HA (June-Dec 96)/ IBCH (26 May 13 & 22 May 16)/ UBTC (June 2016) Dr. Rick Griffith

CIC (19 May 13 & 10 July 16)/ GPF (28 May 17) Single Message

NIV 40 Minutes

**An Email to Advance Truth**

Title + 14 family

***3 John***

**Topic:** Missions

**Subject:** How can you obey God’s truth?

**Complement:** Support missions in the way God has for you.

**Purpose:** The listeners will respond to the unique way God designed for them to walk in the truth by supporting or becoming missionaries.

# Introduction

### Interest: A recent poll during an election year asked respondents what they considered more important in a presidential candidate: ability or integrity. Is it more important to have a candidate with expertise or high moral standards—for example, one who tells the truth? The results were sad as most preferred a candidate’s ability over his truthfulness. Obviously, both ability and integrity are needed in any job—especially the presidency! But how little attention is given to truth in today’s society! Anything goes!

Ability or integrity?

### This was clearly portrayed in a *USA Weekend* report on religion in America where the author writes: “How can I hold my truth to be the truth when so many others see truth differently?” (1996). Do you see the subtle lie that “there is no objective truth”? Truth is truth, even if no one believes it. A lie is still a lie, even if everyone believes it. Gravity is true, so you WILL fall off the cliff even if you SINCERELY believe you won’t fall!

Truth is truth.

Relativism

#### Among my privileges as a seminary professor at Singapore Bible College is teaching the New Testament Survey course—teaching all 27 NT books in just a few weeks.

Courses I teach

#### Did you know that, of the 27 NT books, 19 of them responded to heresy afflicting the church? Talk about the need to know and obey God’s truth! Defending truth is a *huge* theme in the New Testament!

NT Letters heresy

### Need: How many of you feel a need to obey God’s truth? Raise your hand if you feel the need to be obedient to the Bible.

Do you need to obey?

### Background: Obviously there are numerous ways to obey God’s truth—prayer, reading the Bible, etc. but today we will focus on three ways noted in one of these 19 letters.

Timeline

#### It was written near the end of the first century when an incredible amount of false teaching was afflicting the church—not unlike our time today. Inns were unsafe so believers took in the traveling teachers—and one wealthy Christian named Gaius did a particularly good job of caring for them. Have you read 3 John before?

Chapters

Occasion

Inns

#### It’s the shortest of all the books in the Bible—in fact, you can hardly call it a letter—calling 3 John an “email” is more appropriate. But 3 John is a power-packed email, full of great truths. Look at it with me. 219 words (2 John = 244 words)

Emails

2 v. 3 John

### Text: [Read verses 1-4.] Did you notice the emphasis on truth in verses 1-4?

1-4

### Subject: It says Gaius was obeying the truth, but *how* was he doing it? And, even more importantly, how can you and I obey God’s truth?

How obey?

### Transition: There are many answers to this question, but three ways are noted in this letter, each revolving around a different man. So let’s look one-by-one at the three ways we can obey God’s truth in verses 5 to 12, OK? The first way we can obey God’s truth is to…

• 3 ways

3 men

# I. Help others get the truth out like Gaius (5-8).

MP

**[Follow the example of the godly man Gaius by supporting God’s workers.]**

## Gaius housed missionaries he didn’t even know.

5-7

### We all show hospitality to people we know––like relatives (or at least we *should*).

### But Gaius supported them even though he didn’t know them personally when they showed up at his church. They just had to be workers for the truth and he would help them out.

### Verse 6 says Gaius sent them out in a “manner worthy of God.” What does that mean?

#### Verse 7 provides a partial answer: Gaius gave them “help” since non-Christians don’t support missionaries.

#### Verse 8 also notes that every believer should be providing hospitality to missionaries.

Keys

(But how does helping get the truth out apply to you and me?)

## We also aid the truth by supporting and housing missionaries.

30-Days of Prayer

### This is why believers have the 30-Days of Prayer for Muslims during Ramadan.

World-Venture

### Aiding the truth just what this church is doing with us. We came from the USA with WorldVenture in 1991 as representatives of the truth of God in Singapore, teaching His truth to leaders from 20 nations at Singapore Bible College—and this church has, like Gaius, faithfully supported us for many years.

