FOUR FELLOW WORKERS

Philemon 24 And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

Demas

Colossians 4:14 Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

2 Timothy 4:9&10a Do your best to come to me quickly, for Demas, because he loved this world, has deserted me and has gone to Thessalonica.

“Deserted” means “to forsake, abandon, leave in straits, or helpless” (Vine’s). It is also used in 2 Timothy 4:10 At my first defense, no one came to my support, but everyone deserted me. May it not be held against them.

Proverbs 4:23 Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

I John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – come not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

Crescens

2 Timothy 4:10b Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

Acts 20:4&5 He was accompanied by Sopater son of Pyrrus from Berea, Aristarchus and Secundus from Thessalonica, Gaius from Derbe, Timothy also, and Tychicus and Trophimus from the province of Asia. These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas.

Titus

Titus 1:4a To Titus, my true son in our common faith:

Galatians 2:1-3 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also. I went in response to a revelation and, meeting privately with those esteemed as leaders, I presented to them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. I wanted to be sure I was not running and had not been running my race in vain. Yet not even Titus, who was with me, was compelled to be circumcised, even though he was a Greek.

Galatians 2:4&5 This matter arose because some false believers had infiltrated our ranks to spy on the freedom we have in Christ Jesus and to make us slaves. We did not give in to them for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you.

2 Corinthians 8:23a As for Titus, he is my partner and co-worker among you

2 Corinthians 2:13 I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there.

2 Corinthians 7:6&7 But God, who comforts the downcast, comforted us by the coming of Titus and not only by his coming but also by the comfort you had given him. He told us about your longing for me, your deep sorrow, your ardent concern for me, so that my joy was greater than ever.

Titus 1:4&5 To Titus, my true son in our common faith: Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you.

Titus 1:10&11 For there are many rebellious people, full of meaningless talk and deception, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are disrupting whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach – and that for the sake of dishonest gain.

Titus 1:12-14 One of Crete’s own prophets has said it: Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.” This saying is true. Therefore rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the merely human commands of those who reject the truth.

2 Timothy 4:9c Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus to Dalmatia.

Dalmatia was located across the Adriatic Sea from Italy, primarily in what is now Albania.

Luke, The Beloved Physician

He wrote more of the New Testament, about one-fourth, by word count than any other New Testament writer, even Paul, even if you think Paul wrote Hebrews. The Gospel of Luke is the longest book in the New Testament, Acts is the second longest.

And yet in the text of the New Testament he is mentioned only three times, twice in connection with Demas. 2 Timothy 4:11a Only Luke is with me.

Philemon 223&24 Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings. And so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas and Luke, my fellow workers.

Colossians 4:10,11&14 My fellow prisoner Aristarchus sends you his greetings, as does Mark, the cousin of Barnabas. (You have received instructions about him; if he comes to you, welcome him) Jesus, who is called Justus, also sends greetings. These are the only Jews among my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have proved a comfort to me…Our dear friend Luke, the doctor, and Demas send greetings.

Acts 16:6-8 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

Acts 16:9&10 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Acts 16:13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

Acts 16:16-18c Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.” She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!”

Acts 20:3b-6 Because some Jews had plotted against him just as he was about to sail for Syria, he decided to go back through Macedonia. He was accompanied by…These men went on ahead and waited for us at Troas, where we stayed seven days.

Acts 21:17 When we arrived at Jerusalem, the brothers and sisters received us warmly.

Acts 27:1a When it was decided that we would sail for Italy,

Acts 28:16 When we got to Rome, Paul was allowed to live by himself, with a soldier to guard him.

Some Things to Think About

Loving the world can bring anyone down, even a fellow worker of the Apostle Paul.

The Gospel was spread throughout the Roman Empire by many people, most of whom we know little or nothing about, not just by Paul.

Titus was an uncircumcised Gentile taken to Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas as a test case on the necessity of circumcision. The church leaders said circumcision was not necessary for salvation. He was later sent to a difficult situation in Corinth and then another difficult situation in Crete.

The man God used to write more of the New Testament than any other writer was a doctor who became a missionary who eventually seemed to become Paul’s personal doctor. In spite of all that he did for God, we know most of what we know about him only from the pronouns he used when writing about Paul’s ministry. The focus of his writing was never himself, but always what God was doing through others. We can learn a lot from him.