

Those to Serve

(B) Mike Lovell
(FV) Calvin Burks
(O) Jorge Garza
(A) Doug Pruett
1st prayer Judd Wall
2nd prayer Jack Wall
Announcements: Keith Stifflemire
Singing: Kevin Grant

Happy Birthday

Avery Vann Feb. 11th
Mac Vann Feb. 14th
Eloisa Garza March 2nd
Anson Day March 28th
Doug Pruett April 1st

Happy Anniversary

February 14th
Vernon & Linda Houts

The Church Is Sufficient

As a result of having the whole council of God preached by Paul, the church of Ephesus was in the unity of the faith. (see **Eph. 4:1-6**) This gave them all that they needed to do anything that the Lord wanted done. They were completely independent spiritually from everything else on earth. They looked to no school, paper, or center or influence. They were not a part of any super organization that exercised control over them. God needs no unit larger than the local congregation to do his work. The local church is sufficient; it is all-sufficient!

by James P. Miller

Prayer List:

Kadence Payne
Windham Family
Elyza-(Esperance Garza
Daughter)
Anita Adams
Diane Savage (Virginia's niece)
Cheryl Burks
Virginia Lovell
Dora Martinez
Letha Sheldon
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel

February 12th

Men Business Meeting

February 14th

Valentine's Day

February 20th

Presidents Day

February 26th

Noon Fellowship

March 5th

Mission Fund

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 12, 2023



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

9:30 am Bible Study

10:20 am Worship

12:30 pm Afternoon

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Will Vann, Preacher

863-899-0987

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Introduction to 2 John

All four gospels describe John as a fisherman from Galilee, son of Zebedee and brother of the apostle James. The book of Acts also tells us that he is a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

In **1 John**, the apostle dealt with the threat of false teachers troubling a church he loved. He was concerned that some of them might be pulled away from the faith by these slick false teachers. In **2 John**, he again writes against the problems caused by some traveling false teachers.

Some have referred to **2 John** as more of a “postcard” or “gospel tract” because it contains only 245 words in the Greek. While it does carry the distinction of being the shortest book of the New Testament don’t let that discourage you from studying it. It is full of powerful lessons about love, life, and the truth.

The letter is addressed to an unknown individual called the “elect lady and her children.” While it does could refer to a literal person, it seems like John uses the term as a metaphor for a church and its members. Whichever you chose, his message is clear: love each other, love others well, and hold to the truth of God’s word.

3 themes stand out in **2 John**: truth, love, and walking in the faith. Unlike the false teachers real Christians love each other, love others, and love the words of Christ. They take that love into their lives and put it into practice every day.

“... this is love that we walk according to his commandments...
” (**2 John 6**).

Truth: John mentions the truth 4 times in the first 3 verses of the letter. He also expresses gratitude that the lady’s children (members of that church) were walking in the truth. With these false teachers trying to sow seeds of doubt about Jesus and the gospel, surrounding themselves with the truth was their greatest weapon against them.

Walking: The Christian faith is not a spectator sport. 3 times in verses **4-6**, John refers to walking. The first was walking in the truth and the other two deal with walking in love. From a New Testament perspective, walking refers to your everyday life. So, for the Christian, faith should have a clear effect on everything we do.

Love: Clearly one of John’s favorite topics through all his writings, love plays a significant role in **2 John**. Contrary to the false teachers, Christians live to love. They love each other and those outside the church. This is the clearest evidence of a genuine faith and relationship with Jesus.

By Jeff Arnette

Introduction to 3 John

At just 219 words, **3 John** is the shortest book in the entire Bible. The size and them of **3 John** is like **2 John**. Both letters were written by the apostle John who is called “the elder” (v. **3**). The sense of appreciation for their “children walking in truth” (vv. **3-4**) also resonates in both letters. And, of course, both letters include warnings against church leaders who would deceive and abuse the church members.

Just like **2 John**, this letter has all the attributes of a typical letter of its time. It is very personal in its tone and feel, yet it challenges its readers to stand up for the truth and follow the example of those who are exemplifying Christ-likeness. The problem the church is dealing with was leaders who are using the church to gain power and control over others.

The purpose of **3 John** is clearly to advise a dear friend and fellow Christian leader about how to deal with a troublemaker named “Diotrephes.” He was trying to gain and retrain power over the church by limiting their expose to other preachers and teachers.

3 John was written to man named “Gaius” and dealt with the specific problems in the church. The date for the letter seems to be like **2 John** which is around AD 90. At its heart, **3 John** gives us a contrast between two church leaders and their hearts. The first is “Gaius” (vv. 1-8), who is the main recipient of the letter. In **3 John**, John elevates the leadership and ministry of Gaius as faithful. He even said that Gaius was deserving of a good reputation in the church.

The other leader “Diotrephes”, who longed for first place in the church, was standing against him and his ministry. Instead of welcoming traveling preachers and supporting them in their work he wanted to isolate the church members from anyone who would teach them something else. He worked against Gaius but also anyone in the church who tried to do what was right. John insinuated that he would deal with Diotrephes personally if and when he came to visit them.

Two themes stand out in **3 John**. First is the lesson on practicing hospitality to those doing the Lord’s word. The two men stand in contrast here set an example of what to do and what to avoid. Gaius made it a habit of welcoming these people and meeting theirs needs. Diotrephes, on the other hand, worked against them and anyone who wanted to support and encourage them. In his misguided attempts to gain power and influence, John rebukes his actions and warns him of coming judgment.

Second, John points out the example of Gaius as a true leader worthy of being followed while Diotrephes was to be avoided. Interestingly, John praises both men for their service in the church. This echoes the lessons Jesus taught about true greatness was found in humility and service to others.

Let me encourage you to read this great little book again and consider for yourself how it applies to your life.

By Jeff Arnette