SBC  
(6 slides)

### Thank you for spreading the truth by helping me teach leaders truth: how to preach the truth, know the truth in each Bible book, and about 10 other courses on my website now at biblestudydownloads.org.

BSD  
(9 slides)

Hospitality

### Of course the passage is telling us too we can and should be hospitable people.

### Of course, John is commending Gaius for making financial investments in missions too. He says, in effect, in verse 7, if Christians don’t support missionaries, then who will?

### I once received a phone call from a wealthy doctor’s wife in our congregation in Singapore. She had a theological question for the resident missionary theologian: Should Christians use part of their tithe to support the government’s Community Chest for the needy? I told her essentially what John said here: if we Christians don’t support God’s work, then who will?

Asia Missions

### Singapore is actually doing the best job in Asia of sending out missionaries [explain chart].

Book Chart

(So the first of the three ways to obey the truth is to help get the truth out is to support missionaries like Gaius. Now in verses 9-10 we see a second way to obey the truth…)

MPI

# II. Don’t hinder missions like Diotrephes (9-11).

• MP

# [Avoid doing anything that will stand in the way of getting the gospel out.]

9-10

## This is the opposite of supporting missions like Gaius, for Diotrephes opposed missions.

Zeus

### It’s interesting to note that Diotrephes means "nourished by Zeus."

#### But what’s so unusual about a Gentile Christian with a pagan name?

#### Most of my SBC students are saved out of Buddhism and ancestor worship. Some are even named after Chinese deities—but after salvation they take on new names: Grace, Timothy, etc.

#### Although the common first century practice for Gentiles saved from idolatry was to change their names after embracing Christianity, Diotrephes’ pagan name was not changed after his conversion. Neither did he change his conduct.

### But what did Diotrephes do that made him so bad?

#### He gossiped about John and the missionaries John sent to the church. Imagine slandering the last remaining apostle who walked with Christ! What arrogance!

• refused

• gossip

#### Verse 10 says that he refused to welcome missionaries sent to his church.

#### He even opposed missionary support to the extent of kicking people out who gave to missionaries! Can you imagine your pastor or chairman of the board excommunicating you for inviting my family over for lunch?

• threw out

(Perhaps we don’t throw people out of this church who support missions, but…)

## We can hinder the gospel through very subtle ways.

Hindrances  
• X

### Sometimes we let false teaching go without a comment! So should we name false teachers by name? John did! When someone like Harold Camping give false prophecies about the return of Jesus, we should call it what it is. Fortunately, he repented of it before he died.

Camping  
(3 slides)

### Often when we have mission myopia we can throw cold water on new believers—those who are often the most eager ones to share their faith! I remember when I went out as a missionary to Asia the first time, some “Diotrepheses” came along: my church which discouraged me from going and my believing sister who said I was doing the wrong thing.

SBC Students

### Susan has a great privilege of encouraging new believers at Singapore Bible College. Diotrephes was near-sighted, but most of my students are first generation believers excited about God and missions. Susan has joined me in this by mentoring their wives and has seen International Community School extend its outreach to 40 nations!

SBC Wives

ICS  
(2 slides)

### Life has enough discouragements without believers following in Diotrephes’ footsteps. Are you hindering the gospel even in subtle ways? We don’t want to do that here at this church!

#### “We have to take care of our own needs here first!” is a temptation for some churches. That’s why when we planted Crossroads International Church in Singapore, from the start we committed to invest in other countries 20% of our offerings!

CIC  
3 slides

CIC mission  
2 slides

#### There are so many clever ways that Satan has devised to keep the church from its primary mandate. Let’s be wary of them, as verse 11 warns…

11

MPI

(We’re to be people who propagate the truth. How? Support missionaries like Gaius and don’t hinder the gospel like Diotrephes. But it would be amiss not to share the final way to obey the truth, and that is to…)

• MPII

# III. Become a missionary like Demetrius (12).

• MPIII

# [Spread God’s truth by being a witness yourself in the footsteps of Demetrius.]

## Demetrius was almost assuredly the missionary who carried the letter from John to Gaius.

12

### He had a good reputation so he was sent out—a guy whom the whole church would vouch for. And even if the truth could speak, it would agree: “Here’s a quality guy!”

