

Becoming a Fellow-Worker for the Truth: 3 John 1–8

Grace Chapel

Dr. John Niemelä

March 14, 2007

INTRODUCTION

1. SALUTATION: John Greets Gaius, whom He Loves in Truth (3 John 1)

Elder (cf, 2 John 1; 1 Peter 5:1)

Gaius (prob. not the same as in Acts 19:29; 20:4–5; or 1 Co 1:14/Rom 16:23)

Destination of letter

Date when 3 John was written
Galatians 2:9 (AD 48)

Paul forbidden to preach in Asia Minor (Acts 16:6)

Peter to Antioch and Corinth (1 Co 1:12; 3:22)

John in Ephesus (tradition)
Writing of Gospel (John 5:2) (late 40s/early 50s)

John returned to Jerusalem (Possible inference from 1 John 2:19)
Epistles written mid-60s

Time gap between Gospel and Epistles

John wrote Revelation on the Island of Patmos (AD 71/72)

2. Commending Gaius (3 John 2–4)

A. John's prayer for Gaius (3 John 2)

B. The reason for John's prayer (3 John 3–4)

3. Encouraging Gaius to Continue Supporting those who Proclaim Truth (3 John 5–8)

A. Brethren testify of Gaius' hospitable to traveling preachers of truth (3 John 5–6a)

Both *brethren* and *strangers* are believers, because

B. His hospitality towards traveling preachers of truth is rewardable (3 John 6b)

C. Why is hospitality to these traveling preachers of truth rewardable (3 John 7)

D. Inference: Believers ought to be hospitable to traveling preachers of truth in order to share in their reward

CONCLUSION