

3 John 1:2

<https://thebiblesays.com/commentary/3john/3john-1/3-john-12/>

John expresses his love for the church and his hope that it will thrive.

John here pivots from greeting Gaius to speaking to the members of the church. This is likely because the church met at the home of Gaius, and it would be presumed that the letter would be read by Gaius to those assembling in his home. John addresses those assembled in the church as *beloved*. John often spoke of love, even calling himself “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 21:7). John’s primary purpose in this letter is to call out the false teaching and bad leadership of Diotrephes. Why would John make such a public accusation, which would be certain to create conflict? Because this flock is *beloved*, and John is willing to suffer discomfort in order to seek their benefit. Love does not seek its own comfort, but rather the best interest of others. Diotrephes’ actions are greatly detrimental to the church’s well-being, therefore John seeks to counter him and protect those whom he loves. The Bible consistently admonishes believers to resist false teachers.

John’s initial statement to the believers is *I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers*. This indicates that John has current knowledge of the church members, since he states affirmatively that their *soul prospers*. The Greek word translated *soul* is “psuche.” About half the time it is translated “life.” In context, here “psuche” likely refers to their spiritual vitality, since John’s prayer is that in addition to their spiritual well-being, the believers of the church at Gaius’ house will also *prosper and be in good health*. The word translated *prosper* is used elsewhere to refer to favorable circumstances. So, John prays that in addition to spiritual vitality, which cannot be overcome by events, the believers in the church with Gaius will also experience favorable circumstances, in this case *good health* in addition to prosperity.

Biblical Text

Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.