### John didn’t say, “Hey, Gaius, we still have needs over here in Ephesus. Sorry we can’t send any quality people your way, but you know how it is, the home church needs them.”

(What’s it saying to us?)

## Let’s send our best people overseas.

Multiply yourself!

### When the church at Antioch was praying in Acts 13, the Holy Spirit told the church to send out Paul and Barnabas as missionaries. If you could read between the lines, the church said, “What?! Paul and Barnabas? Wait, they are our two key pastors! We can’t send them out!” Paul later said in 2 Timothy 2:2 that we should multiply ourselves into trustworthy ones.

### Our vision is threefold love of God, the church, and the nations—so we should be like one of our supporting churches that keeps losing its pastoral staff to overseas missions. What a great way to have to replace your pastors! Sure they leave gaps at home. But this provides opportunities to develop even more leaders for the kingdom!

Love the Nations

### It’s exciting to see how God continues to send out His best. Our member Noah is one of the few trained Chiru believers in the world, but serving right here among us until he and Sarah marry and return to NE India.

13-15

Noah   
(3 slides)

## Balance relationships with tasks (13-15).

Subject

(OK, so what’s the message of John’s third epistle? How can we obey God’s truth? Simply this…)

# Conclusion

Main Idea

### Live out God’s truth by supporting missions in the way God has for you (Main Idea).

### The Lord has a specific place in his vineyard for you to share his truth—find it and go for it! God’s truth is being attacked on numerous fronts: Buddhism, Islam, New Age Movement, Relativism, and a host of others. But He wants to use both you and me as His instruments in proclaiming the truth.

Summary Statement

### Would you bow your heads right now as we consider what He would have us each do? With whom do you identify?

Whom?

#### Are you a Gaius? One whom God has called to minister to the world by staying but with a global concern? One whose main role is financial support? hospitality? Go for it!

Gaius?

#### Perhaps you have been a Diotrephes. One with “mission myopia,” who has tried to put the brakes on missionary zeal of others—perhaps even your own children who are interested in missions? Repent of it!

• Diotrephes

#### Or do you best relate to Demetrius? One in whose heart God has worked and confirmed through the saints that you are to be sent out? You go for it too!

You?

• Demetrius

### Are you advancing the gospel by supporting missionaries through hospitality and finances?

### The beautiful thing in all this is that neither Gaius nor Demetrius’ job is more important. As John says in verse 8, God has called both “so that we may work together for the truth.”

Black

**Preliminary Questions**

**Verses Questions**

Context What did the author record just prior to this passage?

Purpose Why is this passage in the Bible?

Background What historical context helps us understand this passage?

1 Is the letter based upon the three key people?

Why doesn’t John identify himself in more lofty terms?

2 Is this the only biblical example for prayer for health?

3 Who are these brothers?

What is the truth?

4 Was walking in truth really John’s greatest joy?

5 What was Gaius doing?

How were these brothers “strangers”?

6 How are missionaries sent on their way in a way worthy of God?

7 Why didn’t the missionaries receive help from pagans?

8 How is hospitality shown?

In what sense do the believers work together for the truth?

9 Where is this letter John wrote?

What does Diotrephes mean?

Could Diotrephes really oppose the Apostle John?

10 Should the church call attention to specific individuals who are troublemakers?

How could Diotrephes get away with such terrible actions?

11 What specifically are the “evil” and “good”?

Is John talking about Diotrephes and Demetrius?

What does “has not seen God” mean?

12 How could “the truth” speak positively of Demetrius?

**Tentative Subject/Complement Statements**

Text

**Possible Illustrations**

Melly’s question about giving to the Community Chest

Support of Myanmar students—Kip Vel, Sai Tun Kyaw

Phil Jamieson’s hospitality

KP Yohanan’s discouragement of westerners as missionaries

GBC woman who asked if there’s still a need for Bible translators

## Gaius housed missionaries he didn’t even know.

### Hey, this is what it says in verse 5—he faithfully supported strange missionaries! That would include people like me, you know.

#### We’re the kind of people who arrive back in America and ask dumb questions like, “What is a Rush Limbaugh? Is this a new kind of car? or a new cheese?”

#### Missionaries are strange too because clothing styles change so fast. By the time we make it back to the states again we don’t know whether to pack a wide tie, skinny tie, striped tie, power tie, or tie die tie!

