

**Message #5****III John 1:12-14**

Many commentators speculate that Demetrius was one that Diotrephes was attacking. It is very probable that Diotrephes was running down Demetrius and trying to ruin his name and reputation. John decided to close this smallest letter in the Bible by defending Demetrius.

**THOSE WHO ARE FAITHFUL AND HAVE EARNED A GOOD NAME FOR THEMSELVES IN THE CHURCH OF GOD SHOULD BE DEFENDED AND COMMENDED.**

We should not ever let someone verbally walk over a faithful man or woman of God.

**SEGMENT #1 – The commendation of Demetrius. 1:12**

This is a good point to realize, for the same apostle who condemns one, commends another. That is the way truth works. Truth is truth.

Demetrius was a Gentile who believed in Christ and then earned a great name for himself.

**Fact #1 - He had a good testimony with everyone. 1:12a**

The verb “has received” is perfect tense. What this means is that from the moment Demetrius came to faith in Jesus Christ, he had a good name and continued to maintain that name right to the present. He had come to faith, he had developed in the faith and now everyone who knew him knew of his good reputation as a faithful man of God.

A good reputation is very important. Jesus Christ had a good reputation at a very young age (Luke 2:52). When deacons were to be selected, men were to be chosen who had good reputations (Acts 6:3).

**Fact #2 - He had a good testimony from the truth itself. 1:12b**

Now the “truth” is a reference to the Word of God. Here is the point—when Demetrius’ life was stacked up against the Word of God, he continually came up faithful.

It is one thing to have others say we are faithful; but it is quite another to have the Word of God testify that we are faithful.

**Fact #3 - He had a good testimony with the apostolic leaders. 1:12c**

The verb “we testify” is present tense, speaking of continual action. The apostles continually testified that Demetrius was a faithful man of God.

**SEGMENT #2** – The conclusion of the Apostle John.

**Part #1** - What the Apostle John was not willing to do. **1:13**

It was not because he did not have more to say—he still had other things he wanted to say, but he was not willing to write it with pen and ink.

There have been three main reasons given why John was not willing to write with pen and ink:

- 1) Because of the cost of the writing material.
- 2) Because of the difficulty of writing with crude materials.
- 3) Because of the personal nature of things he wanted to say to Gaius that he didn't want others to read.

Any of these are possible, but there is an underlying reason why John was not going to write anymore; because the Holy Spirit had inspired the written message He wanted and it was over.

**Part #2** - What the Apostle John was wishing to do. **1:14a**

Gaius was a faithful man of God and this is the last person John mentions he wanted to see before he dies.

**Part #3** - What the Apostle John wanted for Gaius. **1:14b**

This is interesting because John's wish for Gaius and the church was for peace; but in order for that to happen, a war had to be fought and Diotrephes needed to be put out of the church. Nowhere in the Bible does Scripture promote "peace at any cost."

**Part #4** - The greetings from the friends. **1:14c**

Now notice who greets Gaius—the friends of John.

**Part #5** - The friends John wanted Gaius to greet. **1:14d**

Notice "greet the friends by name." Not everyone was to be greeted, but friends of the Apostle John were to be greeted by name.

You are not lost in a shuffle when you are in the family of God. If you are a faithful Gaius or Demetrius, you are known by God. If you are an arrogant Diotrephes, you are known by God. What we really are is really known by God personally. Truth is truth and that is what III John really drives home.

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