

THE DESERTER - DEMAS

2 Timothy 4:10

Ordinary People Used By God Series

Introduction: This is the final sentence in the final chapter of a one time very active saint of God. This man was not the only one to desert Paul, but the other one (John Mark) came back. Demas, so far as is known, never came back and nothing more is ever heard about him.

"...Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world..."

I. DEMAS DESERTED PAUL

1. A Tragic Breakdown:
 - A disappointing present - a glorious past.
 - A companion of Paul - who shared hopes and visions.
2. Demas had worked beside Paul:
 - He had preached, faced dangers and helped start churches.
3. Paul writes with tears in his eyes: **"...*Demas hath forsaken me...*"**

II. WHAT HAPPENED TO DEMAS?

1. What started Demas on this terrible end?
 - Was it sickness? Crime? Some sin? Woman trouble?
2. It was a seemingly harmless thing:
 - **"...*Demas hath forsaken me - having loved this present world...*"**
3. The text implies that if a person loves this present world he/she will cease to love God!
 - **"...*love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...*"**
 - The very moment the love of the world enters our hearts, the love for God goes out.
4. Jesus reminds us that His kingdom is not of this world, that His children are free from the bondage of the love of the world.
 - Jesus rebuked Peter severely when Peter talked "world" talk about Jesus' suffering:
"*Get thee hence, Satan, for thou savourest not the things that be of God...*"
 - How often are we like Peter? We talk the language of the world and not of God.

III. WHAT ARE WE NOT FORBIDDEN TO LOVE OF THE WORLD?

1. We are not forbidden to love this physical universe and world."
 - God created it and He said it was good and it is indeed beautiful and good.
2. We are not forbidden to love the world of people.
 - **"...*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...*"**

- The more we love people, the more we become like Jesus.
- Perhaps a tragedy of our lives is that we don't love people enough.

IV. WHAT IN THIS WORLD ARE WE FORBIDDEN TO LOVE?

1. It is something invisible that keeps us from being like Jesus Christ.
 - It keeps our everyday life from being a heavenly life.
 - It is **SELF PLEASING!**
 - Self pleasing is the spirit that dominates the world and to love the world is to be lured into the spirit of self pleasing.
2. The desire to please ourselves does not always lead in the same direction:
 - The Prodigal Son - one direction, His Selfish Brother - in another direction.
 - Live in the gutter or be a member of Congress.
 - Differing goals but the same common motive behind them all is SELF PLEASING.
3. Imagine yourself as Demas:
 - In the famous city of Rome, seeing all the sights, hearing all the sounds, seeing all the people doing "pleasurable" things, etc.
 - At night he slept in the graveyard (catacombs), had little to eat, no real shelter, not much joy in that bunch gathered around the nightly fire, lived in constant fear, etc..
 - He gets to thinking of what he was "missing" and slowly his heart begins to turn toward all that he was seeing and hearing, all that the world was offering. He missed that, so, he leaves to PLEASE himself.

SUMMARY:

1. Demas went out into the world to please HIMSELF! Was it worth it? Was he happy?
2. Compare Demas' life to that of Paul:
 - *"...henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me on that day. And not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing..."*
3. So, what about Demas? What about anybody who loves the world more than the Lord Jesus?