

/We will now begin lecture nine with 3 John. /Today's passages are from 3 John, and the title is, "Testimony." /We will look at the main parts.

/First, the greeting. Verses 1-4. /Second, hospitality to strangers. Verses 5-8. /Third, Diotrephes. Verses 9-11. /Fourth, Demetrius. Verse 12. /Fifth, concluding words. Verses 13-15.

/Read verse 1. /The elder, To my dear friend Gaius, whom I love in the truth.

/The apostle John wrote to his friend, Gaius, whom he loved. /John was called the apostle of love because he received much love from Jesus. /John also emphasized God's love through his epistles.

/He encouraged believers to keep the new commandment of putting Christ's love to action. /John encouraged believers to practice love because he himself received much love from Jesus.

/John did not have a personal relationship with Gaius, but their relationship was a faith-based relationship between God's loving believers. /Who is Gaius? There are many people in the Bible. /Gaius showed hospitality to strangers and he was a proprietor of a tavern. /Romans 16:23

/Gaius walked in the truth and served many believers. /He was financially wealthy and served others. /John especially loved Gaius because Gaius walked and acted in the truth.

/Gaius earnestly loved the Lord, who is the Truth, and Gaius obeyed. /All who walk in the truth are brothers in Christ, and is one body. /The apostle John wrote a letter to the beloved Gaius.

/Verse 2. /Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.

/The apostle John prayed that Gaius would enjoy good health and that all would go well with his soul. /The souls of us believers must be well. /God is pleased when our souls are well.

/God allows physical illnesses and disciplines us so that we would repent and be well in our souls. /God also allows us to encounter hardships, sufferings, and persecutions.

/Whoever is obedient to God's Word will be blessed, but whoever does not obey will be disciplined. /In this way, it is foundational that the soul be well. /Then it can be well with everything.

/One pastor said that verse 2 was a "Three Rhythm Salvation." /This claimed that the soul, health, and all matters of believers would be well. /Now then, we must think whether the wellness of our souls influence our businesses, health, and all matters.

/God can make things well in our lives. /However, sometimes that is not the case. /Job, Joseph, and David was well in their souls, but they experienced physical sufferings.

/Paul looked upon the Lord and followed His Word, yet experienced sufferings and persecutions on earth. /Daniel kept his faith and was thrown into the lions' den. /John the Baptist was martyred for following the Lord.

/These men with great faith was well in their souls but faced many physical sufferings. /Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

/This verse in Matthew carries the same meaning as verse 2 in today's passages. /God gives us an abundance of things in this world when it is well with our souls, and when we first seek his kingdom and his righteousness.

/There are five things that testify to the truth that one will be healthy when his soul is well and everything else is well with him. /First, when we believers obey God's Word, they will be successful in the world.

/We will be well on this earth when we keep our faith, keep Sundays as the Sabbath and give tithes. /Also, when God disciplines us with illnesses or difficulties, he will hear our prayers when we repent and get back on the right path.

/James 5:16 says, "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." /Second, believers must not make their success in the world and healing of their illnesses the center of their lives.

/If we live with such purposes, we will become corrupt in spirit and lean towards worldly and fleshy things. /When we attempt to serve both God and the world, we will serve God in vain.

/Abraham's nephew, Lot, served both God and the world, and was ultimately disciplined with a judgment of fire. /Our purpose must be to be well in our souls, and we must not put worldly things at the center of our lives.

/Proverbs 30:8-9 prays, "give me neither poverty nor riches." /Third, we must look only towards Jesus and seek His kingdom and His righteousness.

/In Philippians 3:13-14, Paul says to forget what is behind, and press on toward the goal, Christ. /It is when we give up the things of this world that we can follow the Lord.

/There will be persecutions and sufferings when we forsake the things of this world and chase after the Lord. /Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

/When Abraham left his country, people and father's household, he did not know where he was going, but followed God's Word. /Peter left everything behind and followed the Lord. /There is true and eternal worth in abandoning the things of this world and following the Lord.

/We must first seek God's kingdom and his righteousness, and we must seek the well-being of the church. /We must not be afraid of the world, and we must not attempt to hold onto the world.

/Therefore, believers must always look towards Jesus and follow Him. /Fourth, things of the world may not go well when believers look towards the Lord and follow His Word.

/There are many believers who kept their faith in this world, who encountered sufferings, poverty, and hardships. /The lives of some have been threatened and many have even died. /However, they failed in the flesh, but they were spiritually rich in God's grace.

