

# DEMAS AND THE PLAIN CALLED EASE



*The ease  
that pilgrims  
have, is but  
little in this  
life.*

*Lucre hill a  
dangerous  
hill.*

*Demas at the  
hill Lucre.*

*He calls to  
Christian  
and Hopeful  
to come to  
him..*

**W**hen *Christian* and *Hopeful* out-went them again, and went till they came at a delicate plain, called *Ease*, where they went with much content; but that plain was but narrow, so they were quickly got over it. Now at the further side of that plain was a little hill called *Lucre*, and in that hill a silvermine, which some of them that had formerly gone that way, because of the rarity of it, had turned aside to see; but going too near the brink of the pit, the ground being deceitful under them, broke, and they were slain: some also had been maimed there, and could not, to their dying day, be their own men again.<sup>1</sup>

2. Then I saw in my dream, that a little off the road, over against the *silvermine*, stood *Demas* (gentleman-like) to call to passengers to come

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<sup>1</sup> Nothing is more dangerous and ensnaring to the soul than worldly riches. How many, who have been enabled to stand unshaken against the blasts of adversity, have visibly lost ground when the tide of prosperity has flowed in upon them. It is difficult to have riches, and not set our hearts upon them. And the word of God assures us that the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some covet after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

and see; who said to *Christian* and his fellow, Ho! turn aside hither, and I will shew you a thing.

3. **Chr.** What thing so deserving, as to turn us out of the way?

4. **Demas.** Here is a *silver mine*, and some digging in it for treasure; if you will come, with a little pains, you may richly provide for yourselves.

5. **Hope.** Then said *Hopeful*, let us go see.

6. **Chr.** Not I, said *Christian*, I have heard of this place before now, and how many have there been slain; and besides, that treasure is a snare to those that seek it; for it hindreth them in their pilgrimage.

7. Then **Christian** called to *Demas*, saying, Is not the place dangerous? Hath it not hindered many in their pilgrimage?

8. **Demas.** Not very dangerous, except to those that are careless; but withal, he blushed as he spake.

9. **Chr.** Then said *Christian* to *Hopeful*, Let us not stir a step; but still keep on our way.

*Hopeful  
tempted to  
go, but  
Christian  
holds him  
back.*

Hos. 4. 18

DEMÁS AND THE PLAIN CALLED ÉASE

10. **Hope.** I will warrant you, when *By-ends* comes up, if he hath the same invitation as we, he will turn in thither to see.

11. **Chr.** No doubt thereof, for his principles lead him that way, and a hundred to one but he dies there.

12. **Demás.** Then *Demás* called again, saying, But will you not come over and see?

13. **Chr.** Then *Christian* roundly answered, saying, *Demás*, thou art an enemy to the right ways of the Lord of this way, and hast been already condemned for thine own turning aside, by one of his Majesties judges, and why seekest thou to bring us into the like condemnation? Besides, if we at all turn aside, our Lord the King will certainly hear thereof, and will there put us to shame, where we would stand with boldness before him.

14. **Demás** cried again, That he also was one of their fraternity; and that if they would tarry a little, he also himself would walk with them.

15. **Chr.** Then said *Christian*, What is thy name? Is it not the same by the which I have called thee?

16. **Demás.** Yes, my name is *Demás*; I am the son of *Abraham*.

17. **Chr.** I know you; *Gehazi* was your great grandfather, and *Judas* your father, and you have trod their steps; it is but a devilish prank

that thou usest; thy father was hanged for a traitor, and thou deservest no better reward. Assure thyself, that when we come to the King, we will do him word of this thy behaviour. Thus they went their way.

18. By this time *By-ends* and his companions were come again within sight, and they at the first beck went over to *Demás*. Now, whether they fell into the pit by looking over the brink thereof, or whether they went down to dig, or whether they were smothered in the bottom by the damps that commonly arise, of these things I am not certain; but this I observed, that they never were seen again in the way.

19. Then sang *Christian*:  
By-ends and silver *Demás*  
both agree;  
One calls, the other runs,  
that he may be  
A sharer in his lucre,  
so these two  
Take up in this world,  
and no further go.

