

III John

EnglishGreek Bible[©]

To Deborah Elaine, הדבורה ׳עללן, sweet gatherer of honey¹! Μέλισσα.

¹ The promises of God. These are realizations of the life of God from His Word, τό εἶδος κατά τόν λόγον, which brings ability, δύναμις. Deborah, a bee, represents analysis and understanding done fitly, ἀνάλυσις καί σύνεσις καλῆ. Deborah Elaine is this applied to Greek.

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Byzantine Text Form, Robinson-Pierpont 2005

Outline

IΩANNOY Γ -- Yahweh Gives Disciplined Adherence

**Conduct Yourself by Truth
Become a Fellow Worker for The Truth**

Hinderance by Domineering Leadership

**Behold and Mimic God
By Being a Mother to People You're Bound To in Life
Kissing the Son**

The Greek Text

ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ Γ -- Yahweh Gives¹ Disciplined Adherence²

1 The Elder, to the fellow brother¹ on Earth², whom I frankly³ love as a father should⁴.

Title¹ Yahweh gives, not man. All men but One are influenced by ὁ διάβολος (the self-asserter). Focus on God!
Title² III, Levi '17, attached by twining to unite (with a tongue of reasoning).

¹ ἀγαπητῶ, lit. to one under (i.e. targeted for) Fatherly discipline and self-restraint to develop family.

² literal meaning of Gaius (Γάϊος).

³ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, lit. not hidden, concealed, or disguised (particularly, by the tongue).

⁴ ἀγαπῶ, lit. conducting oneself with Fatherly discipline and self-restraint towards others to develop family.
(cf. 1Cor. 13:4-8).

Conduct Yourself by Truth

2 Fellow brother, I'm always expressly maintaining favoring humour towards¹ you being progressed beneficially² and to be healthily growing – i.e. towards how your soul is being progressed;
3 for I was cheered up¹ much when brothers came testifying to your open honesty² – specifically, how you're conducting yourself by Truth³.
4 I've no greater cheer¹ than hearing this of my own **crafted disciples**².

² εὐχομαί, lit. pouring out benefice, esp. of attitude, aka. praying; praying, as in asking, is αἰτέω.

² εὐοδοῦσθαι, lit. being journeyed (i.e. brought along) beneficially.

³ aor. pass. of χαίρω, was cheered up.

³ σου τῇ ἀληθείᾳ, your open honesty.

³ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ περιπατεῖς, walking about (i.e. conducting yourself) by Truth.

⁴ acc. of χαρά, cheer, being cheerful; joy is too strong a word in NT context, with connotations of unrestraint or lack of self-control over self-assertion. cf. ὁ διάβολος.

⁴ τέκνα, in the frame of this epistle, is not children, but disciples who have been crafted by a teacher (John).
They have a craft they have proficiency in (as opposed to inadequately skilled τεκνία).

Become a Fellow Worker for The Truth

5 Fellow brother, you're being faithful when you tend to the brothers who are hosted as friends;
6 facing elect assembly¹, they testify of your disciplined and self-restrained conduct².
You'll treat them fittingly when you send them forward in a way worthy of God:
7 for they go out on behalf of **The Name**¹,
taking nothing from those not of **The Way**².
8 So we're obliged to be heeding¹ such as these,
so we may become fellow workers for **The Truth!**

⁶ gen. sing. of ἐκκλησία, a collection of people "called out" (of the world system) by God through His Word.

⁶ σου τῇ ἀγάπῃ, lit. your demonstrating Fatherly disciplining and self-restraint to develop family.

⁷ i.e. Jesus.

⁷ ἀπὸ τῶν ἔθνῶν, the distinction between Jew and Gentile has been changed by Jesus to being of The Way or not. Jesus said "I Am The Way, The Truth, and The Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Those not following The Way on a **life journey** are the masses not of Him, of all cultures and nations of this world.

⁸ present infinitive of ἀπολαμβάνω, to be taking or receiving FROM; i.e. to be heeding what they say, since The Word is what they bring. The point being that, when you learn, you may grow to become competent to teach.

Hinderance by Domineering Leadership

- 9 I wrote to the elect assembly, but the domineering¹ Diotrephes² doesn't welcome us.
10 Therefore, if I come, I'll call attention to what he's doing, **prattling against us with pernicious words**; and not being satisfied by these, **he refuses to accept the brothers** and estops those inclined to – **even casting them out!**

⁹ φιλοπρωτεύων αὐτῶν, gen. abs., lit. one loving to be preeminent of them.

⁹ Διοτρέφης, lit. through which nourished and reared; **domineering Diotrephes was selfish of gain for himself.**

Behold and Mimic God

- 11 Fellow brother, **don't be mimicking the viciously injurious or disgusting¹**, but what is wrought of God². Anyone doing God's good is wrought by Him, anyone doing viciously evil has never beheld Him³.

¹¹ τὸ κακὸν; particularly, blasting with the mouth (βλασφημία), (or the posterior orifice, cf. kaka).

¹¹ τὸ ἄγαθόν; Godly conduct, aka. good.

¹¹ οὐχ ἑώρακεν (perf.) τὸν θεόν. Never having beheld God doesn't necessarily mean being unsaved. It's also a characteristic of νήπιοι (unspeaking babes) in Christ, who have fully called upon His name (Rom 10:13) but haven't progressed. Those not stunted in Christ are healthfully growing in χρηστολογία τοῦ χριστοῦ, Christ's providential speech. Christ is the anointed, providing what's needed. (cf. Jude 9).

