

Week of December 16-22

## EULOGY

**Scripture Reading:** Read 3 John

If the Lord doesn't come back in your lifetime, how would you like your obituary to read? What would you like the preacher to say in his eulogy about you at your funeral?

In the short book of 3 John, we are treated to remarks the apostle John made over 1,900 years ago about three individuals with whom he was acquainted: Gaius, Diotrephes, and Demetrius. Each left a legacy that, through God's sovereign wisdom, has become part of our New Testament. Look at what Pastor John had to say.

### Gaius

- *A dear friend (called this four times in 14 verses!), whom John loved in the truth*
  - *Healthy spiritually*
  - *Faithful to and walking in the truth*
- *Faithful in welcoming and supporting traveling preachers and missionaries*
  - *Loving*

### Demetrius

- *Good reputation (well spoken of by everyone, including the truth and John)*

### Diotrephes

- *Loves to be first*
  - *Divisive, alienating and a malicious gossip*
  - *Refuses to show hospitality to traveling preachers*
- *Excommunicates those who want to show hospitality to them*

How powerful the testimony regarding Gaius and Demetrius! Their godly legacy endures. But, how tragic the story of Diotrephes! Only eternity will tell whether John's letter turned the tide in Diotrephes' life and led to his repentance rather than his removal as leader of the flock. This letter, though, isn't just a witness to the past, for in each generation there are faithful believers and servant leaders like Gaius and Demetrius. Unfortunately, there are also unhealthy leaders like Diotrephes. This letter, then, serves as both an encouragement and a warning to us today. We do wise to take heed.

**Action Step & Prayer Focus:** Take a long, hard and honest look at your life. If you were to die today, what would your obituary say? Could it be said of you as it was said of Gaius that you were healthy spiritually, that you faithfully walked in the truth and that you loved your brothers and sisters in Christ? Or would it be said of you as it was said of Diotrephes that it had to be all about you, that you were arrogant, unkind, uncaring, a self-absorbed and power hungry leader or believer? There's still time to rewrite history. Repent today and pray for the Lord to change your heart and life so that the truth will speak well of you (and so will the preacher!)

**Take-a-way:** *Follow God's ways so that the truth will speak well of you at the end of your days.*