



Rockwood Church of Christ

The Proclaimer

June 9, 2024

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Elders:

Kendall Bear
Dana Carter
Don Chandler

Deacons:

Larry Brackett
Aaron Evans
Larry Hill
Steve McCreary

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Service Times:

Sunday

Bible Study 10 am
Worship Service 10:45 am
Worship Service 6 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7 pm

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One Thing

There are many voices competing for our attention. There are many destinations pleading for our arrival. There are many products and companies begging for our money.

Yet only one voice matters. Only one destination is of any consequence. Only one being can inform us as to what to do with and how to look at our money.

Our lives hinge on one thing: our relationship to God. Do we humbly stand in His presence? Are we hanging on His every word, awaiting His guidance and direction? (**1 John 1:7**)

“One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.”
(**Psalm 27:4**)

“But the Lord answered her, ‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her.’” (**Luke 10:41-42**)

To show that we love God, we must be in the presence of Jesus, listening to His words. Hearing is the precondition for doing, and action is the proof of the hearing (**Rom. 10:17; Matt. 7:24-27**).

David and Mary knew what was important. Do we?

Bart Warren

S. Green St. church of Christ
Glasgow, KY

A Costly Love Affair

"For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world..." (2 Timothy 4:10)

The above text, **2 Timothy 4:10**, is the third and final mention of Demas in Scripture. In **Colossians 4:14** he is listed as one sending greetings to the church at Colossae. In **Philemon 24** he is named as a fellow worker of Paul. In **2 Timothy 4**, though, he is identified as a deserter from the Lord's work because he "loved this present world."

We are not told whether his love for the world was centered on any one thing. We are told only that he loved it and what that love for the world caused him to do. Of course, Christians are commanded not to love the world (**1 John 2:15-17**). Sadly, though, many today are like Demas and set their affections on it and its allurements with no regard for what it will cost them.

We often speak of "*costly love affairs*" whether in fiction or real life because those affairs cause homes to be broken, children to suffer, reputations to be ruined, wealth to be sacrificed, etc. Yet, none has ever been costlier than the love affairs Demas and others like him have had with the world. Consider some of the costly consequences of his affair.

Fellowship with God - Loving the world carries the highest price one can pay for anything: to be as the Gentiles of old, without God and without hope (**Eph. 2:12**). Continued fellowship with God requires walking with Him, in accordance with His will (**1 John 1:5-7**).

Friendship with the world makes one an enemy of God (**Jas. 4:4**). **1 John 2:15** states that anyone who loves the world does not have the love of the Father in him.

The one who claims to be a Christian, believing he is still in God's favor, but who flirts with the world is only deceiving himself. He must be made to realize the great cost of unfaithfulness -- his soul (**Matt. 16:26**).

Great Harm to the Cause of Christ - In addition to hurting himself, Demas did great damage to the cause of Christ. In abandoning it, he deprived it of a devoted worker and robbed it of all the good he might have accomplished had he remained faithful. We can only wonder how many lives he could have helped if he had stayed loyal to the Lord. He wasted his knowledge and abilities.

There is also the matter of his influence. Others, most likely, became disheartened and discouraged by his example. He was probably a discouragement to his family and friends for no one can do as he did without encouraging others to do the same (**Prov. 1:10-15**).

Like every willful sinner, he crucified the Son of God anew and put Him to an open shame (**Heb. 6:4-6; 10:29**).

Great Hurt to the World - The actions of Demas robbed the world of the flavor of righteousness imparted unto it by godly living. It snuffed out another desperately needed light in a sin-darkened world (**Phil 2:15**). It deprived the worldly of the good example of one who lives and teaches the truth.

Someone has rightly said, *"Every 'Demas' who leaves the truth makes it a little more difficult for some 'Cornelius' to learn the truth or some 'Timothy' to be reared in it."*

Conclusion - Demas' love affair with this world was certainly costly. Most tragically, if there was no repentance on his part, it cost him his soul (**Matt. 16:26**). Doing as he did, hurts all and profits no one. Do not make the mistake of Demas. Do not love this present world.