

3 John

[1-2] the elder (person) to **Gaius**, the **beloved**
 [3] whom I **love** in truth¹
 [4-6] beloved, concerning all, I **pray** (for) you, **to prosper** and **to be healthy**
 [7] just as (there) **prosper**s, your soul
 [8-9] for I **rejoiced**, **exceedingly**
 [10] when (there) **were coming**, brothers –
 [1] and (they **were**) **testifying** of your **truth**²
 [2] just as you, in **truth**³, **walk**
 [3] greater than these – I **do not have** – joy:
 [4] that I **should hear**:
 [5] that my children, in the truth⁴, **are walking**, beloved!
 [6-7] (a) faithful (thing) **you do**, which, if **you work** for the brothers
 [8] and these strangers who **testify** of your love before (the) churches
 [9-10] which, rightly, you **will do**, **sending** worthily of God
 [1] for which name, they **have gone out**
 [2] nothing, **taking** from the Gentiles
 [3-4] we, then, **are obligated**, **to support** such
 [5-6] in order that, **cooperative**, **we may become**, for the truth
 [7] I **have written** something to the church
 [1-2] but (he) who **loves-being-first** of them – **Diotrephes** – **does not welcome** us
 [8-9] because of this, if I **come**, I **will bring up**, of him:
 [3-4] the works which he **does** – with **words**, **evil**, **slandering** us
 [5-6] and **not being satisfied** upon these, neither **does** he **welcome** the brothers
 [10] and (those) who **are intending**
 [7-8] he **hinders**, and from the church, he **casts-out**!
 [1-2] **beloved**, (you) **do not imitate** the evil, but the good
 [3-4] (he) who **is doing good** – from God, he **is**!
 [9-10] (he) who **is doing evil**, **has not seen** God
 [5-7] Demetrius **has been confirmed** by **all** and by **itself**, the **truth**
 [8] and also we **confirm**
 [9-10] and you **have known**, that our testimony, true⁵, **is**
 [1-2] many (things) I **have**, **to write** to you
 [3-4] but I **do not want**, through **ink** and **paper**, to you, **to write**
 [5-7] but I **hope** – immediately, you, **to see**, and **mouth** to **mouth**, **to speak**
 [8] peace (**be**) to you
 [9] (there) **greet** you, the friends
 [10] **greet** the friends according to name

1:1

This is a translation and a study of the letter, 3 John. This work presents the possible presence of a literary numbering system in 3 John. Following the PebbleCounting hypothesis, this numbering system appears to be inherent in the Ancient Greek and consistently used throughout 3 John, as it is in other books of Scripture.

This study is freely available at www.pebblecounting.com, along with studies/translations of other books of Scripture. If you haven't had a chance, the "Intro to PebbleCounting" PDFs are a good place to begin. © Steve, 2024-2026. Update: May 18, 2026.

The total literary count for this letter is as follows:

(50x)	Truth
(10x)	Evil
(60x)	Total

The total count for truth, 50, may be a literary composite. Similar to the letter of 2 John, a fivefold theme "truth" is adopted by John as a primary domain for his letter (see superscripts). John loves "in truth." He rejoices most of all in hearing of truth operating in the hearts and lives of his people. John also affirms that his own testimony is "true." For the tens place:

$$(fivefold) \times (\text{literary identity}) = (5x \text{ "truth"/"true"}) \times (\text{John}) = (5) \times (10) = 50$$

1:15