

As read by Nan Bowen on Sunday 29th May 2016

Music	Nancy Jones
Power Point	Manuila Tausi
Please Stand	For the entrance of the Bible
Notices	With John Hewitson
Call to Worship	With Lindsay Mackay
Choral Introit	WE LOVE THE PLACE, O GOD By William Bullock : MHB 677
Hymn	Rejoice the Lord is King
Welcome	With Lew Bowen
Prayer	Of Praise & Adoration with Mick Marshall
Lord's Prayer	Sung together
Choral Anthem	IF ALL MY YOUTHFUL STRENGTH I COULD RENEW (Words and music by Colin Gibson.)
Reading	Matthew 6: 19-21 with Richard Rushton
Hymn	Seek ye first
Sermon	Demas—with Nan Bram Cook— with Lew David Green— with Mick
Quartet	
Hymn	A Charge to keep I have (WOV 487)
Reading	Matthew 6: 22-26 with Lew God and Possessions
Prayer	For Others with Mick Marshall
Offering	With Helen Hutchings
Hymn	Rise up O men of God
Benediction	
Please Stand	For the exit of the Bible

Demas

There's a character in the New Testament mentioned 3 times, yet most people have never heard of him, but we are more like him than many of the biblical characters whose names and lives we know so well. His name was Demas, as here are the three references to the man :-

1. In Philemon, "Demas, Luke, my fellow workers". So there is Demas, named before Luke, standing by Paul in Rome's prison, trusted, devoted.
2. Paul writing to Colossians, "Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas." So you have to wonder by Demas and Luke are now reversed in order. What's happened?
3. Paul writing to Timothy, (some of Paul's last writings) :- " Demas has forsaken me, having loved the things of this world." So that's it – the essence of Demas, the things of this world, that's where his heart was.

Three things on a graph:- the story of a fine beginning and a sad ending :-
Demas my fellow worker,
Demas,
Demas has forsaken me.

One's mind lays on this brief biography, especially the relationship between Demas and Luke; close companions of Paul, they would have known each other very well.

Luke was the only recorder of Jesus's life, whose records include the story of the man who started to build a tower and was NOT ABLE to finish it.
And one wonders if he remembered the story of Demas.

Demas was slipping, and in the group of faithful surrounding Paul in his dark dungeon in Rome, apprehension was high.

Is Demas about to desert, and one imagines Luke pleading with his friend.
Well Luke recorded the parable; Perhaps he had seen it's truth too vividly illustrates in life to forget it:-
Demas my fellow worker
Demas
Demas has forsaken me.

We all of us need a STAR to GUIDE:
Some hope, some ambition, some dream,
Some motivation towards an end,
That is worth all the striving.

Scripture has it; storing up treasures where moths and rust can't STEAL our dreams and thieves don't stand a chance.
And where your treasure is, your heart will always be there too.

So what happened to Demas to cause a heart transplant, a change in direction, the baubles of Rome presumably, the same as it is in every age, and in every village in the land, the glitter of the present, and prizes to be won.

I wonder if you agree with me when I suggest again that at best the ability to see life through depends on being captured by a cause, something or someone greater than self, and to which one can give ones loyalty gladly – a cause, a dream, something greater than self.

Well Demas lost his way; he dropped the ball, and if the old legend is true, Demas went back to Thessalonica and became a priest of idols in a pagan temple.

That's were his treasure was

That's where his heart was too.