/Philippians 1:29. /Daniel was thrown into the lions' den, but he received great blessings and grace because he overcame with faith. /Job suffered and encountered great pain, yet in the spiritual sense, God made him come forth as gold and Job received great blessings and grace.

/How much persecution and suffering did Jesus receive while He was in this world? /The Lord was ultimately crucified on the cross. /We believers must believe that our souls become well and we become closer to the Lord when we encounter sufferings as a result of keeping our faith.

/Fifth, we must not be overcome by the thought that our well-being on earth and healing of illnesses come with Christianity. /One does not succeed by believing and dreaming of success in this world.

/False teachers teach that when we continuously pursue our goals and dreams, they will come true. /However, the Bible does not teach that. /Believers are bound to fall to physical and worldly principles when they focus on their physical well-being in this world.

/If one prays and believes that their goal will be achieved, that is merely a philosophical conviction. /The Bible says that everything is done according to the will of God, and it will not be done if it is not God's will.

/Everything is accomplished according to God's sovereignty. /Our Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Yet not as I will, but as you will."

/Verse 2 and the five truths give us great assurance. /Though we may encounter failures on earth when we are well with our souls, we do not have to despair. /Though we may have failed on earth, we can be comforted by looking towards hope in heaven.

/Verses 3-4. /It gave me great joy to have some brothers come and tell about your faithfulness to the truth and how you continue to walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.

/This is a greeting for those who live in the truth. /There is nothing of greater joy than God's children walk in faith. /What is God most joyful of? He is most joyful when his believers learn and walk in the truth.

/Here, Gaius received and realized the truth, and he was a man who lived in the truth. /Others saw this and the news spread to John. /John was extremely joyful when he heard that his disciple Gaius lived in the truth.

/“There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed.” /If there is light, that light will shine and all will see its light. /God's servants will feel worth and give thanks when believers walk in the truth.

/How can we truly make God happy? /We must understand the Word of truth, stand firm in the truth, and obey to bear many fruit. /Deuteronomy 10:12, 13.

/Verses 5-6. /Dear friend, you are faithful in what you are doing for the brothers, even though they are strangers to you. They have told the church about your love. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God.

/Gaius showed hospitality to strangers. /Strangers of that time refer to touring preachers who were scattered in many places because of their faith. /Gaius took in and showed hospitality to these preachers.

/These preachers testified to the church about Gaius' good deeds. /To show hospitality to strangers is to obey Jesus' command, “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

/If we do not live a life of obedience, God will not accept our sacrificial offerings, no matter how many we may give to God. /God said, “to obey is better than sacrifice.” /It is right that we show hospitality to strangers, and it is important that we are not careless about it.

/Abraham served strangers who turned out to be angels, and then he heard news about Sodom and Gomorrah. /We must do good deeds when God gives us the opportunity to. /Ephesians 2:10 says that is God's purpose for us.

/When we plant good seeds, we will one day reap good fruit. /We can bear fruit on earth, or we and our children can bear fruit in heaven.

/Verses 7-8. /It was for the sake of the Name that they went out, receiving no help from the pagans. We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men so that we may work together for the truth.

/It is right that we show hospitality to strangers. /There were many wandering preachers during the times of the early church who did not receive wages. /Paul preached the gospel during the day and built and sold tents at night, and he did not receive help from others.

/There are rewards for such people. /1 Corinthians 9:18. /Whoever does not use his rights or receive wages will remain forever. /However helps preachers will receive rewards.

/Matthew 10:41-42 says, /“Anyone who receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward.” /“Anyone who receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward.”

/Jesus also promised, “If anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” /God is pleased when we receive and show hospitality to people who work for the truth.

/It is a good opportunity for us to receive rewards in the kingdom of glory. /We must be valuably used and be blessed by showing hospitality to strangers.

/Verses 9-11. /I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to be first, will have nothing to do with us. So if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing, gossiping maliciously about us. Not satisfied with that, he refuses to welcome the brothers. He also stops those who want to do so and puts them out of the church. Dear friend, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. Anyone who does what is good is from God. Anyone who does what is evil has not seen God.

/Here is gives warning about malicious leaders. /Who is the malicious leader here? It is Diotrephes. /What type of person was he? /First, he loved to be first. /This means that he was arrogant and did not receive the gospel.

