includes a *probability* (verse 8b).

APPLICATION: Gaius’s selfless life brings out four principles that are produced in such a life:

- 1. First, we *prosper* in our own souls (verse 2).
- 2. Secondly, we are to *proclaim* the truth (verse 5-6).
- 3. Thirdly, we are to *participate* in the ministry of others (verse 8).
- 4. Fourthly, we *please* the Lord (verse 11).

II. **SECONDLY, NOTICE A PROUD CHRISTIAN NAMED DIOTREPES WHO IS DESTRUCTIVE (3 John 9-11).**

- A. First, notice his personal *ambition* (vss. 9-10).
 - 1. First, his personal ambition caused his emotions to become *unbalanced* (verse 9a).
 - 2. Secondly, his personal ambition caused his mind to become *unteachable* (verse 9b-10a).

3.

3. Thirdly, his personal ambition caused his will to be unmovable (verse 10b).

B. Secondly, consider some practical advice (verse 11).

1. First, we have a principle to accept (verse 11a).

2. Secondly, we have a proverb to acknowledge (11b).

APPLICATION: The spirit of Diotrephes can be in all of us. This brings up four questions to consider:

1. **Am I attending church for what it can do for me?**
2. **Am I willing to serve in this church even if no one recognizes me or notices me?**
3. **Am I teachable when challenged or corrected in the teaching and preaching with the way I think or act?**
4. **Do I always have to be right, first and in front?**

III. THIRDLY, CONSIDER A _____ CHRISTIAN NAMED DEMETRIUS WHO IS _____ (3 John 12).

4.

A. First, note the testimony _____ him—his reliability (12a).

B. Secondly, notice the truth _____ him (12b).

C. Thirdly, consider how a tribute confirmed him (12c).

IV. FOURTHLY, THINK ABOUT A _____ CHRISTIAN LIKE JOHN WHO IS _____ (3 John 13-14).

A. First, this partisan Christian had much to _____ (verse 13).

B. Secondly, this devoted Christian was coming their _____ (verse 14).

Notice how he ends the letter with encouragement:

1. First, his encouragement comes in the form of personal _____ in them (verse 14a).

2. Secondly, his encouragement comes in the form of a special _____ in them (verse 14b).