

Colossians – Chapter 4
“Paul’s Companions: A Doctor and a Deserter”
Colossians 4:14

Verse 14

1. Paul mentions Luke and calls him “*the beloved physician.*”
2. Luke joined Paul’s missionary journeys in Acts 16:10. He journeyed with Paul to Jerusalem where Paul was arrested, and then he made the long voyage with Paul to Rome.
3. It appears that Luke just stayed with Paul during Paul’s imprisonment and attended to Paul’s physical needs. Why else would Paul refer to him as “*the beloved physician?*”
4. Luke stayed with Paul until the very end. In 2 Timothy 4:11 we read, “*Only Luke is with me.*”
5. Isn’t it interesting that one of the greatest healers in the Bible needed a personal physician? Why is this?
6. The gift of healing was a sign gift that was given in the book of Acts for a twofold purpose:
 - To authenticate to Israel the message that the apostles spoke.
 - As a sign of impending judgment to the nation of Israel.
7. The gift of healing was a miraculous sign gift, and Paul clearly states that it was Israel that required a sign. 1 Corinthians 1:22
8. When God’s kingdom program for Israel was set aside at the end of the book of Acts (Acts 28:25-29), the sign gifts ceased because their purpose was fulfilled. There was no longer any reason for the exercise of these sign gifts.
9. Many of Paul’s letters were written after the book of Acts, and what do we find?
 - Paul has a personal physician attending to him.
 - Paul left Trophimus sick at Miletum. 2 Timothy 4:20
 - Timothy is plagued with continual sicknesses. 1 Timothy 5:23
 - Epaphroditus (one of Paul’s close friends) was sick and almost died. Philippians 2:25-30
10. The healing signs of Pentecost eventually faded, and Paul referred to this time period as “*the suffering of this present time.*”
11. But praise God, though our outward man perish, our inward man is renewed day by day. Our outward bodies may get sick and decay in strength, but God’s Spirit ever-strengthens us in our inner spirit. We may be weak in body, but we can always be strong in spirit! 2 Corinthians 4:16
12. Next, Paul mentions a man by the name of Demas. This man is the only man that Paul has no commendation for of any kind. Could it be that Demas had already showed signs of straying in his spiritual walk?
13. In 2 Timothy 4:10, we see a very sad verse: “*For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica.*”

14. Paul may have sensed that something was spiritually wrong with Demas when he wrote Colossians, because Paul was always eager to honor those who were a blessing to him and who were faithful in the Lord's work. But, there is no word about Demas.
15. Maybe he included Demas' name just to encourage Demas, but Demas ended up falling away from his active service for the Lord.
16. Why did he leave Paul and his place of service? Paul said that Demas loved the present world.
 - When the Bible speaks of "the world," it is referring to the satanic policy of evil that fills the earth at the present time. The apostle John warned about falling in love with the world. 1 John 2:15-17
17. Galatians 1:4 teaches that Christ gave Himself for our sins "*...that he might deliver us from this present evil world.*"
 - A believer is not of this world system. We have been delivered from Satan's kingdom of darkness, and translated into Christ's kingdom. Colossians 1:13; John 17:14-16
18. When a person gets saved and experiences the grace of God, our salvation teaches us to deny "*ungodliness and worldly lusts,*" and to "*live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world.*" Titus 2:11-12
19. Unfortunately, many times, Satan's world system offers temporary pleasures and temporal prosperity and popularity. Like a powerful vacuum, it is ever trying to suck in the believer so that our light will not shine for Christ.
20. All of us have the potential of becoming a Demas. We must daily yield to the Holy Spirit inside of us, or just like Demas, we can find ourselves walking after the lusts of our flesh, and walking in lockstep with Satan's world system.