

PASTOR'S CORNER



2 Timothy 4:10
For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica.

DEMAS

Demas, a compatriot of Paul the apostle, is mentioned by name three times in Scriptures. There is not much biographical details about him, but if the references are listed in chronological order they appear to reflect a tragic decline that ends in defection from the faith.

We first meet Demas in Philemon 1:24 (although Philemon comes after Colossians in the Bible, it is commonly accepted among Bible students that Paul wrote it before the book of Colossians). In this first reference Demas is described as one of Paul's fellow workers beside people like Luke, Mark and Aristarchus. That is great company to be in. The next time we encounter Demas is in Colossians 4:14. Throughout the letter and especially in the verses surrounding this reference (Colossians 4:7-17) numerous other Christian workers are mentioned and commended. For example, Tychicus is the beloved brother (7); Ones-

mus, faithful and beloved (9); and Luke is called the beloved physician (14). Demas is just named with no descriptor. While we want to be careful of reading too much from silence, we can't help but wonder if Paul's brief (curt?) mention of Demas is a hint that all is not well. Has Demas already begun to exhibit troubling symptoms of worldliness?

The final mention of Demas in 2 Timothy 4:10 reveals that Demas had abandoned the work of the Lord because he was "in love with this present world." This tragic comment illustrates how a Christian can be spoiled by worldliness. It also suggests that surrender to worldliness is a gradual process. When we become enamored with the world – fascinated by the pleasures and pursuits of this ungodly system – we set our lives on a trajectory that often ends in defection from Christ. Demas the fellow worker becomes just Demas and then Demas the defector.

What a sad end for someone who served in gospel ministry.

We must be careful to guard our hearts against any encroachment of worldliness. While we must live in the world around us, we must be careful not to center our lives around the philosophies and pursuits of this world system that rejects God as Sovereign and Savior. We must continue to keep God at the center of our lives. We must strive to grow in our love for Him and our understanding of His word and ways. We must continue to humbly depend on the Holy Spirit to empower us to walk close to Jesus. As we pursue life in this manner may it never be said of any of us that we have forsaken Christ because we are in love with this present world. May God help us to remain passionately committed to Him all the days of our lives.

God bless you,
Pastor James

WHAT'S HAPPENING

CORPORATE PRAYER
TUE @ 7 PM

FEB 20

Join us via Zoom video

Please contact Pastor James for log on information at rcantio@gmail.com

YOUTH GROUP

FRI @ 6:45 PM

FEB 23

In-person at church.

For teens ages 13 and over

Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith?

3 CIRCLES

a Six-Session Training Event
Sundays Mar 3rd – Apr 7th @ 6 pm

Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available

KIDZONE & NURSERY
SUN @ 11 AM

FEB 25

These ministries are available every Sunday during the morning service

Kidzone for ages 6-12 yrs. old.

GROWTH GROUPS
THU & FRI @ 7 PM

FEB 22 & FEB 23

In-person at church.

WORSHIP SERVICE
SUN @ 11 AM

FEB 25

In-person service and Livestreaming on Facebook, Youtube and our webpage.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Thelma Hubbard, Gene Minor and Vaughn & Jenica Edwards are to be received into membership shortly. If you have any comments, please speak to Pastor James.
- Growth Groups continue this Thursday and Friday at 7 pm at church. Sign up at the Information Counter or online to attend one convenient to you.
- Ladies Meeting this Saturday at church at 10:30 am.
- Want to become more competent and comfortable sharing your faith? Join us for 3-Circles, a six-week evening training to help us have more and better gospel conversations. Sign up at the Information Center so we can ensure adequate materials are available.
- Explore Mountain Stream classes for those interested in becoming members or just finding out more about Mountain Stream begin Sunday March 3, at 10am. Please sign up at the Information Center to attend.
- We will be having baptism on February 25th immediately following the morning service.
- Baby Bottle Fundraiser: grab a baby bottle from church and fill it with coins, cash or a check and return it by March 3 to support the work of the Pregnancy Resource Center of the Poconos.
- If you'd like a one-year Bible reading plan for 2024 you may find Pastor Jimmie Van Sant's at PJVS1.blogspot.com.
- Help Needed: If you'd be willing to bring refreshments on a Sunday, speak to Becky or Lori.
- Join us on 1st and 3rd Wednesdays at 3:15pm at the Garden at Stroud as we sing and share the gospel with the residents. Contact Tom for more information.

WAYS TO GIVE

Traditionally during the Sunday morning service, with a check by mail or through our secured website.

Please remember to hit "SAVE" after you give if you did not set up an account so the church can have a record of who gave for tax purposes.

Thank you!