

AWOL
2 TIMOTHY 4:10 / 2-9-20 / PM

I. HIS LIFE.

A. Hometown.

1. Since he left Paul and went to Thessalonica it is assumed this was his home.
2. In excavations in Thessalonica two inscriptions of city leaders were found with the name “Demetrius” on them.
3. Perhaps Demas came from a wealthy and influential family.

B. His association with Paul.

1. His first of three mentions in scripture was with Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in a greeting to Philemon—Philemon 1:24.
 - a. Paul listed him as a fellow worker.
 - b. A fellow worker means partner, not just an associate.
2. His second mention was likewise during his first imprisonment where he wrote the book of Colossians—Colossians 4:14.
3. Paul’s final mention of Demas was about his abandonment in 2 Timothy 4:10.

C. His desertion.

1. The word “desertion” in Greek means “forsake”, “abandon”, “desert”, “leave helpless” or “let one down”.
2. Although it’s said that Demas deserted Paul it does not say he also deserted Jesus and his faith, although he may have.
3. The word “world” is open ended and impossible to know how Paul uses it.
 - a. It may refer to the pleasures of this world.
 - b. It may refer to fleeing persecution for a safer place.
 - c. It may refer to leaving the faith—1 John 2:15-17.
4. There is no other mention of Demas in Scripture.

II. HIS LESSONS

1. Difficult times reveal either the genuineness of our faith or the quality of it.
2. Great Christians can fail—1 Cor. 10:12.
3. What matters most to you eventually comes out.
4. We should be farsighted rather than near sided in this life—Col. 3:2.
5. Although others may disappoint you and perhaps leave you, God never will—2 Tim. 4:16-17.
6. Spiritual desertion is forgivable—Acts 15:38 and 2 Tim. 4:11.
7. We must be ready to forgive people who ask for it.
 - a. People will disappoint you. It's a fact of life.
 - b. There is no record that Demas and Paul were reconciled.
 - c. Paul and Mark, however were reconciled.
 - d. Paul forgave Mark and he would have also forgiven Demas if he had only asked—Matthew 6:14-15.