



Sunday, July 7, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

## Intro to 2 Timothy 4:9-13

One of the most difficult things I have had to deal with in the Christian life is to walk with people who seem to know Jesus and seem to bear the fruit of the Spirit in their lives only to have them completely abandon Christ and His purposes. It is heart-breaking to think of someone having tasted the goodness of God and being deceived into thinking that something else will satisfy. Yet, in the mystery of God's providence, this is our experience. And it was Paul's experience as well.

Demas is not only someone Paul thought of as a brother in Christ, but as a co-worker in the spread of the gospel—a missionary partner! So, the fact that it was *him* who left must have made that all the more devastating for Paul. But, despite the evil of that situation, Paul knows that God can use it for good. Simply by stating it the way he does so briefly in his letter, he puts forth Demas as a warning to all Christians that “looking the part” is insufficient. Ultimately, it is necessary for us to persevere in the faith until the very end in order to be saved.

### Context

Paul has concluded the main arguments of his teaching in this letter (1:8-4:8). Now, he turns to some more practical instructions. But even in the first statement he makes about Demas, he illustrates some of the teaching he has already presented about the need to “guard the good deposit” and “endure hardship/suffering.” Demas was a man who did not endure those things, but rather pursued the comforts this life has to offer. Paul, meanwhile, is suffering in prison, awaiting the crown of righteousness because his greatest love is not the present evil age, but the world to come that Jesus will usher in with His return (4:8).

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

Read 2 Timothy 4:9-13

“Turncoat”

Et tu, Brute?

Et tu, Demas?

- |     |               |                        |
|-----|---------------|------------------------|
| I.  | Attachment    | Sense of Trust         |
|     | - Companion   | Colossians 4:14        |
|     | - Co-worker   | Philemon 24            |
| II. | Abandonment   | Feeling of Betrayal    |
|     | - Reason      | Loved this Present Age |
|     | - Destination | Thessalonica           |

## Discuss

- 1) Have you ever known someone who has walked away from Christianity? What circumstances led to them choosing to do that?
  
- 2) Read 1 John 2:15-17, 19. Why do you think John wrote those words? Why are they important for us today?
  
- 3) What are some things that we tend to be more devoted to than Christ? What is your greatest obstacle to persevering in the faith?
  
- 4) How can we deepen our love for and devotion to Jesus so that we won't be more devoted to other, lesser things?
  
- 5) Read 1 Corinthians 10:1-14. Paul uses Israel's history to point out the frailty of our devotion to the Lord. How can we encourage one another to persevere in the faith?