### You’ve probably caught on that I’m not doing justice to the text. The point is not that the missionaries are strange, but that Gaius supported them even though he didn’t know them personally when they showed up at his church. They just had to be workers for the truth and he would help them out.

### It’s exciting to see how God continues to send out His best. And He’s chosen to bring some Asia’s best leaders to us in Singapore where we can give them further training at Singapore Bible College. I remember in 1990 sharing with churches that there were still four countries with no known Christians—Albania, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, and Mongolia. Now at SBC we have trained TEN leaders from Mongolia! Praise God for getting the message out!

**A True Postcard**

***3 John***

**Exegetical Outline**

Exegetical Idea: The purpose John encourages Gaius to continue *supporting missionaries* such as Demetrius despite opposition from Diotrephes (a godless leader who opposes supporting them) was to help the church to see its *responsibility to finance God’s work.*

**I. (1-8)** The purpose **John confirms Gaius for his godliness and missionary support** was **so that he would continue to support missionaries despite Diotrephes' opposition.**

II**.** **(9-11)** The purpose **John condemns Diotrephes for rejecting his teaching and for opposing missionary support** was **so that his evil actions would not be imitated.**

III**.(12)** The purpose **John recommends Demetrius, probably a traveling missionary who carried the letter, with a threefold positive testimony** was **so that Gaius would not hesitate to give him the same support he showed to other missionaries.**

**Homiletical Exposition** (cyclical inductive form)

Subject: How can you obey God’s truth (1-4)? (There are many answers to this question, but three ways are noted in this letter which all relate to living for others…)

I. Help others get the truth out as did Gaius (5-8).

A. Gaius gave housing to missionaries he didn’t even know.

B. You can participate in the truth by supporting and housing missionaries.

II. Don’t hinder missions like Diotrephes (9-10).

A. Diotrephes opposed missionary support to the extent of even kicking people out who gave to missionaries!

B. We can hinder the gospel through very subtle ways.

III. Become a missionary yourself like Demetrius (12).

A. Demetrius had a good reputation so he was sent out.

B. Let’s send our best people overseas.

Main Idea: Live out God’s truth by supporting missions in the way God has for you.

**3 John**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Supporting Missionaries** | | | | | | | | |
| **1-8** | | | **9-11** | | | **12-14** | | |
| **Gaius** | | | **Diotrephes** | | | **Demetrius** | | |
| **Commended** | | | **Condemned** | | | **Recommended** | | |
| **Supported**  **Missionaries** | | | **Opposed**  **Missionaries** | | | **Is a**  **Missionary** | | |
| Greetings & Prayer  1-2 | Joy over Godliness  3-4 | Support Confirmed  5-8 | for Rejecting John  9 | for Opposing  Missionaries  10 | for Doing Evil  11 | Good  Reputation  12 | Visit  Anticipated  13-14a | Affectionate  Greetings  14b-d |
| **Asia Minor** | | | | | | | | |
| **c. AD 90** | | | | | | | | |

**Key Word: Missionaries**

**Key Verse: “We ought therefore to show hospitality to such men [missionaries] so that we may work together for the truth” (3 John 8).**

**Summary Statement: John encourages Gaius to continue *supporting missionaries* such as Demetrius despite opposition from Diotrephes (a godless leader who opposes supporting them) to help the church to see its *responsibility to finance God’s work.***

**Application:**

**Are you advancing the gospel by supporting missionaries through hospitality and finances?**

**3 John**

**Introduction**

**I. Title**: The Greek title (Iwa,nnou g *Third of John*) follows the standard practice of naming the General Epistles after their authors and distinguishes this epistle from John's two others.

**II. Authorship**

A. External Evidence: The Apostle John penned this shortest biblical writing as the leader of the Ephesian church in Asia Minor and author of his Gospel, 1 John, 2 John and Revelation.

B. Internal Evidence: The title "the elder" (v. 1) was always interpreted as John until the rise of liberal scholarship. Themes such as love (v. 6), joy (v. 4; cf. 1 John 1:4), and truth (vv. 1, 3-4, 12) bear remarkable resemblance to emphases in 1 John and the Gospel of John.

