

**Welcome to Westside Grace Ministries
Bible Sermons with
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**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be
ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." — 2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)**

Sermon titled: Loving This Present World

Part One

Loving This Present World

Opening Scripture

2 Timothy 4:10 (KJV)

"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed
unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."

Introduction: The Danger of Misplaced Love

One of the most sobering statements in the New Testament is found in Paul's final
letter.

Paul is nearing the end of his earthly ministry. He is imprisoned in Rome. His
execution is approaching. The great apostle who carried the gospel across the
Roman Empire is experiencing abandonment.

Then Paul writes these words: "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this
present world..."

The tragedy is not simply that Demas left Paul.

The tragedy is that something else became more valuable to him than standing with the apostle of Jesus Christ.

The issue was not merely location.

The issue was affection.

Demas did not simply walk away with his feet.

He first walked away with his heart.

I. The Human Heart Is Always Moving Toward Something

The Bible teaches that the heart is never neutral.

Proverbs 4:23 (KJV)

"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

What captures the heart eventually directs the life.

Jesus said:

Matthew 6:21 (KJV)

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

Notice Jesus did not say: "Where your treasure is, your heart might eventually follow."

He said: "There will your heart be also."

Our investments reveal our affections.

Our priorities reveal our values.

Our sacrifices reveal what we truly love.

II. Demas: A Man Who Started Well

Before examining Demas' departure, we must recognize his earlier testimony.

Scripture does not introduce Demas as a rebel.

Scripture introduces him as a servant.

Colossians 4:14 (KJV)

"Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you."

Demas is mentioned among Paul's companions.

At this point there is no rebuke.

No warning.

No criticism.

The biblical evidence presents Demas as someone associated with the ministry of Christ.

Philemon 24 (KJV)

"Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers."

Paul calls Demas:

"my fellowlabourer."

That is a significant statement.

Demas was not merely an observer.

He was involved.

He worked alongside Paul.

He participated in ministry.

He shared the burden of gospel advancement.

III. A Warning: Beginning Faithfully Does Not Guarantee Finishing Faithfully

Demas' story reminds us of an important spiritual principle:

A strong beginning does not remove the need for continual faithfulness.

The Christian life is not only about how we begin.

It is about how we continue.

Jesus said:

Matthew 24:13 (KJV)

"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."
Paul himself understood the danger of failing to continue faithfully.

1 Corinthians 9:27 (KJV)

"But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway."

Paul was not expressing uncertainty about God's faithfulness.

He was emphasizing the seriousness of spiritual discipline.

IV. The Difference Between the World and This Present World

Paul says Demas loved:

"this present world."

What does that mean?

The biblical concept of "world" is not simply creation.

God created the world.

Genesis 1:31 (KJV)

"And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

The problem is not the physical world.

The problem is the fallen system of values operating in rebellion against God.

John describes it this way:

1 John 2:15-16 (KJV)

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..."

The world represents a system that says:

- Find identity apart from God.

- Find satisfaction apart from God.
- Find glory apart from God.
- Find security apart from God.

V. Loving the World Does Not Always Look Like Open Rebellion

Many people imagine abandoning God looks dramatic.

Sometimes it does.

But often spiritual decline is quiet.

A person may not say:

"I hate God."

Instead, they gradually say:

"I have other priorities."

The danger is not always rejection.

Sometimes it is replacement.

Christ is not removed from the life completely.

He is simply moved from first place.

VI. The Deception of Temporary Things

The world promises what only God can provide.

It promises:

- Satisfaction.
- Security.
- Identity.
- Acceptance.
- Meaning.

But every promise is temporary.

Jesus asked:

Mark 8:36 (KJV)

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

The world can offer possessions.

It cannot offer peace.

The world can offer recognition.

It cannot offer reconciliation with God.

The world can offer pleasure.

It cannot offer eternal life.

VII. Demas and the Battle of Affections

The contrast between Colossians and 2 Timothy is a warning.

In Colossians:

Demas is standing with Paul.

In Philemon:

Demas is called a fellow laborer.

In 2 Timothy:

Demas has departed.

The external action revealed an internal change.

The question is not merely:

"Where did Demas go?"

The deeper question is:

"What did Demas love?"

Because what we love determines where we go.

VIII. The Heart Question

The story of Demas forces every believer to examine themselves.

Not simply:

"Am I active?"

Not simply:

"Am I religious?"

Not simply:

"Am I involved?"

But:

"What has captured my heart?"

Because ministry activity without devotion can become empty.

Knowledge without love can become pride.

Service without surrender can become routine.

Part One Conclusion

Demas teaches us that spiritual drift often happens gradually.

A person does not usually wake up one morning and decide to abandon everything.

The heart moves first.

The feet follow later.

The question for every believer is:

Are we loving Christ more, or are we slowly becoming attached to this present world?

In Part Two, we will examine:

- The contrast between Demas and Paul.
- The danger of divided loyalty.
- How the cross reshapes our desires.

- How believers guard against spiritual drift.
- The final challenge and invitation.
- The Westside Grace Ministries Official Closing Announcement with the abbreviated financial partnership statement.