20. Now I saw, that just on the other side of this plain the pilgrims came to a place where stood an old monument, hard by the highway side, at the sight of which they were both concerned, because of the strangeness of the form thereof, for it seemed to them as if it had been a woman transformed into the shape of a pillar. Here therefore they stood looking and looking upon it, but could not for a time tell what they should make thereof. At last *Hopeful* espied written above upon the

Ch. 27. 1,  
2, 3, 5, 6

By-ends goes  
over to *De-  
mas*

They see a  
strange  
monument.

Christian  
roundeth  
up *Demás*.  
2 Tim. 4.  
10.

2 Kings 5.  
20.  
Matt. 26.  
14, 15.

## DEMAS AND THE PLAIN CALLED EASE

Gen. 19. 26.

head thereof, a writing in an unusual hand; but he being no scholar, called to *Christian* (for he was learned) to see if he could pick out the meaning: so he came, and after a little laying of letters together, he found the same to be this, *Remember Lot's Wife*. So he read it to his fellow; after which they both concluded that that was the pillar of salt into which *Lot's* wife was turned, for her looking back with a *covetous heart*, while she was going from *Sodom* for safety.<sup>2</sup> Which sudden and amazing sight, gave them occasion of this discourse.

21. **Chr.** Ah, my brother! this is a seasonable sight; it came opportunely to us after the invitation which *Demas* gave us to come over to view the hill *Lucre*; and had we gone over, as he desired us, and as thou wast inclined to do, (my brother), we had, for ought I know, been made ourselves, like this woman, a spectacle for those that shall come after, to behold.

22. **Hope.** I am sorry that I was so foolish, and am made to wonder

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<sup>2</sup> The many monuments of the Lord's vengeance on backsliders, and especially this of *Lot's* wife, who for looking behind her, contrary to the express command of *Jehovah*, was turned into a pillar of salt, are recorded in scripture for our caution, that we might fear for ourselves, and ever entertain a godly jealousy over our hearts, lest we falling into such sins, partake of the like punishments. Lord, put thy fear into our hearts, that we may be preserved from apostasy.

that I am not now as *Lot's* wife; for wherein was the difference betwixt her sin and mine?<sup>3</sup> She only looked back, and I had a desire to go see; let grace be adored, and let me be ashamed, that ever such a thing should be in mine heart.

23. **Chr.** Let us take notice of what we see here, for our help for time to come. *This* woman escaped one judgment, for she fell not by the destruction of *Sodom*; yet she was destroyed by another; as we see, she is turned into a pillar of salt.

24. **Hope.** True, and she may be to us both *caution*, and *example*; *caution*, that we should shun her sin, or a sign of what judgment will overtake such as shall not be prevented by this caution; so *Korah*, *Dathan*, and *Abiram*, with the two hundred and fifty men that perished in their sin, did also become a sign or example to beware. But above all, I muse at one thing, to wit, how *Demas* and his fellows can stand so confidently yonder to look for that treasure, which this woman, but for looking behind her after, (for we read not that she stepped one foot out of the way) was turned into a pillar of salt; especially since the judgment which overtook her did make her an example, within sight of

Numb. 26. 9,  
10.

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<sup>3</sup> That we have maintained our profession thus far, has not been owing to any wisdom, power, or goodness of our own, but to the grace of God. How often would our deceitful hearts have turned us aside, had not the Lord mercifully watched over us, and prevented us.

*DEMAS AND THE PLAIN CALLED EASE*

where they are; for they cannot choose but see her, did they but lift up their eyes.

25. **Chr.** It is a thing to be wondered at, and it argueth that their heart is grown desperate in the case; and I cannot tell who to compare them to so fitly, as to them that pick pockets in the presence of the judge, or that will cut purses under the gallows. It is said of the men of *Sodom*, that they were sinners exceedingly, because they were sinners *before the Lord*, that is, in his eyesight, and notwithstanding the kindnesses that he had shewed them; for the land of *Sodom* was now like *the Garden of Eden heretofore*. This therefore pro-

Gen. 13. 13.

Ver. 10.

voked him the more to jealousy, and made their plague as hot as the fire of the Lord out of heaven could make it. And it is most rationally to be concluded, that such, even such as these are, that shall sin in the sight, yea, and that too in despite of such examples, that are set continually before them to caution them to the contrary, must be partakers of severest judgments.

26. **Hope.** Doubtless thou hast said the truth; but what a mercy is it, that neither thou, but especially I, am not made myself this example? This ministreth occasion to us to thank God, to fear before him, and always to remember Lot's wife. †

**NOTES:**

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