**III.Circumstances**

A. Date: Most conservative scholars believe John wrote concerning this issue about A.D. 90, although nothing in the epistle excludes an earlier date (see 1 John notes).

B. Origin/Recipients: A dear friend of the Apostle named Gaius is addressed, a man who regularly opened his home to show hospitality to traveling missionaries, probably in Asia Minor, where John lived.

C. Occasion: As explained in the notes on 2 John, before the New Testament writings were completed and circulated among the early believers, the churches relied upon traveling missionaries (prophets and teachers) for truth. Because inns were unsafe and few in number, these missionaries stayed with Christians. A man named Gaius was faithfully extending hospitality to such men (vv. 5-8), despite the opposition of another man in the church named Diotrephes (vv. 9-10). John's letter is written to encourage Gaius to continue this practice of hospitality and support to missionaries. Whereas in 2 John the Apostle John warns against supporting *false* teachers, 3 John speaks to the "flip-side" of the issue: believers should support *true* missionary teachers.

**IV.Characteristics**

A. **People** in the Postcard: This warm, personable letter revolves around three people:

1. Gaius is a godly man who wholeheartedly supports the missionaries (vv. 1-8).

2. Diotrephes ("nourished by Zeus") is a carnal believer opposing hospitality towards the missionaries practiced by Gaius and other believers (vv. 9-11). Although the common first century practice for Gentiles saved from idolatry was to change their names after embracing Christianity, Diotrephes’ pagan name was not changed after his conversion.

3. Demetrius is a missionary whom the church should support (v. 12).

B. The latter two epistles of John can be contrasted in several ways:

**2 John 3 John**

Recipient a Woman a Man

Names Anonymous Gaius, Diotrephes, Demetrius

Mood Condemns Commends

Missionaries False True

Hospitality/Support Misplaced Missing (Diotrephes)

Maintained (Gaius)

C. If 2 John actually addressed a church, 3 John would be the only New Testament letter written by John to an individual. All second person pronouns ("you") are singular.

**Argument**

The Book of 3 John teaches believers to show hospitality and support for true teachers sent from the church (missionaries) to enable them to spread the gospel freely. John wrote Gaius this "postcard" to commend him for this kind of hospitality. John first commends Gaius for his faithful support of these men (vv. 1-8), then condemns Gaius' opposer, Diotrephes, for rejecting the missionaries and those who supported them (vv. 9-11), and concludes with an introduction of Demetrius, who is worthy of support (v. 12) along with some personal matters (vv. 13-14).

**Synthesis**

**Supporting missionaries**

**1-8 Gaius confirmed**

1 Greetings

2 Prayer for health

3-4 Joy over godliness

5-6a Past support commended

6b Future support encouraged

7-8 Believers' responsibility

7 Not non-Christians

8 Partnership in spreading truth

**9-11 Diotrephes condemned**

9 for rejecting John's instructions

10 for opposing missionary support

10a Gossip

10b Inhospitableness

10c Excommunications

11 for doing evil

**12 Demetrius recommended**

**13-14 Conclusion**

13-14a Personal visit anticipated

14b-d Affectionate greetings

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**John encourages Gaius to continue *supporting missionaries* such as Demetrius despite opposition from Diotrephes (a godless leader who opposes supporting them) to help the church to see its *responsibility to finance God’s work.***

**I. (1-8) John confirms Gaius for his godliness and missionary support so that he would continue to support missionaries despite Diotrephes' opposition.**

A. (1) John identifies himself as author and specifically addresses his letter to a dear Christian brother, Gaius, to indicate the apostolic authority the letter possesses and to give public commendation of Gaius before all who may read it, especially Diotrephes.

1. (1a) The Apostle John, the leader of the Ephesian church, identifies himself in a short epistle in the latter years of his life so that whoever read the letter might know that its contents have the stamp of apostolic authority.

2. (1b) John's beloved friend Gaius, a Christian man of material means, is specifically designated as recipient of the epistle to give public commendation of Gaius before all who may read it—especially Diotrephes.

B. (2) John prays that Gaius' health and general well-being might be in as good of shape as his spiritual vitality to demonstrate his concern for both Gaius' physical and spiritual needs.

