

The Failure of Demas *Howard Hendricks*

I. There are only fifteen words in three passages in the New Testament concerning Demas.

A. We will trace his life chronologically.

1. Paul called him “my fellow laborer”.

Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellow labourers. Philemon 24

a. He began in good company.

b. He shared in the work of the Lord.

2. Demas is passed over in silence while eight other men are commended for their contribution to the cause of Christ.

All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me. Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. Colossians 4:7-14

3. Demas is in love with the world.

For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. 2 Timothy 4:10

a. He was infected with a worldly spirit – was more concerned about the “now” than the “here-after”.

b. He had a cowardly spirit – deserted at a time when needed most.

B. Lessons from Demas’ life.

1. Spiritual associations will not insulate you from the dangers of spiritual defection.

2. Spiritual defection is not a blow-out; it is a slow leak.
 - a. Only the end product is seen.
 - b. But the process has been developing for some time.
3. Devotion is always linked to defection.
 - a. Either you love His appearing or are in love with this present world.
 - b. Falling out of love with Jesus Christ makes you a good candidate for falling in love with the world.
 - c. If you are in love with Jesus Christ, other things aren't nearly so magnetic.

II. Conclusion: What steps of action will you take to begin growing more in love with Jesus Christ on a progressive, life-long basis?

Mentally: _____

Physically: _____

Spiritually: _____

Socially: _____

Emotionally: _____

Financially: _____
