

The Third Epistle of John

BYU New Testament Commentary Translation

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BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY
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About the Brigham Young University New Testament Commentary Series

Welcome to the BYU New Testament Commentary (BYUNTC), a project by a group of Latter-day Saint (LDS) specialists offering to readers a careful, new look at the biblical records that witness the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and the first generation of his Church. The commentary series seeks to make the New Testament more accessible to LDS general readers and scholars by employing much of current biblical scholarship while reflecting important LDS insights. At the same time, this effort may also be helpful to interested readers of other faiths who want to learn how a group of LDS scholars understands the Bible. A fundamental article of faith for Latter-day Saints (Mormons) affirms the Bible “to be the word of God” while adding, understandably, that it needs to be “translated correctly” in order for it to be accurately comprehensible to modern language speakers (A of F 1:10).

These objectives have helped shape the purposes and parameters of this commentary series. Serious LDS readers of the Bible search the scriptures, looking for depth and breadth in passages whose meanings and mandates may ultimately be plain but not shallow. Such readers and interpreters are served by treatments that unite faith and research, reason and revelation, in prayerfully confronting profound and difficult issues that arise in the texts and affect one’s path of progression. The New Testament has served as an influential guide to Western civilization for centuries. As such, its records have long been studied by lay people and scholars alike, resulting in a rich reservoir of information that illuminates the New Testament era culturally, historically, and linguistically. Selectively, the BYUNTC builds upon this vast body of knowledge, resting on the Greek texts of the New Testament and connecting helpful elements of linguistic, literary, historical, and cultural research and traditional scholarship together with LDS scriptures and doctrinal perspectives. The combination of all these

features distinguishes the BYUNTC from other commentaries, which are readily available elsewhere and which readers may also want to consult for more encyclopedic or specialized discussions.

The tone of the BYUNTC aims to be informative rather than hortatory, and suggestive rather than definitive in its interpretation. The opinions expressed in this series are the views of its contributors and should not necessarily be attributed to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Brigham Young University, where many of those involved here are headquartered; or anyone else, though these works have benefited from input and guidance from a number of colleagues, advisors, editors, and peer reviewers.

Each volume in this series contains a new working translation of the New Testament. Calling it the “BYU New Testament Commentary Translation” ties it to the Commentary series and clarifies that it does not seek to replace the authorized KJV adopted by the LDS Church as its official English text. Rather, it aims to enhance readers’ understanding conceptually and spiritually by rendering the Greek texts into modern English with LDS sensitivities in mind. Comparing and explaining the new Translation in light of the KJV then serves as one important purpose for each volume’s notes, comments, analyses, and summaries. This effort responds in modest ways to the desire President J. Reuben Clark Jr. expressed in his diary in 1956 that someday “qualified scholars [would provide] . . . a translation of the New Testament that will give us an accurate translation that shall be pregnant with the great principles of the Restored Gospel.”

3 John

¹ The elder⁶ to the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. ² Beloved, in everything I pray that you prosper and are in good health, just as your soul prospers.

³ I was overjoyed when brothers and sisters came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in truth. ⁴ I have no greater joy than this: that I may hear that my children are walking in the truth. ⁵ Beloved, you are acting faithfully: what you are doing for the brothers and sisters you are also doing for strangers; ⁶ they have testified of your love before the church. You will do well to send them on in a manner worthy of God; ⁷ for they went forth on account of the name accepting nothing from the Gentiles. ⁸ We, therefore, ought to support such people so that we may become fellow-workers with the truth.

⁹ I wrote something to the church, but the one who loves preeminence among them, Diotrephes, does not receive us. ¹⁰ Therefore, if I come, I will call attention to what he is doing in slandering us with malicious words; and not content with this, he does not receive the brothers and sisters, and he prevents those who want to do so and expels them from the church. ¹¹ Beloved, do not imitate what is evil but what is good. The one who does good is from God; the one who does evil has not seen God. ¹² Demetrius has been testified of by all, and by the truth itself; and we also testify for him, and you know that our testimony is true.

¹³ I have many things to write to you, but I do not want to write to you with ink and pen;⁷ ¹⁴ rather, I hope to see you soon and we shall speak face to face.⁸ ¹⁵ Peace be with you. The friends send you their greeting. Greet the friends by name.

6. Or presbyter.

7. Literally, ink and reed.

8. Literally, mouth to mouth.