

Luke greets you, and another man does too. Demas. Luke and Demas. I'm sure people of that day said isn't this wonderful. Paul has two such wonderful associates in the work, Luke and Demas. Those two men who are so interested in God's work, who are toiling and struggling to spread the work of God, who are doing everything they can to help Luke in his ministry, surely Luke and Demas are names that will shine through future centuries wherever Christianity is known, wherever the work of God is spoken the names of Luke and Demas will be remembered. But, alas, turn over to 2 Timothy 4, and there in 2 Timothy 4:10, a few years later, Paul writes and he says, but Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world and is departed to Thessalonica; Crescens ^{has gone} to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Luke is left. Luke has a name that is known wherever Christianity is known of. Churches are dedicated to Luke. He's held up as an example to Christian people, we read his words, we study them, we praise God for his ministry. But Demas has forsaken, having loved this present world. Do you think that Demas, after serving God with Paul for quite an extent, for quite a long time, all of a sudden sat down and said now look at here, I'm getting tired of this, I ~~don't~~ think I'm going to serve God any more, I like the present world, I'm going this way. I'm going off into Thessalonica. Do you think that's what he said? I don't think so. I think one day Paul and Demas were on the way to perform a service for the Lord, and as they went Demas passed a place where there was a possibility of a little harmless pleasure and he stopped and he participated. Demas saw a chance along the way to make a little extra money for himself, to make life a little more comfortable. Nothing wrong, but he stopped, he took hold of it. Then perhaps he overstepped the bounds of what is proper, ever so slightly, but little by little, Demas' affections shifted from the Lord to this present world. Was this the lust of the flesh, was it the lust of the eye, was it the pride of life? We don't know, maybe one of the three, maybe a combination, but little by little, Demas' loyalty shifted, until Paul wrote the finale of Demas' career as a servant of the Lord. Demas has forsaken me out of love for this present world. How easy it is for us to try and serve the Lord a little, and ~~serve~~ the present world. For ^{us to} ~~if-you~~ try to do what will advance the Lord's cause but don't be too hard on your