

Lesson 72 Answers and Comments

Correction – Col. 3:3 should be Col. 3:4

Excellency	all	me	abundantly
Power	all	life	above
God	sinned	live	power
Wise	no	flesh	worketh
Mighty	flesh	live	in
Noble	justified	loved	us
Chosen	sight	gave	
Foolish	flesh	walk	
Chosen	no	newness	
Weak	old	life	
Base	man	quickened	
Despised	crucified	quickened	
Chosen	destroyed	Christ	
Not	power	life	
Flesh	God	Christ	
Glory	not	you	
Grace	us	meet	
Saved	no	partakers	
Faith	flesh	good	
Not	glory	faith	
Yourselves	reckon	lay	
Gift	yourselves	eternal	
Not	alive	life	
Works	God	transformed	
Boast	crucified	renewing	
Death	I	mind	
Sin	Christ	able	
Death	liveth	exceeding	

When I'm struggling in my Christian walk I'm reminded of II Cor. 9:8, "And God is able..." Okay, I have to stop here. I love just looking at those 4 words. All the pressure is off of me! When I have a job that is too hard for me I love it when I can turn it over to someone more capable. GOD is ABLE! "...to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always have all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

There is nothing in our human experience that should be able to defeat us in our abounding in good works. God's all abounding grace towards us causes an all sufficiency in us resulting in every good work through us.

Lesson 73 Pitfalls for Believers

II Tim. 4:10 “For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world...”

Over the next few weeks we’ll study through some of the failures of believers. God doesn’t leave out the “dirty laundry” in His word. A reading of Genesis attests to that.

I think it will be edifying, encouraging and sobering as we look at some of the things that turned believers away from the Lord.

Let’s consider Demas. Col. 4:14 “Luke, the beloved physician, and _____, greet you.”

Demas is only mentioned three times by Paul. In Colossians we find him accompanying Paul with Luke also. In Philemon 24 we see Demas referred to as a _____ of Paul’s. So to some extent Demas was co-laboring together with Paul.

Demas had first hand exposure to Paul, God’s spokesman of the revelation of the mystery. Demas was privileged to labor alongside the likes of Luke. Luke, Paul’s beloved physician, who alone was the one who stayed with Paul to the end.

II Tim. 4:11 “Only _____ is _____ me...”

What opportunity Demas must have had to hear, learn, preach and fellowship with such godly men.

But a sad report is made by Paul of Demas in II Tim. 4:10, “For _____ hath _____ me, having _____ this present _____...”

Paul was all too familiar with being deserted by his friends.

II Tim. 4:16, “At my first answer _____ man stood with me, but _____ men _____ me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.”

II Tim. 1:15, “This thou knowest, that _____ they which are in _____ be _____ from me;...”

Is this scene all too familiar to another one in scripture?

John 16:32, “Behold the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be _____, every man to his own, and shall _____ me _____:...”

As Jesus agonized in the garden of Gethsemane and Judas and the soldiers came to apprehend him what happened?

Mark 14:50, “And they all _____ him, and _____.”

These were Christ’s disciples, the privileged ones. And of course we remember Peter, promising never to deny the Lord, Mark 14:31, “...If I should die with thee, I will not _____ thee in any wise. Like wise also said they _____.”

There is a difference though between these acts of desertion and that of Demas.

Lesson 73 Continued

The dangerous nature of both Christ's and Paul's situation is what initiated the forsaking by their friends.

This was not the case with Demas. Demas is not said to have forsaken Paul as a result of fear, or a great disillusion as I think might have been the case with Peter. (I don't think Peter was a coward. Peter was more angry and disappointed that Christ allowed Himself to be taken). Peter cut the right ear off the high priests servant when they came to take Jesus. He was ready to fight and even die. But Christ was not.

Demas, however, is said to have forsaken Paul (and thus the Lord), for the _____ of this present _____, II Tim. 4:10. Loving this present world was Demas' pitfall. It turned him from serving the Lord.

Col. 3:2, "Set your _____ on things _____, not on _____ on the _____." The things of this earth captured the heart of Demas. Maybe it was laboring to be rich, or seeking popularity and fame. Maybe it was the pursuit of women, knowledge or career. Demas abandoned the Lord, having loved this present world. First came loving the wrong thing. Then came leaving the right thing. Demas set his mind on things on the earth. This world has no attraction to our new man.

Gal. 5:24, "And they that are Christ's have _____ the _____ with the _____ and _____." But our flesh is still able to respond to the allure of this world. The world is quite attractive to our flesh.

Heb. 11:25, speaking about Moses, "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to _____ the _____ of _____ for a season."

I John 2:16 sums up what makes up the things of the world, "For all that is in the _____, the _____ of the _____, and the _____ of the _____, and the _____ of _____, is not of the Father, but is of the world."

Demas loved the world. Demas allowed his dead flesh to lust after the world. Gal. 5:16 – 21, vs. 17, "For the flesh _____ against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh..."

Demas experienced a life that brought death to his Christian experience and any effectiveness for the cause of Christ.

Rom. 8:6, "For to be _____ minded is _____..."

Rom. 8:13, "For if ye live after the _____, ye shall _____: but if ye through the Spirit do _____ the deeds of the body, ye shall _____."

Demas may have enjoyed whatever avenue of the world he chose but he brought death to his functioning as a fruitful saint of the Lord.

Why do so many saints succumb to this pitfall? Look back at Col. 3:1, 2. Paul tells these saints to set their affection on things above after he reminds them of something in vs. 1. "If ye then be _____ with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God."

Paul challenges the saints to fully recognize who they are! Dead, buried, risen with Christ! Partakers of all the spiritual blessings in Christ! An acknowledging of these precious truths will keep our affection on things above.

Lesson 73 Continued

Just because a saint forsakes the Lord and His work does not mean that they can't once again be profitable in their Christian experience.

John Mark had deserted Paul at one point, Acts 15:37, 38, "And Barnabas determined to take with them _____, whose surname was _____. Vs. 38, But Paul thought not good to take him with them, who _____ from them from Pamphylia, and went _____ with them to the work." But we see in II Tim. 4:11 that Paul says, "...Take _____ and bring him with thee: for he is _____ to me for the ministry."

Is the love of this present world tugging at your flesh? Saturate your mind with the love of Christ and be constrained to live only for Him.