

Demas- the nature of a backslidden spirit

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Main Scriptures: 1 Peter 2: 11; 1 John 2: 15-17; 2 Timothy 4: 1-11

Supportive Scriptures: Colossians 4: 14-15; Philemon 1: 23-24; 2 Timothy 4: 1-11; Ephesians 6: 10; 2 Peter 1: 1-9; Hebrews 11

Notes:

This morning, we will read a couple of verses from 1 John 2: 15-17 and Colossians 4:14-15, Philemon 1: 23-24

We find the person or the character Demas that Paul calls a fellow-labourer. One that he had won to the Lord. Demas was known amongst the brethren and Paul offered to greet on his behalf and called him a fellow-labourer. He struggled with Paul and gave of himself. This morning as we are in fasting there is a danger in following after Jesus and not willing to pay the price.

Let's look at the life of Demas and how he progressed in the Scriptures. 2 Timothy 4: 1-11. The nature of a backsliding spirit.

1 Peter 2: 11

The power of the world, the desires that are found in the world that war against everyman's soul. Peter warns the brethren to make sure to keep away from worldly desires.

No man is excused, every man will have to battle the desires that are present in this age. So is it we find a man who has come to the end of his life. He fought a good fight and wrestled with the desires of this world and he has finished his course keeping his focus and faith. We find a man living in the power of the Spirit and who is focused on the Lord. He is looking for God's appearance.

Ephesians 6: 10

The life of the believer is one lived in the power of the Spirit. 2 Timothy 4: 8 shows the attitude of a believer - are those where the hope of Christ's return is alive in his mind. This only happens when you have cut ties with this world. We find Demas who Paul says forsook him. Where was Paul? in prison. Demas was outside of Prison. So in prison Paul's comfort was the presence of Paul on the other walls we find Demas a man who perhaps was now contemplating is this the life that I want to live. A life that may cause me to be in prison, a life that has no future in this realm. It seems as if they are going nowhere, a life of self-denial and self-sacrifice. Am I prepared to go the extra mile? Demas was in the midst of a struggle because there were voices that were so loud on the outside of the cell walls that speaks so loudly against the spirit of self-denial and self-sacrifice. There were voices that were speaking of the attitude of self-indulgence and self-gratification. The promotion of self. The desires of the world. The things that can easily be touched. Demas didn't come to love the world at once. It was a slow progression. The unseen realm takes a different type of attitude to be attached to it. Paul was loving the appearance of the Lord and Demas loved the present age *the system of the world that speaks so loudly against the ordinances of God. It's a system to rebel against the Eternal God. Demas exchanged his love for the appearing of the

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Lord to loving this world. Paul uses a notable word for Love - Agape - this love is an intelligent informed decision.

If anyone loves the world it becomes impossible. to love the Lord. the things of the Lord become burdensome because there is a bleeding issue on the inside. Something is dying. The hour had come, no one knew how long this was happening in Demas. there are areas in ministry when we are excited and we are all involved and then comes persecution and oftentimes we are not prepared to offer. Pauls said Demas departed to Thessalonica. How could this happen to a man such as Demas in the company of men who were sacrificing their lives for the gospel? You can be in the company of the most devoted men and be carrying a backsliding spirit. yOu can have good desires, great ambitions but if that old self is touching the things of this world, casting your eyes on this present age then the pride of life is like a hurricane in the land. Demas was struggling on the inside. When Demas recognized the next demand on his life he walked away.

2 Peter 1: 1-9 - from faith to Love.

Peter says giving all diligence adds to your faith ...Faith must be developed until it reaches love. Somewhere in Demas' life was a lapse in the progression. Somewhere the development of faith lapsed. Peter said if these things abound you will be fruitful. But Demas was trapped he had not matured to brotherly kindness and love.

Demas' love for the Lord is exchanged for the love of this present world. His actions are merely what's happening on the inside. When folks leave the church they were leaking slowly for a long time. There is a danger in believing that there is a possibility to have Christ and still enjoy this world.