C. (3-4) John expresses the joy he had after hearing from some missionaries who had stayed with Gaius that Gaius faithfully lived the Christian life to commend him for his godly life as the best news John could ever receive about him or any other convert.

1. (3) John expresses the joy he had after hearing from some missionaries who had stayed with Gaius that Gaius faithfully lived the Christian life to commend him for his faithfulness to God's workers.

2. (4) John notes that the best news he could ever hear about someone he led to Christ is that he continue growing in Christ, obedient to the truth, so that Gaius might know that John couldn't be more pleased with him.

D. (5-6a) Gaius' hospitality and love towards missionaries whom he supported is confirmed so that he would continue to support them in spite of Diotrephes' opposition.

E. (6b) Further hospitality and support for these men is encouraged so that Gaius might understand that this ministry must continue.

F. (7-8) John reminds Gaius that since the missionaries' work is for Christ the world will not support it, thus reminding him and other believers of their personal responsibility to fund God's work.

1. (7) Non-Christians have no interest in funding work done for Christ.

2. (8) John reminds Gaius that missionaries must be completely supported by God's people in order to show that missionaries and supporters are partners in spreading God's truth.

**II. (9-11) John condemns Diotrephes for rejecting his teaching and for opposing missionary support so that his evil actions would not be imitated.**

A. (9) John warns that even though the church where Gaius was had received a letter from John commending missionaries' support, Diotrephes, a leader in the church, rejected the appeal from personal ambition.

B. (10) John condemns in writing Diotrephes' opposition to missionary support shown in his gossip, lack of hospitality, and excommunication of hospitable believers, but John promises to condemn it again personally should he have opportunity to visit the church.

1. (10a) John condemns the malicious gossip of Diotrephes to protect the integrity of the missionaries visiting the church.

2. (10b) John condemns the inhospitable actions of Diotrephes to instruct the church that this lack of generosity is not to be imitated.

3. (10c) John condemns the excommunication of hospitable believers by Diotrephes to reveal his egotism and opposition to the truth of God.

C. (11) John condemns Diotrephes to contrast his inhospitable, evil actions (which should be avoided) with the hospitable, good deeds of Gaius (which should be imitated).

**III.(12) John recommends Demetrius, probably a traveling missionary who carried the letter, with a threefold positive testimony so that Gaius would not hesitate to give him the same support he showed to other missionaries.**

A. (12a) Everyone in the various churches who knew Demetrius spoke well of him, so Gaius would "imitate what was good" if he extended hospitality to Demetrius.

B. (12b) Even if no one testified on Demetrius' behalf, if God's truth could talk it would also speak well of Demetrius since his exemplary behavior lined up with proper teaching, which would serve to encourage Gaius to take in Demetrius.

C. (12c) John and his fellow-workers recommend Demetrius so that when Diotrephes rejects Demetrius, Gaius might take courage that Demetrius is highly endorsed.

**IV.(13-14) John expresses a desire to personally see Gaius, wishes him peace, sends greetings, and requests greetings to Gaius' friends on his behalf to reinforce both his displeasure with Diotrephes and his affection for Gaius.**

A. (13-14a) Although John had much to write about supporting missionaries, Diotrephes' opposition and other causes, he expresses hope to tell these things personally to Gaius so that Gaius would know both John's affection for him and his displeasure with Diotrephes.

B. (14b-d) John wishes Gaius peace, sends greetings from his friends and requests that Gaius' friends be personally greeted for him, thus ending the letter on an affectionate note to reinforce his love for Gaius and his friends.

1. (14b) John requests that Gaius might know peace in the tumultuous situation in which he finds himself with Diotrephes to reinforce his love for Gaius.

2. (14c) John sends greetings from the friends with him as an affectionate gesture.

3. (14d) John requests that Gaius' friends be personally greeted for him as an indication of his individual concern and value placed upon every believer in Gaius' church.

1. I say “we” because it includes me and my family as well. We too are responsible to set aside income for missionary support.

a. In fact, one missionary organization once discovered that if their missionaries stopped giving to other missionaries, many of them would have to go home!

b. Living in Singapore, which is the business and missions hub for south-east Asia, we have plenty of opportunities to put this into practice. How many times we have missionaries or pastors traveling through who need housing or encouragement!

