



# Tweets from Heaven

#8 III John: Part 2

## I. Introduction

Turning from his criticism of Diotrephes, John now highlights the testimony of Demetrius. There are two men with this name in the New Testament.

- A. The silversmith that incited a riot in Ephesus (Acts 12:24)
- B. The man in III John who is introduced without any explanation – this suggests that he was well known.

## II. The Injunction – don't follow that which is evil – follow that which is good (vs. 11)

The power of an example:

- A. The ultimate example – Jesus Christ

John 13:15 "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you."

1 Peter 2:21 "For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps."

- B. Paul's example:

1 Cor. 11:1 "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."

Eph. 5:1 "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children."

- C. The example of those in spiritual authority over us:

Heb. 13:17 "Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you."

- D. A word of caution...

Respect, honor, follow the good example of godly men and women. But be careful not to elevate them inappropriately. Godly leaders do not perform well upon pedestals.

1 Cor. 1:11-13 "For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brothers. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I follow Paul," or "I follow Apollos," or "I follow Cephas," or "I follow Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?"

- E. Consider a bad example:

1 Cor. 15:33 "Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."

1. Avoid the "push" of the crowd (Ex. 23:2)
2. Avoid partnerships (personal & business) with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14 and Ps. 1:1)
3. Avoid the "well worn path" of the wicked (Prov. 4:14)

Be careful who you hang out with – misery loves company.

Num. 33:55 "But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then those of them whom you let remain shall be as barbs in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall trouble you in the land where you dwell."

### **III. Demetrius – the man God honored in God's work**

Here is a man worthy of being followed. He has a good report...from three separate testimonials.

- A. From "everyone" – consider the story about Daniel (see Dan. 6:5)
- B. From the truth itself - Demetrius was "doing the truth" (1 John 1:6)
- C. From the elder John – a personal recommendation

### **IV. So What? It's so important to get and keep a "good name"**

Prov. 22:1 "A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."

Ecc. 7:1 "A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth."

- A. A "good name" helps to qualify someone for service. Consider how Deacons (an office of service in the early church) were selected. (Acts 6:3)
- B. A spiritual reputation that is well known will open doors for ministry. Consider how the church in Rome impacted others (Rom. 1:8)

Rom. 16:19 "For your obedience is known to all, so that I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise as to what is good and innocent as to what is evil."

- C. Ultimately a "good report" is a reflection of a life lived by faith.

Heb. 11:1-2 "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup>For by it the people of old received their commendation."

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## Discussion Questions

1. What is the power of a good reputation? How quickly does a “poor reputation” impact others?
2. Whose example do you consciously follow? Why?
3. Do you have a “good name”? What helps or hinders that for you?