

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

**18 May 2008**  
VOLUME 8; ISSUE 19

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## **Could A Lack of Moral Purity Have Caused the Downfall of Demas?**

by Marc Smith  
(Edited to fit this format)

Recently, I read of a discovery made in the nation of Greece, this year, that stunned quite a number of anthropologists digging below the ancient city of Thessalonica. They unearthed a vast system of overly large tunnels and chambers which had only been hinted at in various ancient texts, some texts well over 2,000 years old. It seems that this city's subterranean realm was very well known in its own time throughout the Roman Empire. It was devoted to the commercial exploitation of prostitution and all other kinds of sexual wickedness. In fact the complex is so large that it must have employed thousands of people and so was of major social and economic significance. The walls of these tunnels and chambers are richly and graphically embellished with murals, caricatures, and other artistic but very obscene etchings and paintings of a pornographic nature. These pictures tell the story that this place was intended to impress the reveler in Roman times with the idea that when one had descended into this place they had entered "the underworld" in which every sexual deviancy imaginable could be experienced. This place was in its "heyday" and at full swing during the life of the apostle Paul.

*"For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world,  
and is departed to Thessalonica" (2 Timothy 4:10a).*

Is it possible that Demas went to Thessalonica for other reasons than this awful place below the city? Maybe, but the fact that this underground system of brothels was mainly what that city was known for is a good reason it must figure prominently in our conclusions. We can say that it was a strong possibility this is what appealed to Demas.

This abandonment of the apostle Paul by Demas has always bothered Christians and we are left only to conclude from Paul's

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

**Elizabeth Cribbs** will be having additional back surgery on May 22. Remember her in your prayers.

**Nina Gray's** appointment with the neurologist this past Thursday went well. It was determined that she has minor nerve issues with her ankle but not with her knee. Her persistent knee problems are being caused by poor blood circulation. Nina is now scheduled to see a vascular doctor on May 27<sup>th</sup>. Nina will also be seeing an eye doctor on May 29<sup>th</sup> to get prepared for cataract surgery.

### Thomas Gresham and Jim

**Summers'** contact info is posted in the foyer. Please keep them in your daily prayers.

### Adult Bible Studies:

Sunday mornings we are studying the book of James and Wednesday we are studying The Book of Ruth.

### Sunday Evening OT Series:

We have studied through the entire Pentateuch and will now begin a study over the book of Joshua.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

**Bessie Murphy**  
4600 Taft Blvd, Apt. 538

statement that Demas had gone to Thessalonica specifically to involve himself in worldly activities and so abandoning Christ at the same time. How could a child of God be so tempted that he would succumb to these types of evil and lose his soul?

This question is especially bothersome when we contemplate passages like, "*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall*" (1 Cor. 10:12). Just because we are Christians does not in any way make us immune to immoral temptations the world will offer us on every side. The child of God is to be elevated in the things he desires to dwell on in his mind and heart. The knowledge of God's word is supposed to provide us with understanding and to know to value greater than any other consideration the saved status of our souls.

We should be able to continue with the aid of God's word and be able to withstand the temptations of the world. With understanding we should not be as susceptible as those who are spiritually unarmed. The Lord protects us spiritually to the degree that we don't have to sin. He says we will all commit sins (ref. Rom. 3:23) but the decision to do so or not do so is always ours completely. 2 Cor. 10:13, "*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*" Christians have the power to resist any type of sin. I cannot help but refer here to the wise man's sayings found in the book of Proverbs 4:7, "*Wisdom is the principle thing; therefore get wisdom and with all thy getting get understanding.*" And also 4:23, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*"

Demas must not have remembered another passage from Proverbs 6:32, "*But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.*" You see, he lacked spiritual understanding.

How does one acquire a morally pure mind? Pure minds have to be cultivated. This takes work and the Christian actively must strive to rid himself of the effects of the world. "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever thing are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things*" (Philippians 4:8). Jesus said, "*Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*" Unlike brother Demas, can you say your heart is pure? Do you want to see God?

**Editor's Note:** While the thoughts of this article are interesting it can in no way be proved that Demas fell to prostitution and pornography. This being the case, the article had many truths regarding purity that I deemed appropriate.

# The End of the World

## Introduction:

A local radio program asked the following question this past week. “Is this the end of the world?” The program reviewed all the current catastrophes and economic woes of our world. This lesson shall seek to answer the above question in light of Biblical principles.

### I. Consider the current World Events:

- A. Tsunami kills thousands
- B. Myanmar Cyclone kills thousands.
- C. 7.8 earthquake strikes China killing thousands.
- D. Eruption of a volcano in Chile May 8, 2008
- E. Global warming
- F. War in Iraq and around the world
- G. Food and oil shortages
- H. Economic woes

### II. Has anything really changed?

- A. Note the Apostle Peter’s words (II Pet. 3:1-7).
- B. Haven’t we always had natural disasters, food, oil, and economic concerns?

### III. Jesus teaches on the “End of the World” (Matthew 24:3ff)

- A. “When shall these things be?”
- B. “What shall be the sign of thy coming?”
- C. “What shall be the sign of the end of the world?”

## Conclusion:

The Christian ought to be concerned with the answer to the question, “When shall the world come to and end?” The fact remains; however, that no man, angel, or even Christ knows when this will occur (see Matt. 24:36). Christians ought to live godly in this present world seeing that the end is imminent and that judgment is sure (II Pet. 3:8-13).