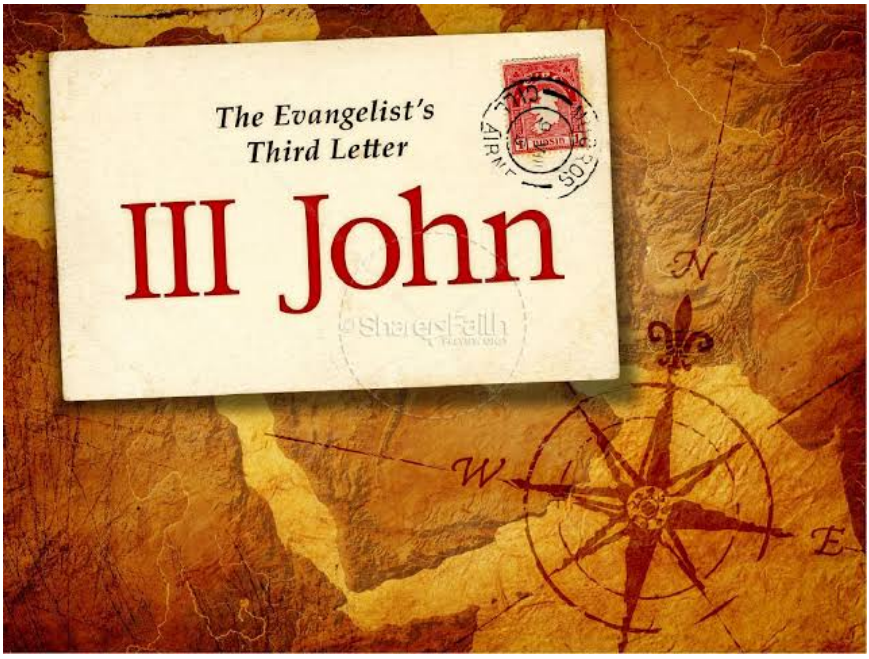
A Guided Inductive Study of the Third Epistle of John



"Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
2 Timothy 2:15

A practical study of the book of 3 John

by Pastor Richard W. LaFountain

How To Study

Read the Scripture:
Reading the Scripture is important. Read every word. Don't skip. Don't just read your favorite verses. Read it all. Think about what you are reading. Is there any word or statement you do not understand? Is there anything that confuses you or seems inconsistent with other Scriptures? Is there anything you would like to research? Use at least two translations.

Translations:
I suggest New King James, if you like the old wording. The New International Version is helpful. And the English Standard Version is also refreshing. For this study I am using the NKJV because I grew up with KJV and its rhythms are familiar to me. You can use other translations.

Chapter by Chapter:
We are going to study the Book of Romans chapter by chapter. Some chapters are longer and have much to think about. Those chapters we have divided into segments so you cover Romans 8 in four weeks instead of one week. We assume you will use one chapter each week. If you are using this for daily readings then you might find it too difficult to answer the questions. That's okay. My hope, however, is that you use is in a weekly Bible study. Anyone can lead it.

Highlighted Verses:
I have chosen to highlight what I feel are key verses. You may think others are more important. That is okay. Write that in your personal journal or if you are studying in a group write down other verses you feel are important. Oh, and every chapter has one key verse.

Discussion Questions:
We have not attempted to add commentary because we believe the Scriptures speak for themselves and the Holy

Spirit can teach us as much as another person's commentary. I have added suggested questions to answer and discuss. This is especially helpful when studying with a group. You are not limited to my questions, ask your own. In a self-directed study it will be harder to consider your answers to the questions. In a group, however, one question might stimulate other questions. You do not have to answer every question. Use what is helpful and useful and leave the rest.

Personal Edification:
I have often taught my students to look for certain things in ever chapter of the Bible. You will not find all five in every chapter, but you should be able to find two or three. Write them down in a journal or share it with a group. It is called the PEPSI acronym.

Search for Treasure: (P.E.P.S.I.)

- A **P**-romise to claim.
- An **E**-xample to follow.
- A **P**-rayer concern.
- A **S**-in to avoid.
- An **I**-nstruction to obey.

Personal Questions:

- What Verse Challenged you?
- What Verse Encouraged you?
- What Verse Convicted you?
- What Verse Confused you?
- What Verse Startled you?
- What Verse Frightened you?

Group Questions:

1. What verse stands out to you in this chapter? Why?
2. What verse causes you to struggle with its demand? Why?
3. What verse encourages your faith the most? Why?
4. Is there a command here you find most difficult to obey? Why?
5. Is there a promise here you want to claim? What?
6. Is there something you need to pray about in this passage? Why?
7. Is there a word / topic here you need to explore more deeply? What?

Third John – Soul Care

Key verses to think about.

1:2 Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

1:5 Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers,

1:8 We ought therefore to show hospitality to such people so that we may work together for the truth.

1:9 I wrote to the church, but Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence among them, does not receive us.

1:11 Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God.

Main Truth:

God's children should walk in truth, humility and spiritual prosperity.

Questions:

1 Is John promoting a health and wealth Gospel in verse 2?

2 How can your soul prosper? What's the opposite of a prospering soul? What are some things the Bible teaches us about our soul satisfied soul verses a cheated soul. Check out this article:

https://www.prayertoday.org/Landing/Reflections-4-SoulCare.htm

3 Have you experienced people in the church who love to have preeminence? What does that look like? What can you do about it?

4 Showing hospitality to those who are traveling through is always a sign of godliness. What works of hospitality do you do?