BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CENTER

1136 Baseline Road

Grand Island, New York www.bfcgi.org 716-773-3748

THE LORD'S DAY

September 3, 2017 8:30 & 10:15AM

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Organ Prelude Carol Dammann

Piano Wendy Baldwin

Doxology Ron Mock

Prayer and Scripture Reading Psalm 100-responsively

Hymn 338 "Wonderful Grace of Jesus"

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

Hymn 308, 309 vs1

Communion

Message THE LABORER

Matthew 11:28-30; I Corinthians 3:9 Pastor Cal VanderMey

Closing Hymn 426 "Blest Be the Tie That Binds"

Benediction

THE MINISTRY OF MISSION

For the glory of God, Bible Fellowship Center is committed to spreading the Good News of salvation, equipping the believers, that they might become more Christ-like, worship God and enjoy Him forever.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Youth Group Monday at 6:30pm

No Tuesday Bible study at 7pm - Pastor Cal teaching

Tuesday Precept on 2 Corinthians **Sept 19th** at 6:30pm with Wendy Baldwin

No Choir Rehearsal Wednesday at 7pm

No Precept study Thursday at 9:15am till **Sept 14th** "Romans"-Margaret Was

Ladies fellowship Thursday **September 7th** at 10am – Elsa Peters

Adult Bible study Friday at 7pm - John Woodell teaching

The offering box is located in the back of the sanctuary

Anyone interested in joining the choir please see Dawn Fraser

Sunday messages are available online, CD or e-mail. See Bill Schultz

"John's Plan for Diotrephes"

III John 10 *Therefore, if I come, I will call to mind his deeds which he does, prating against us with malicious words. And not content with that, he himself does not receive the brethren, and forbids those who wish to, putting them out of the church.*

In this verse, John assures Gaius that he will deal with the situation when he comes to visit the church. As verse 14 indicates, the apostle hopes to see Gaius soon. The expression "I will call to mind his deeds" means more than just that he will not forget the complaint against Diotrephes. It is an assurance that the subject will definitely be dealt with. This verse contains several present tense verbs that concern the conduct of Diotrephes.

By using the Greek present tense with four verbs (as we have seen throughout John's letters), the Apostle is referring to habitual practices that have been detrimental to the church of that day. We see that Diotrephes was guilty of "prating against us with malicious words." In English, "pratting" is an old word for "talking nonsense." "Malicious" is a Greek term that refers to that which is wicked, evil, or vicious, and is used elsewhere as a description of the devil.

Second, Diotrephes refused to "receive the brethren" who came from John. This was hurtful to the Apostle as he had sent these brethren to minister to that particular church.

Third, he "forbids" others in their desire to provide accommodations for these traveling missionaries. The Greek word for "forbids" indicates a major effort to eliminate any possibility that others would provide for these people.

Fourth, Diotrephes was so unscrupulous that John says he was casting out those who dared to show hospitality to the rejected brethren. So complete was his power over the church that he had the absolute power of excommunication. It does not say in this verse that Gaius was himself put out of the church, but that would be a reasonable assumption. This very thing has happened in churches throughout history, and always gives the cause of Christ a "black eye." Unbelievably, I have personally experienced this behavior and the effects of it. The cause of Christ suffers when people like Diotrephes come to power, and the Apostle John through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit was keenly aware of the results in a church that he had developed in his own missionary work.