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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Series: Book of 3rd John

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The Book of 3rd John (01) **(Introduction)**

This Series of studies on the Book of 3rd John will be filed under Wednesday's Studies at doctrinalstudies.com

This lesson will study seven point outline of the Book of 3 John.

Introduction to the Book of 3rd John

1. The author is the Apostle John. He probably wrote it from Ephesus It is numbered three because John wrote three (letters) Epistles (1st, 2nd and 3rd John). He also wrote the Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation.
2. 2nd and 3rd John are the shortest Books in the Bible. They have less than 300 words, probably so that they could fit on one single papyrus sheet.
3. Like 2nd John, 3rd John is a private letter written to a man named Gaius. Historians believe he was a wealthy businessman of Asia Minor. He was a spiritual leader of an unknown church. Most likely 1 of the 7 churches of Asia Minor (Rev.2-3).
4. It was written sometime between 90 - 96 AD. 1st, 2nd and 3rd John were all written between the Gospel of John and Book of Revelation.
5. In this particular letter John is writing in response to a report given by missionaries returning back to Ephesus from this unknown church in Asia Minor. The theme of 3rd John is grace hospitality to travelling missionaries (Mark 6:7-13).
6. 3rd John will be divided into three sections for study. Note that the three sections are messages given about three men. Note also that all of the names represent Gentile Christians.
 - (3rd John 1-8) Message to **Gaius** Commitment as helper of work of Lord.
 - (3rd John 9-11) Message about **Diotrephes** Condemnation as hindrance of work of lord.
 - (3rd John 12-14) Message about **Demetrius** Commissioned for honorable work of Lord. He carried 3rd John to Gaius (vs.12).
 - "The elder (ho presbuteros / nsm) **to the beloved (to agapetos / dsm) Gaius**, whom I love (agapao / p.a.ind.1ps) in (en+ loc. of sphere) truth (aletheia / lsf) (vs. 3, 4, 8, 12)."

Doctrine of the Beloved

1. **The word Beloved is used four times in 3rd John with Gaius (3rd John 1, 2, 5 and 11).**
 - a. Beloved is 1 of 20 status privileges every member of the royal family of God receives at the moment of salvation that he / she can never loose in time or eternity. [50 Things Free](#).
2. **The term Beloved (agapetos) [adjective] was used as an endearing title to describe the Father-Son relationship between the deity of God the Father and the humanity of God the Son (incarnation).**
 - a. (Matt.3:17) “And behold, a voice out of the heavens said, ‘This is My Beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.’”
3. **The Beloved of God are the object of His maximum eternal Love. Jesus Christ was God’s Beloved before the cross and after the cross.**
 - a. (2 Pet.1:17-18) “For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My Beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased – and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”
4. **At the moment of grace salvation through placing their faith in the grace gospel of Jesus Christ, every Church Age Believer becomes a Beloved because of their union with the Beloved Son of God, Jesus Christ.**
 - a. (Eph.1:6) “To the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.” (Col.1:13-14)
 - b. (1 Thess.1:4-5) “Knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.” (Rom.1:7, 16; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)
 - c. (Col.3:12a) “So, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved.”
5. **Every Church Age Believer (CAB) is looked upon by God as His Beloved, whether carnal or spiritual, because of being IN Union with Jesus Christ.**
 - a. (2 Cor.5:17). It is based on the character of God of grace salvation (Eph.2:8-9)
 - b. (1 Cor.4:14) “I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children.”
 - c. (2 Cor.7:1) “Therefore, having these promises, **beloved**, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.” (1 John 1:9) (1 John 3:2; 4:1, 7, 11)
6. **God the Father loves each Church Age Believer (CAB) with the exact amount of love He loves His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.**
 - a. (John17:23) “I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”
 - b. (Rom.5:5) “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.”

(1 John 4:1, 7, 11) “We love, because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)