By Being a Mother to People You're Bound To in Life

- 12 Doing good in imitation of God is attested to Demetrius¹ by all, and **by The Truth² herself**; we're also testifying -- and y'all certainly know our testimony is true!

¹² dat. of Δημήτριος, mother to people you're bound to.

¹² ὑπ' αὐτῆς τῆς ἀληθείας, i.e. the Holy Spirit; in Man, this honest, raw reality is lacking, obscured, or diverted by thoughts, reasonings, and emotions from self, other people, and the world system. **Heed the still, small voice!**

Kissing the Son

- 13 I had many things to be writing, but I don't want to write to you by means of ink and reed pen¹;
14 indeed, I'm expecting to see you soon, and we'll speak **mouth to mouth¹**!
15 Peace to y'all. The friends themselves are greeting you. Be greeting the friends yourselves by name¹.

¹³ καλάμου, gen., lit. a reed; used for various tools, here it's a reed pen for writing with ink. The ink symbolizes our Lord's words for transmitting His spirit; the reed pen symbolizes a Friend passing it along. John didn't want to work with these symbols, but do it in reality.

¹⁴ This is Kissing the Son: **when friends gather to discuss our Lord's words, they have the Son on their lips.**

¹⁵ Take the time to intimately familiarize with the friends in greeting -- not impersonally. The friends are the network composing the body of Christ.

Greek Text: Byzantine Text Form -- Robinson-Pierpont 2005

- 1 Ὁ πρεσβύτερος Γαῖω² τῷ ἀγαπητῷ¹, ὃν ἐγὼ ἀγαπῶ⁴ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ³.
- 2 Ἀγαπητέ, περὶ πάντων εὐχομαί¹ σε εὐοδοῦσθαι² (pres. inf. pass.) καὶ ὑγιαίνειν (pres. inf.), καθὼς εὐοδοῦται (pres. pass.) σου ἢ ψυχῇ.
- 3 ἐχάρην¹ (aor. pass.) γὰρ λίαν ἐρχομένων ἀδελφῶν καὶ μαρτυρούντων σου τῇ ἀληθείᾳ², καθὼς σὺ ἐν ἀληθείᾳ περιπατεῖς³.
- 4 μειζοτέραν τούτων οὐκ ἔχω χαρὰν¹, ἵνα ἀκούω τὰ ἐμὰ τέκνα² ἐν ἀληθείᾳ περιπατοῦντα.
- 5 Ἀγαπητέ, πιστὸν ποιεῖς ὃ ἐὰν ἐργάσῃ (aor. subj.) εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ εἰς τοὺς ξένους,
- 6 οἳ ἐμαρτύρησάν (aor.) σου τῇ ἀγάπῃ¹ ἐνώπιον ἐκκλησίας², οὓς καλῶς ποιήσεις (fut.) προπέμψας (aor. ptc.) ἀξίως τοῦ θεοῦ.
- 7 ὑπὲρ γὰρ τοῦ ὀνόματος¹ ἐξῆλθον (aor.) μηδὲν λαμβάνοντες ἀπὸ τῶν ἐθνῶν².
- 8 ἡμεῖς οὖν ὀφείλομεν ἀπολαμβάνειν¹ (pres. inf.) τοὺς τοιούτους, ἵνα συνεργοὶ γινώμεθα (pres. mid. subj.) τῇ ἀληθείᾳ.
- 9 Ἐγραψά τῇ ἐκκλησίᾳ· ἀλλ' ὁ φιλοπρωτεύων αὐτῶν¹ Διοτρέφης² οὐκ ἐπιδέχεται ἡμᾶς.
- 10 διὰ τοῦτο, ἐὰν ἔλθω, ὑπομνήσω αὐτοῦ τὰ ἔργα ἃ ποιεῖ, λόγοις πονηροῖς φλυαρῶν ἡμᾶς· καὶ μὴ ἀρκούμενος (pres. mid.) ἐπὶ τούτοις οὔτε αὐτὸς ἐπιδέχεται τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ τοὺς βουλομένους κωλύει καὶ ἐκ τῆς ἐκκλησίας ἐκβάλλει.
- 11 Ἀγαπητέ, μὴ μιμοῦ (pres. imp.) τὸ κακὸν¹ ἀλλὰ τὸ ἀγαθόν². Ὁ ἀγαθοποιῶν ἐκ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐστίν· ὁ κακοποιῶν οὐχ ἑώρακεν³ (perf.) τὸν θεόν.
- 12 Δημητρίω¹ μεμαρτύρηται (perf. pass.) ὑπὸ πάντων καὶ ὑπ' αὐτῆς τῆς ἀληθείας². καὶ ἡμεῖς δὲ μαρτυροῦμεν, καὶ οἶδατε ὅτι ἡ μαρτυρία ἡμῶν ἀληθῆς ἐστίν.
- 13 Πολλὰ εἶχον (impf.) γράφειν, ἀλλ' οὐ θέλω διὰ μέλανος καὶ καλάμου¹ σοι γράψαι.
- 14 ἐλπίζω δὲ εὐθέως ἰδεῖν σε, καὶ στόμα πρὸς στόμα¹ λαλήσομεν.
- 15 εἰρήνη σοι. ἀσπάζονται (pres. mid.) σε οἱ φίλοι. ἀσπάζου (pres. mid. imper.) τοὺς φίλους κατ' ὄνομα¹.