/Arrogance leads to destruction. /God destroys the arrogant. /God valuably used King Saul when he was humble, but God forsook Saul when he became arrogant. /Anyone in society who loves to be first will not be liked by others.

/When one desires to be first in the church, there will be disorder in the church. /Proverbs 6:16, 17 says /that of the six to seven things God hates, arrogance is the first.

/It is wrong for one to be arrogant and desires being served by others. /Believers must serve with humility in lowly positions. /God gave Paul a thorn in the flesh.

/Paul became humble through the thorn, and God was able to continue to use him valuably. /We must always consider ourselves lower than others. /We must pay attention to the plank in our own eyes instead of looking at the speck of sawdust in our brothers’ eyes.

/Jesus laid down His throne of glory in the kingdom of heaven and humbled Himself in the form of a servant. /We must always become humble like our Lord and serve others.

/What type of person was Diotrephes? Second, he refused to welcome preachers and chased them out of the church. /It is a wicked deed to reject and ostracize preachers who work for God and the gospel.

/When these wicked people influence the church, grace dissipates. /Here in verse 10 it says Diotrephes gossiped maliciously. /It is possible that Diotrephes censured and criticized the apostles.

/It is a wicked deed to slander God's servants, for it is to slander God. /When Korah slandered Moses, God judged them with his great wrath. /The church must rule over and punish anyone who slanders pastors.

/There will be great damage to the movement of the gospel if the church does not rule over evil. /A small amount of yeast spreads through the entire dough and brings about chaos. /God does not forget the wickedness of man and surely judges.

/We believers must stay away from wickedness and become good. /We must not be evil like Diotrephes, but we must be good like Gaius. /Man's nature desires to chase after evil and strives to be evil.

/However, we must imitate God's goodness. /Children do not chase after good even when they are taught goodness. /However, children easily chase after wickedness even when they are not taught to.

/This is man's evil nature. /This is the old self, our nature before we believed. /We must throw away the old self and chase after God, who is life, and his righteousness and goodness.

/1 Corinthians 14:20 says, "In regard to evil be infants, but in your thinking be adults." /Here in verse 12 is the good-hearted Demetrius.

/Verse 12. /Demetrius is well spoken of by everyone-- and even by the truth itself. We also speak well of him, and you know that our testimony is true.

/What type of believer was Demetrius? /First, he was well-behaved at church and was an exemplary man. /Why did God give us positions? /It was so that we would serve believers and bring up the church. /Ephesians 4:11-12.

/Here, Demetrius walked in the truth and was respectful of elders. /He was a man of faith who was spoken well of by both believers and nonbelievers.

/He walked in the truth, and was a beloved person who was spoken well of and acknowledged by God and others. /Romans 14:18. /Second, what type of believers was Demetrius? /The apostles testified about him.

/God is glorified when believers are acknowledged by God's servants, and believers fulfill their duties. /Demetrius was a valuable man even in John's eyes.

/Verses 13-14. /I have much to write you, but I do not want to do so with pen and ink. I hope to see you soon, and we will talk face to face.

/The apostle John wanted to see the believers soon because he could not write everything with pen and paper. /We can be strengthened by the Holy Spirit when we have fellowship with one another, and we can share God's Word in spirit.

/The Holy Spirit works when we realize the truth and share the truth with others. /We must learn the truth and live by the truth, and we must strive to share the truth with others.

/It is God's precious grace that we are able to have spiritual fellowship with one another. /God allowed the church to have communication with one another through his Word and through the prayer of believers.

/We must have fellowship in the truth with God's fellowship as the foundation. /It is valuable for believers in the church to have fellowship with faith. /There is communication among believers even when we confess our faith with the Apostles' Creed.

/Verse 15. /Peace to you. The friends here send their greetings. Greet the friends there by name.

/In conclusion, John blesses Gaius with the blessing of peace. /The greeting of peace is the greatest blessing in the Bible. /When Paul wrote letters to many churches, he blessed them with peace in the beginning and in the end.

/2 Corinthians 13:14 especially prays, /"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." /Numbers 6:22-26 speak of Aaron's blessing.

/It is our believers' valuable privilege to bless others. /Jesus told His disciples to bless the towns with peace when they entered the towns. /Peace that comes from God is peace that cannot come from the world, and it is a precious blessing.

/This peace comes from the redemption of Jesus Christ and is given to the believers. /Here we will conclude the lecture on 3 John. /Thank you.