



#87

Theme: “Hello World...Demas Here”

Scripture: 2 Timothy 4: 9-11a(NIV), “*Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescents gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me*”

A Thought: The Demas of today...a drink here a drink there, soft porno, sultry HBO flick, a few late nighters, phony excuses, a puff here, a sniff there, big city excitement, and or a Calvinistic reprobate? We don't know the exact reason for Demas to have left the flourishing Christian fold other than Paul unequivocally notes “Demas because he loved this world, has deserted me.” And he goes on to say he took off to the big city of Thessalonica. Let's put this into historical perspective... (2 Timothy 1:16 NIV) “*May the Lord show mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he often refreshed me and was not ashamed of my chains.*” We now know that the Romans have arrested Paul and put him under house arrest for a second time. Only doctor Luke who subsequently wrote two clear chronological books of “The Way,” is with him. Others on his staff are in transit to do God's work. Except for Demas...(2 Timothy 4:9a). Paul is in dire straits! His message to Timothy is with a sense of urgency....”*do your best to come to me quickly.*” The vanguard of the Gentile Christian movement is virtually alone. There is no evidence that Demas was an apostate but his actions in the most inopportune time moves him at least into the “backslider” column. After all he is on record as being a member of the household staff during Paul's first jailhouse term. Paul even proudly recognizes Demas as a fellow worker. We know this by way of Paul's letter to the church of Colossae...Colossians 4:14 “*Our dear friend Luke, the doctor and Demas send greetings.*” So, what happened?

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Is there a disconnect between faith and practice? Do you shrug God's calling?
- In good times do you separate obedience from belief? Bad times?
- Take inventory of your spiritual life: Prayer, Bible study and church attendance.
- Do you get bored easily? Are you susceptible to temptations?

Scriptures to read:

- Demas' story: Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10-13; Philemon 1:24
- Other book sources - Demas: The Pilgrim's Progress, The Demas Revelation and Jane Eyre, book and movie of the same name.
- Colossians 1:28-29, 2:4, 6, 8, 13, 20; 5:35; 2 Corinthians 4:18; Hebrews 3:12-19

Quote: C.S. Lewis, author, *"A world of nice people, content in their own niceness, looking no further, turned away from God, would be just as desperately in need of salvation as a miserable world - and might even be more difficult to save."*

Bottom Line:

Think about the mental gymnastics that Demas experienced. Here is a guy that spent at least a couple of years with the erudite and spiritual giant Paul of Tarsus. During his spiritual journey with Saint Paul something, something had to rub off... do you agree? Even though Paul was under arm guard he was not unlike the 20th century martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer...both prolific writers of the word...essays, letters and such. From the jail house Paul wrote five of the (epistles) letters during his two prison terms. Demas was there both times. I can't imagine the day to day environment being other than great fellowship that included prayer on a regular basis, testimonies, worship, readings and conversations of the growing movement. No matter...off goes Demas to the big city. It happens...on any given Sunday look around - take notice of so and so not attending church regularly. Sadly, you hear they have not only left the church but the faith. Gents, don't take your eyes off the spiritual football. Love for our Lord is more than words. It is our actions: ceaseless prayers, Bible study, fellowship, ministry and church attendance that are the ingredients to keep the Tempter off the field and on the sideline. Take notice (1 Peter 5:8 NASB) *"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert, Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."* Faith and obedience, gents.

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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