

# ***THE INFORMER*** South Highway Five Church Of Christ

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## **"Demas Hath Forsaken Me..."**

The place was a dungeon in Rome. The time was shortly before the execution of a great and beloved apostle. The occasion was a brief letter to Timothy, his "dearly beloved son." Lonely amidst those long dark prison hours, shivering from the cold, aching from the discomfort of the dungeon and the beatings inflicted, he longed for the comfort and encouragement of a devoted and faithful friend. Thus wrote the apostle Paul, "Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me" (2Tim.4:9).

Most of his fellow workers were away preaching and teaching. Crescens had gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia, Tychicus to Ephesus. Only Luke was with him. And a friend and helper of earlier days, Demas, was gone too. But not to preach. The apostle explained, "For Demas hath forsaken me having loved this present world" (2Tim.4:10). Demas had been a co-worker and preacher of the gospel with Paul (Col.4:14; Phile.24). But he returned to Thessalonica, perhaps his home city, when his interest in the Lord and his cause had grown cold. By "world" is meant those things that involve the material existence as opposed to those things of a spiritual and eternal nature. Demas loved the world's pleasures, allurements, attractions and sins, more than he loved the Lord, the apostle, and standing for the gospel.

Did Demas continue in this apostasy until his death? We are not told. Perhaps he later came to himself, recognized the futility of his life's direction, confessed his error and in repentance returned home to Christ. But if he did, we have no record of it. He vanishes from history and from our sight as a faithless failure. Perhaps he cowered and ran as Paul was being charged and tried (v. 16). If so, the courage of the apostle stands in sharp contrast with the sad disposition of Demas.

Here, as often in the history of men, the contrast is clearly seen. Often among members of the same household or congregation, having been subject to the same teaching, and with the same moral influences about them, the results are wholly different. They may share a number of experiences and influences but later may take entirely different directions. Sailors know that the same wind will make the boat sail in opposite directions, *depending on the set of the sail!* Each individual must ultimately set his own course in life.

*"So then each of us will give an account of himself to God" (Rom.14:12 ASV).*

-Stephen Rook

**Quote of the Week:** *"He who is good at making excuses is usually good for nothing."*

Sunday Bible Classes, 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Assemblies, 10:20 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Classes, 7:00 p.m.

**Elders:** Wally Buttram, Warren Pemberton, Vic Sicard, Kyle Walker. **Deacons:** Stan and Stewart Bailey, Rob Briscoe, Scott Carr, Mike Mitchell, David Pemberton, Rodney White. **Preacher:** Stephen Rook.

**"You're always welcome at South Hwy. Five!"**