

# Learning from the Life of Demas

## Series: The God of Second Chances

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**Bible Text(s) Used:** Philemon 24; Colossians 4:14<sup>i</sup>; 2 Timothy 4:10<sup>ii</sup>; Matthew 24:13<sup>iii</sup>; 1 John 2:15<sup>iv</sup>; John 15:4–5<sup>v</sup>

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### A Good Start Does Not Guarantee a Good Finish

Demas<sup>vi</sup> began his journey as a trusted ministry partner of the Apostle Paul, listed among faithful coworkers who helped spread the gospel. Yet Scripture shows a gradual change. Though his outward life looked faithful, his inner devotion weakened. Like the Titanic, which appeared stable while taking on unseen damage, Demas drifted quietly rather than falling suddenly. His story reminds believers that endurance—not enthusiasm—marks genuine faith. The Christian life is not a sprint but a lifelong walk of obedience with Christ.

**Reflection Question:** Where am I tempted to rely on past faithfulness rather than present devotion?

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### Never Let Your Work Rise Above Your Walk

Christianity is not primarily about what we do for God, but about who we are becoming in Christ. Demas remained busy in ministry, yet his personal intimacy with Jesus appears to have weakened. Spiritual

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activity without spiritual intimacy leads to quiet suffocation. Our work for God can never exceed our walk with God. A living, daily relationship with Christ—through prayer, Scripture, and dependence on the Holy Spirit—is the source of true spiritual strength.

**Reflection Question:** How am I intentionally nurturing my personal relationship with Jesus this week?

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### Loving the World Weakens Devotion to Christ

Paul explains Demas's failure simply: he loved this present world. Scripture teaches that we are created to love, and whatever we love most will shape our lives. The Bible warns believers not to love the world—not the people or creation, but the mindset that excludes God. When comfort, success, or ambition take priority over Christ, devotion erodes. Demas did not reject Jesus outright; he slowly redirected his affection. Faithfulness requires daily choosing Christ over competing loves.

**Reflection Question:** What desires or ambitions might be quietly competing with my love for Christ?

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### Fruitfulness Flows from Abiding in Christ

Jesus taught that lasting fruit comes from abiding in Him—remaining closely connected through trust, prayer, and obedience. Spiritual fruit is

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not produced by rule-keeping or religious effort alone, but by living in ongoing fellowship with Christ. When believers stay connected to Jesus, their lives naturally reflect His character and purposes. True fruitfulness reveals where our deepest affection lies.

**Reflection Question:** What does “abiding in Christ” look like in my daily routine?

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### Closing Thought

The story of Demas calls believers to honest self-examination. God is gracious and offers second chances, yet faithfulness requires vigilance. Each day we are invited to choose Christ over comfort, ambition, and distraction. As we guard our devotion and remain rooted in Jesus, we can finish our race well—bearing fruit that honors God and blesses others.

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i <sup>14</sup> Luke the beloved physician greets you, as does Demas.

ii <sup>10</sup> For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia,<sup>[a]</sup> Titus to Dalmatia.

iii <sup>13</sup> But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

iv <sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

v <sup>4</sup> Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

vi Demas is a minor but sobering figure in the New Testament, mentioned only three times by the apostle Paul.