

Longview Baptist Temple
Sunday School Lesson
February 15, 2009



=I HAVE SET BEFORE THEE AN OPEN DOOR=
When You Give There is World-Outreach Growth

III John

LESSON AIM: To demonstrate, by contrasting the lives of Gaius and Diotrephes, how we can increase world outreach by our giving to God.

PRINCIPLES OF WORLD-OUTREACH GIVING
FROM GAIUS AND DIOTREPHEs

I. POSTIVE PRINCIPLES: GAIUS = THE LOVING STEWARD

- A. When you give to world-outreach, you prosper your own soul. III John 1-2
NOTE: Gaius giving of himself to world-outreach was a reflection of his spiritual health "...even as thy soul prospereth."
- B. When you give to world-outreach, you proclaim the truth to the lost.
NOTE: The word "truth" appears 7 times in this epistle. Mission deals with truth. It is not building, budgets or boats; it is truth.
- C. When you give to world-outreach, you participate in the ministry of others. Verse 8
NOTE: When you help missionaries, you become a "fellow-helper to the truth."
- D. When you give to world-outreach, you please the Lord. III John 8
NOTE: "Thou shalt do well." (vs. 6) "He that doeth good is of God, but he that doeth evil hath not seen God." (vs. 11)
- E. When you give to world-outreach, you provide the financial base for the gospel. (vs. 7)
 - 1. The heathen cannot support missions. "They went forth taking nothing of the Gentiles." (vs. 7)
 - 2. The unsaved in our cities will not support their own evangelization.
- F. When you give to world-outreach, you produce joy in the missionary. III John 3
NOTE: "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth." (vs. 3) "Who have borne witness of thy love before the church..." (vs. 6)

II. NEGATIVE PRINCIPLES: DIOTREPHEs – THE UNLOVING STEWARD

- A. When you refuse to give to world-outreach, you place yourself above the needs of the lost. III John 9
NOTE; "Diotrephes who loveth to have the preeminence among them receiveth us not..." (vs. 9)
- B. When you refuse to give to world-outreach, you profane the cause of the Gospel. III John 10
NOTE: "Prating with malicious words" – Diotrephes did not have his treasure in missions. Therefore his heart wasn't there either.
- C. When you refuse to give to world-outreach, you promote the same attitude among others. III John 10
NOTE: When Diotrephes cast the missionaries out (vs. 10), he also cast out the blessing of God. "He that doeth evil hath not seen God." (vs. 11)

CONCLUSION: We still suffer today from Diotrephes' disease...the anti-missionary spirit among many believers is a serious matter in these days.

MEMORY VERSE: III John 5 "Beloved thou doest faithfully whatever thou doest to the brethren and to strangers."