

3 John: Verse by Verse Verses 1-2

Verse 1

1. The apostle John is writing to a man by the name of Gaius.
2. We are not sure who this man Gaius is. Some have speculated that it could be the same Gaius that helped the apostle Paul in Acts 19:29, or the Gaius that was saved under Paul's ministry in Corinth.
3. This is not very likely, because it sounds as if this Gaius was a personal convert of John's (vs. 4). Gaius was a very common Roman name.
4. This man was probably a Jewish man (look at vs. 7) that used a Roman name for convenience in the business world. This was very common. The apostle Paul used the name Paul in the Roman world, but his Jewish name was Saul.
5. John loved Gaius very much, and their relationship was built upon God's truth. There is no better way to love people than to love them in the truth. This is a true love.
 - 1 Corinthians 13:6 teaches that true love "*Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth.*"
 - True and lasting relationships, whether they are marriages or friendships, must be built upon truth. If they are built upon anything else they will crumble when the storm winds blow.

Verse 2

1. It appears from this verse that Gaius was suffering both physically and materially.
2. Keep in mind, the Jewish epistles (Hebrews-Jude) are written within the context of being directed at the believing remnant of Israel in the last days.
 - Because they are written on this side of the cross, there is much doctrinal overlap with the dispensation of grace that Paul wrote about, that we live in today. So, there are some wonderful exhortations for us today.
3. These Jewish letters will be a **great** source of encouragement and doctrinal instruction for Jews that are living in the last days before Christ returns to earth.
4. For example, in the last days we know that the antichrist will launch an all-out attack against Israel, and they will be forced to scatter to other nations or into the wilderness. They will suffer both materially (they cannot buy or sell), and physically.
5. It appears that Gaius has even been ostracized in his local church (vs. 9-10). He was suffering in his physical health and material resources. Yet, notice that his soul was prospering. He was spiritually strong as he clung to truth.
6. What a lesson we learn from this. You hear so much prosperity preaching today that says, "If you're living right and in His will and giving your tithes, God will bless you materially and you will be healthy and financially prosperous."
7. According to this verse, material prosperity and physical health are not a measure of godliness.

8. You cannot use your physical condition as a barometer to decide if you are faithful and pleasing to God. Gaius was struggling outwardly, but was rich in his inner man. 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Timothy 6:5-8
9. Another example of this is Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:25-30. He was sick and “*nigh unto death.*” Why? “*For the work of Christ...*”
10. Here we have examples of two men who were sick **because of** their faithfulness to truth.
11. In the last days, the believing remnant of Israel who dare to stand against the antichrist and cling to God’s truth will suffer like Gaius, but Christ constantly encouraged the little flock and assured them that their sacrifices will be rewarded a hundredfold in the kingdom. Matthew 19:29

THE LAST DAYS

The Body of Christ (Church Age)

3. **CHRIST RETURNS & SETS UP MILLENNIAL KINGDOM**
REVELATION 19:11-21

- A PERIOD OF GRACE
- A SURPRISE INTERRUPTION IN THE PROPHETIC PROGRAM
- SAINTS LOOKING FOR RAPTURE, NOT LAST DAYS

Rapture

PSALM 2:1-3
MAN’S DECLARATION OF WAR ON GOD

PSALM 2:4-9
GOD’S COUNTER-DECLARATION OF WAR

Old Testament



Last Days

Tribulation

Millennium

1. **PENTECOST (ACTS 2)**
HOLY SPIRIT Poured OUT & KINGDOM OFFERED

LAST DAYS RESUMED

2. **WONDERS IN HEAVEN & IN EARTH**
REVELATION 6:12-17

JOEL’S PROPHECY OF LAST DAYS (2:28-32)

1. HOLY SPIRIT Poured OUT
2. WONDERS IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH
3. CHRIST RETURNS AND SETS UP

ACTS 7
ISRAEL REJECTS KINGDOM & LAST DAYS ARE POSTPONED