

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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The Spirit of Diotrephes

“I write unto the Church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the pre-eminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doeth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the Church” (III John 1:9-10).

As I read this scriptural account of “Diotrephes” and his attitude towards the beloved brethren in Christ it reminds me of some that God has enabled me to come in contact with along my pilgrim journey. How about you? Oh! how careful we must be as to how we treat and receive the brethren. You notice the progression of the character of “Diotrephes”?

FIRST: He LOVED the pre-eminence among them. He desired the praise of and the recognition of men, and desired to rule among the Lord’s heritage. I could imagine that if he was questioned as to who was the governing influence of the local assembly, he would be quick to answer, “Oh, the Deacons and the spiritual brethren which make up the Church membership,” yet, ONLY with his dominant influence driving their decisions. A man is ALLOWED to be in this position by the members of the local assembly.

SECOND: He “receiveth us not”....This Diotrephes was one that did not receive those that were not in total agreement with his private interpretations of scripture nor his means and methods of directing the Church. He was quite “secretarian” and closed to any and all who did not agree with his dictatorship over the Lord’s heritage.

THIRD: We see that Diotrephes was guilty of “prating” against the brethren with malicious words. A true critic of all that would not agree with him and his understanding of scriptural doctrine. I question where are the fruit of the Spirit in this character named Diotrephes? Where is LOVE, JOY, PEACE, LONGSUFFERING,

GENTLENESS, GOODNESS, FAITH, MEEKNESS, TEMPERANCE, in this professing hypocrite?

FOURTH: Rejecting and forbiddeth them that would desire to unite with them but casting them out of the Church. You notice that it is HE, Diotrephes which forbiddeth those to meet and cast them out, it was indicated that the Church body had no say in the matter, but HE that desired to be the lord over the Lord's heritage. The apostle John said, "I will remember his deeds which he doeth..."

Men which play the part of "Popery" among the Lord's people are in most cases allowed to be in those positions because of spineless or unlearned membership. The Lord's people need to "search the scriptures to see if these things be so", to study the word, comparing scripture with scripture. The day of "ignorance" of the inability to read nor write have come and gone, God's people ought to be "People of the BOOK," the Word of God. So often folks swallow all things that are echoed from the pulpits without seeking that such be the truth as it is in Jesus.

Along with the Diotrephes, there are the "CLOSET PREDESTINARIANS" that meander among the "Conditionalist" associations and assemblies making sure that they don't use terms that would cause some to think that there were "absolute" in their belief in predestination. For in doing so, they would lose their "ACCEPTANCE" among the majority of the non- predestinarian "Conditionalist."

So, they become "muzzled preachers" to gain the acceptance and praise of men. I ask, "Do not God's people deserve to hear of an ALMIGHTY GOD who is UNLIMITED is all his attributes and character?"

Are we desirous to please God or MEN? Shall the truth of God's sovereign and unlimited predestination to be hid under a basket?

Can the good news of our Almighty God be not hid if it be set upon the hill? NO! That's why God's ministers who have been revealed this glorious revelation should "SOUND IT FORTH" as the Trumpet of Zion, blasting its sound around about even "telling the heathen that the Lord God omnipotent REIGNETH" (Psa. 96:10).

God, our Father, raise up in these last days your "GIFTS" in the ministry to preach the WHOLE gospel, not just in part, but the WHOLE of the matter, of our God "who hath declared the end from the beginning" fulfilling the purpose of HIM which worketh all things after the counsel of His divine determined will for the praise and glory of the name of His darling Son, JESUS.

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