2. Some of you travel as well. Let me encourage you to do as Phil Jamieson did to us. In May we received an e-mail from Phil, who is a owner of a software company in Boston. It said something like, “Hi, I’m coming to Singapore and like to meet missionaries in my journeys. Can I take your family out for dinner?” We were strangers to him. He’d never heard of us until he called our headquarters to find out if any CB missionaries ministered in Singapore. But he took the initiative and really ministered to us over some great Mexican food!

1. In May we got a letter from one of our supporting CB churches. I have it here. After some introductory comments, the letter notes… [read]

2. We were saddened by this letter not because it resulted in such a huge financial loss, for actually this church contributed less than 1% of our monthly support. The sad thing to us was that the church cut out all three missionaries from its budget, totally eliminating any missions giving.

3. Please don’t get me wrong. I’m not saying that missions never should be cut. But when the total church missions giving is lower than our family’s missions giving per year, and someone says “we’re giving too much to missions,” something is wrong, terribly wrong.

5. In 1996 I met a young, bright, promising Christian banker in Singapore. She was multilingual, able to speak English, Mandarin, Japanese, and I think some other languages. When I saw her interest in linguistics, I commented, “Have you considered being a Bible translator?”

Her answer shocked me: “Is there still a need?” I thought she was kidding. “No, I thought the Bible had already been translated into all the world’s languages,” she said.

“You probably know better than me that there’s over 3000 languages in the world,” I told her, “But only 600 of them have the Bible translated into their language.”

After talking with her and encouraging her to get in touch with Wycliffe Bible Translators, the thought hit me that other Christians like her may exist—maybe even in this church—people who think the message has pretty much spread throughout the world.

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Title**

***3 John***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*:

# I.

# II.

# III.

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest:

### Need:

### Subject: How can you obey God’s truth?

### Background:

### Preview:

### Text:

(Transition into MPI here.)

# I. Help others get the truth out like Gaius (5-8).

[Restate MP here.]

(Transition into MPII here.)

# II. Don't hinder missions like Diotrephes (9-11).

[Restate MP here.]

(Transition into MPIII here.)

# III. Become a missionary like Demetrius (12).

[Restate MP here.]

(Transition into the MI here.)

# Conclusion

### Live out God's truth by supporting missions in the way God has for you (Main Idea).

### Main Points

### Which whom do you best identify in this letter?

 **Dr Rick Griffith**

19 May 2013

**An Email to Advance Truth**

***3 John***

# Introduction

Subject: How can we obey God’s truth (1-4)?

# I. Help others get the truth out like Gaius (5-8).

## Gaius gave housing to missionaries he didn’t even know.

## You can participate in the truth by supporting and housing missionaries.

# II. Don’t hinder missions like Diotrephes (9-10).

## Diotrephes opposed missionary support to the extent of even kicking people out who gave to missionaries!

## We can hinder the gospel through very subtle ways.

# III. Become a missionary like Demetrius (12).

## Demetrius had a good reputation so he was sent out.

## Let’s send our best people overseas.

# Conclusion

### Live out God’s truth by supporting missions in the way God has for you (Main Idea).

### With whom do you identify?

# NT Emails Screen Shot 2016-06-26 at 12Description: Description: CIC Logo Horizontal High Resolution

**Rick Griffith**

10 July 2016

Message 3 of 4

**An Email to Advance Truth**

***3 John***

# Introduction

Truth has fallen on hard times today.

The early church sent out teachers to advance God’s truth.

Subject: How can we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God’s truth (1-4)?

# I. Help \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ get the truth out like Gaius (5-8).

## Gaius gave housing to missionaries he didn’t even know.

## You can participate in the truth by supporting and housing missionaries.

# II. Don’t \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ missions like Diotrephes (9-10).

## Diotrephes opposed missionary support to the extent of even kicking people out who gave to missionaries!

## We can hinder the gospel through very subtle ways.

# III. Become a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ like Demetrius (12).

## Demetrius had a good reputation so he was sent out.

## Let’s send our best people overseas.

# Conclusion

### Live out God’s truth by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the way God has for you (Main Idea).

### With which person in 3 John can you identify? How?

**Thought Questions:**

1. What new thing have you learned about missions in today’s text?
2. How can you better contribute to advancing God’s truth?
3. Have you ever considered becoming a missionary? Why or why not?