THIRD JOHN

1. **The old person, to Gaius, the beloved one, whom I myself am continuously loving in truth and reality** (or: truly loving).

2. **O beloved one! I am continuously thinking goodness and speaking well-being** (or: wishing and professing loudly; claiming) **concerning all things [for] you to be constantly having a prosperous journey** (or: to progressively travel a good path; to habitually be prospered unto success; to be continuously helped along the Way) **and to be constantly sound and healthy [in mind, thought and body] just as** (or: to the same degree as) **your soul** (inner being) **is progressively being prospered on its journey** (helped along the Way; prospered unto success; caused to travel the Good Path).

3. **You see, I was made exceedingly glad** (or: I am caused to greatly rejoice) **at the coming of the brothers** (= fellow believers or members), **from time to time, and their bearing witness of your [being] in the Truth, according as you yourself are continually walking about within Truth** (or: testifying to the reality concerning you in correspondence to the fact that you yourself are habitually living your life in union with truth and reality).
4. **I do not presently have greater joy than from these things: that I am repeatedly hearing that my own children** (born-ones) **are continuously walking about within the Truth** (= living their lives in union with reality).

5. **O beloved one! You are continually doing** (performing; constructing; forming; producing) **a faithful thing, whatsoever you yourself may work unto** (or: into) **the brothers** (= fellow believers and members of the family) **and unto** (or: into) **the strangers** (or: foreigners) **–**
6. **who bear witness of you for the love** (or: testified to your love) **before** (in the sight of; in the presence of) **[the] called-out community – [for] whom you will do** (or: perform; produce) **beautifully** (finely; ideally), **sending [them] forward** (or: escorting them on; = attending to their needs in their travels, giving them supplies and finances) **in a manner worthy of God** (or: = in a way equal to God's value of them),
7. **for they came out** (or: went forth) **for the sake of the Name, continually taking** (or: receiving) **not even one thing from the nations** (the ethnic multitudes; the non-Israelites).
8. **We ourselves, then, are constantly obligated to continuously take up, by placing ourselves underneath, such as these, to the end that we would progressively come to be folks working together** (co-workers) **in** (or: for; by; with) **the Truth** (or: reality).

9. **I wrote something to** (or: for) **the called-out community, but Diotrephes, the one constantly liking to be their leader** (to be pre-eminent among them and dominate them), **is habitually not receiving or accepting us**.

10. **Because of this, if I can come, I will remind him of his actions** (or: works) **which he is habitually doing by worthless words** (or: in messages causing a gush of misery; by ideas leading to painful labor; in evil or wicked verbal expressions; by laying out thoughts leading to a bad situation) **continually speaking nonsense of us or gossiping against us, and then, not being satisfied or content upon these things, neither is he himself receiving or accepting the brothers** (= fellow believers; Family members). **And further, those continuously intending** (or: determining) **[to do so] he is habitually hindering** (or: forbidding) **– even casting [them] out of the called-out community!**

11. **O beloved one! Do not have the habit of imitating this ugly thing** (or: that which ought not to be; the base; the worthless; that which is of bad quality; the malicious; the wicked; the evil), **but rather the Good** (or: the excellent; the virtuous)**! The person habitually doing good** (progressively producing virtue; repeatedly creating excellence) **is continuously existing from out of God. The one habitually doing what is ugly** (base; what ought not to be; worthless; evil) **has not seen God**.
12. **Demetrius has been attested by all and by the Truth itself. Now we ourselves are also continuously bearing witness** (or: testifying), **and you have seen, and so know, that our witness** (testimony; evidence) **is** (exists being) **real and true**.

13. **I have been having** (or: holding) **many things to write to you, however, I do not normally want to be constantly writing to you by means of pen and ink!**
14. **So I am continuing in expecting** (or: hoping) **to see you immediately, and then we will speak mouth to mouth!**

15. **Peace** (or: Harmony; [= Shalom]) **to you**. **The friends continually greet** (pay respect to; send salutations to) **you**. **Be continuously greeting the friends by name** (= individually).

[written circa A.D. 60-65 – Based on the critical analysis of John A.T. Robinson]