

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.” 2 Timothy 4:10 KJV



Demas forsook Paul. It wasn't so much that he did not love Paul, but that he hated the hardship and loved pleasure more. Most believers, when given the choice between obeying God and satisfying desire, forsake God. You may love God, but some worldly accoutrement to which you are attached, and like Rachel you keep it hidden or refuse to acknowledge, has sway over your relationship to God. God often prompts men to repent. When the Canaanites refused to leave the Promised Land, God told Israel, *“I will send hornets...which shall drive out...the Canaanite...from before thee.”* God sends obstacles to persuade you to repent. *“The goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance. For whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”* Some children are more obstinate or less attentive than others and it seems they are constantly chastised. I was of the less attentive brand and endured much chastisement, but it made me more attentive and thereby less prone to error. Dad's chastisement paid great dividends. I learned many things, which otherwise would have gone unnoticed, from meat cutting to sewing from observation alone. Worldly pastimes and pleasures only silence God's Voice, pollute our thinking, and bring us pain and regret! Anything which lessens, by even one iota, our relationship with God, is sin. *“Sin is the transgression (disobedience) of the Law (God's Word): Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength. ‘Come out from among them, and be ye separate,’ saith the Lord, ‘and touch not the unclean thing.’”* Demas desired pleasure more than Christ. Satan masterfully molds foolish minds with movies, music, TV, education, friends, and pleasure to accept everything from adultery to abortion! If you hob-nob with the world, you willingly subject yourself to manipulation designed to send men to hell. You may be saved, but your participation does little to compel others of any imminent peril. *“Ye are the Light of the world. Let your light (God's Word) so shine (by virtue of obedience to it) before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.”* Is your obedience detoured by desire or fashioned by faith?

If worldly pleasure leads your soul,
Its sin will always take its toll,
The Door of Truth leads to the fold,
Where you can heal and be made whole! ~CGP

Are you a “Rachel” hiding your idols under pretense or a “Demas” totally forsaking the separated life of a true disciple? You'll not find physical comfort on the “straight and narrow,” but you will find companionship, peace, joy, and Light with the Sovereign Creator who gives “life more abundant.” The things that matter will get done and true needs will be met. Christ promised *“rest unto your SOUL,”* NOT your body! *“We Love Him, because He first Loved us.”* Jesus chose you before you chose Him! Remember; the needs of a soldier are not comfort and pleasure, but training and trial!

“Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” 2 Timothy 2:3-4 KJV