Why Demas Forsook Paul

Zanesville, OH | June 30, 2019 | John Pollard | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** 2 Tim. 4:9-10

**Intro**:

* In the scriptures there are many major characters that solicit our undivided attention for their personalities, behavior and relationships. There are also various minor characters we simply do not know much about in terms of their background, personal life and other things. Yet, what the scriptures tell us about them is often just as important as what we learn about the major characters. One such minor character is **Demas**. We do not know a lot about Demas except that he was probably a gentile who became a Christian at some point in his life and he accompanied the Apostle Paul on several of his preaching journeys. We first learn of Demas in Colossians 4:14 where he is named alongside Luke, the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts. And as far as we know, Demas is serving faithfully alongside Luke, Paul and several others in edification and the spreading of the gospel. We read of him again in Philemon 1:24 where Paul sends greetings on his behalf as well as many others to Philemon, their brother in Christ. The final time we read of him is in 2 Timothy 4:10 and on this occasion Paul is not at all pleased with what he has to say about him. Paul informs his son in the faith, Timothy, that Demas decided to take off because *“he loved the present world.”*

1. **His love for the world exceeded his love for God**
   1. Paul was always looking out for the souls of his brethren with so much effort and care (Acts 15:36; 2 Cor. 11:28) so I can imagine he must have tried to encourage Demas on several occasions. Nevertheless, Demas made his decision. He ultimately chose to forsake Paul and the ministry because his love for the world exceeded his love for God and His word.
   2. There are Christians that forsake their brethren and God for many reasons and in more ways than one it can be stated that they simply loved the world more than they loved God (Rom. 12:2; Gal. 1:10; Col. 3:1-2). Scriptures are dominated with plenty of verses that warn against the influence of the world. Perhaps none stand out more so than 1 Jn. 2:15-17.
   3. Our tendency to desire the best of both worlds is not always something we should entertain. We cannot have 50% of God and 50 % of the world. Being a faithful disciple of God does not mean I am constantly monitoring my percentages with God and the world and seeing how they fluctuate. Such a mindset will cause us to fall away. Being faithful demands a heart that is willing to love, sacrifice, suffer and become self-less.
   4. One of the reasons many reasons we have stories like that of Demas is because so many Christians underestimate the influence of the world and when one does that they are one step closer to falling back to the pits of sin. If we think too highly of ourselves to the point we think we can never fall (1 Cor. 10:12; 15:33; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; Jam. 4:4) it may actually work out to our demise instead of our well-being.
2. **Demas gave the Devil an opportunity**
   1. The moment Demas began to think that the world was an alternative, he was giving the devil an opportunity (Eph. 4:27). Demas’ love for God had faded and his love for the world grew to the point he decided to go back to sin and darkness. He wanted the pleasures and he wanted the lust.
   2. The love of the Father was no longer in Him and the devil took full advantage of his carelessness. Based on what we know about Demas before his departure from the faith, it seems likely that he had a good heart in the beginning and it continued that way for some time (Matt. 13:8, 23).
   3. However, when his love for the world outgrew his love for God his heart became like that of the thorny soil (Matt. 13:7, 22). Complacency may have kicked in, the effort stopped and the consistency was no longer there.
   4. Satan lies in wait for any and every opportunity we give him to take over the course of our lives (1 Pet. 5:8). He only gets this power if we give it to him (1 Pet. 5:9). The devil has no more power over us that what we allow him to have. We can choose to deny him those opportunities if we are working hard enough at it (Eph. 6:10-18).

**Conclusion:** Demas, while being a minor character, teaches us a major lesson. We live in a world that is dark and in absolute opposition to God and anything concerned with His truth. Take advantage of every opportunity you can to receive edification and likewise edify as much souls as you can. Take time to pray and read the scriptures and build your spiritual relationship with God. Don’t go down the same road Demas did. Do not allow your love for God to fade. Do not underestimate the influence of the world and the devil. If we don’t fill our lives with God and His will, Satan will find a way to fill it with hate, sin and garbage. May we learn from the example of Demas and strive to grow closer to God and to our brethren every day.