Sometimes one of the challenges is that we are trying to merge the heavenly things and the materialistic world that is passing away. It is a struggle. There is a backsliding spirit that wants to pull back. But Jesus said if any man puts his hands to the plow and looks back he is not fit for the kingdom.

We see that Demas had neglected to give the diligence to grow his faith. We come to Christ by faith but we are growing to the love he has for us.

Hebrews 11

Here we see Abraham who was looking for a city whose builder and maker is God.

Anyone who compromises can not be with the Lord.

Demas when to Thessalonica where there was much wealth. Demas thought he can do Christ but still enjoy this world.

God places demands on our lives when he calls us. Pauls said he is a slave to Christ. He cants so as he wants he lives solely for Christ. This is true also for every Christian believer. Demas deflected and left Paul having loved this world. Perhaps he didn't like Pauls lifestyle.

Two notable things about Abraham a man living in tents and alters He was a pilgrim passing through. His nephew was with him and the hour came to test Lot and there were agreements between the herdsmen the land could not contain them because both were wealthy. Abraham wanted no strife. so look around

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see the things around you wherever you want to go select that land and I will go the opposite direction. Lot looked on Sodom (lust of the eyes and the pride of life is not of the father) so he pitched his tent in Sodom. The next time we heard of Lot was in the gates of Sodom. Sodoms time of Judgement came and Abraham was told there would be a disaster on Sodom. One thing I recognize that screams out to me. Abraham was still living in his tents but when they pulled Lot's daughters and wife they were in sealed houses. Lot had enough of the pitching of the tent and admired Sodom as a powerful city and the way of life I could just level off and settle down. God knows we struggle with these things. Some of us have made decisions. What is our attitude to this age that you must own properties after properties and that luxury and comfort are of utmost importance. What is our attitude in this age? That age that tells us ambition in this world is of utmost importance. Are the things that are seen more influential than the unseen. Are the things that surround me more interesting than what I cant see. Comfort and luxury are not found in the ministry of Jesus. Brothers and Sisters read the word of God for yourself. Preachers who tell you to seek out luxury and comfort is not in line with the word of God. I want the attitude of Paul and Abraham seeking for a city that the foundations are not made with Hands and whose builder and maker is God.

The easiest thing to do is to do nothing and everything around us will be attached to it. There is a pull in this world and the Christian is not neutral. The sad thing is that the thing you needed so much, you got it and there is still an emptiness inside. A man who is attached to the things of this world, still comes to church, still sings and even fasts (not in the spirit) is carrying a deadly disease. It's the disease of the soul. The one that sucks out the desire for the kingdom of God. Seek fits the kingdom of God. God knows what we need and what we can handle and our level of maturity. Demas forsook Paul, having loved this present world. What have we done with the Love for Christ's appearing? We don't talk about him coming back for his bride. Brothers and Sisters, what is your attitude towards this present age? Are you on the brink of forsaking the fellowship of those that live in the Spirit. Those that live in the Spirit don't have a plan for their lives. the Spiritual man depends on the Lord daily. I remember one day I knelt to pray and he said I need you but I need you without your plans. In His tender mercies, he spoke to me. The man who wills himself to the Lord is one who does not have a plan for his life. He is fully convinced that all will be well. The Lord is his shepherd he will not want. It is sad we are not told that maybe Demas like the prodigal returned. But we ought to be careful to do due diligence to make our calling and election sure. Developing our faith till the fruit of it is love. A love for God. Love for your brother and the things of God, not the world which is passing away. Let's pray as we examine our lives. Are you slowly dying? slowly giving up and letting go? Are we forgetting that we are purged from our old sins? in the moment of deliverance are we concerned about what's behind?

God is not coming back for a comfortable church. He is coming back for a church that is fighting and testifying against the spirit of this present age.