

Demas - the Deserter

Colossians 4:14;

Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.

Philemon 23 & 24;

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, greets you, as do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, Luke, my fellow laborers.

Philippians 1:12-13

***But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,
¹³so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;***

2 Timothy 4:9-10

Be diligent to come to me quickly; for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica

I. Demas' Commitment was Conditional.

A. Demas was good company to Paul for a while.

B. Outward appearances can be deceiving.

C. Jesus warned of those who look back.

Luke 9:62

But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”

2 Cor. 4:17-18;

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

¹⁸while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

II. Demas' Love was Lacking.

A. Paul found no fault with the labor of Demas.

B. Time proved Demas lacked real love for Christ.

Col. 3:2, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

1 John 2:15-16

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.

¹⁶For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—

is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matt. 6:19-21

“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

III. Demas' Motivation was Misplaced.

A. Demas served out of duty rather than delight.

B. Demas didn't share Paul's motive of doing all for the glory of God.

Col. 3:17-23

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

¹⁸*Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.*

¹⁹*Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.*

²⁰*Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.*

²¹*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

²²*Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.*

²³*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.*

C. Demas' desire for earthly rewards was his downfall.

²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven:

It's not about you;

It's not about me;

It's all about HIM!

Don't end up like Demas did today!