

THERE'S NOTHING TO GO BACK TO

Text: 2 Timothy 2:9-10

Here in the second letter from the apostle Paul to Timothy, he makes known to Timothy how that Demas has forsaken. He leaves no question in our minds as to why he forsook him, because he loved the world of his present time and went to Thessalonica. Demas is mentioned by Paul in other of his epistles. In the letter to Philemon, Demas is mentioned as one of Paul's fellow laborers. In Colossians he is mentioned as one of Paul's traveling companions that salute the saints in Colosse. So, from what we gather from these verses, Demas was a saved man, for a portion of time he was sold out to helping further the gospel and encourage the saints. He traveled with the greatest of the apostles and no doubt experienced mighty moves of God in diverse places. But he also was a firsthand witness to persecution, afflictions, difficulties and dangers. It could be that it became too much for him and he just went back to his home. It also could be that he set his affections on things on the earth instead of on things above and he followed his heart right out of the ministry.

I want to bring you a message today on "There's nothing to go back to". Several times and in several places, God's people temporarily tried to go back to the world because of adverse circumstances. It never worked out the way they had hoped because there's nothing for a Christian in the world! The world is the system on the earth that is headed up by Satan, that leaves God out. That system is against God and is at enmity against God. We are warned about it in scripture: **1 John 2:15-16** 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, is not of the Father, but is of the world. **James 4:4** Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Some reasons that God's people go back to the world:

- **Distracted:** People get distracted by what they see. Samson saw a woman in the valley of Sorek named Delilah and it wrecked his anointing. Lot saw the well-watered plains of Jordan, and it started him down the path that ended up in Sodom. David saw Bathsheba taking a bath from his rooftop and led him to a fall.
- **Despondent:** Meaning a state of deep discouragement and sadness over fearful circumstances. When Moses was gone for 40 days to get the law from God on

Mount Sinai, the people got despondent over him being gone for so long and immediately went into idol worship and fornication.

- **Dearth:** a time of famine and dryness. Elimelech and Naomi took their two sons and left Bethlehem-judah because of famine and went to Moab. They went to because the food became scare not because they wanted to join in Moab's idolatry. Abraham and Sarah went to Egypt for the very same reason.
- **Disillusioned:** The younger son in the parable of Luke 15 got it in his heart that a better life was waiting for him in the far country away from his father's house. After a season of riotous living, a famine came that brought him to poverty and eventually, the hog pin. He found out he was disillusioned about the far country and went home to his father.
- **Damaged:** Sometimes people get hurt by others in the church, or they are taught things that lead them to hurt and bitterness and so because of that they leave the fellowship of the saints for the world.

Jeremiah 2:13 For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. *There's no where a Christian can turn besides God Almighty for any good, any comfort, any joy, and peace or fulfillment because He is the source of all those things. There is nothing to go back to! Let's look at how it ends for people who turn to the world.*

- **Destruction:** Delilah destroyed Samson's anointing and the love of Sodom destroyed Lot's family.
- **Dry up:** The prodigal's good name as well as his goods all dried up away from the father's house, not to mention his friends.
- **Death:** When Naomi's family went to Moab, her husband and two sons died. **Ruth 1:20-21** And she said unto them, Call me not Naomi, call me Mara: for the Almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full, and the LORD hath brought me home again empty: why *then* call ye me Naomi, seeing the LORD hath testified against me, and the Almighty hath afflicted me?