

**THE MISSING**

**MAN**

# Dealing With The Missing In Action

## A. Observe Your Environment

### 1. Pay attention

a. Open your eyes

b. *Look* around

c. Think about what you see, or not see

### 2. Observe Your Environment

a. Requires you to change your mind

b. Requires you to change your perspective

## II. Search and Rescue

### 1. Whatever it takes

a. “True” love is the key

b. Go where they are - And keep on doing it

c. Time is of the essence

### 2. It will take personal effort

# Dealing With The Missing In Action

## III. Restore People

### 1. Forget about yesterday

**Restore = Return to original condition**

### 2. It's our ministry

**a. Jesus restores man to his original state with God**

**b. We should endeavor to restore those missing to original fellowship**

# Introduction

## A. Some start, run, and finish well

1. Paul was a good example of such a person

2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

## B. Others have not done so well

1 Timothy 1:19-20

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:  
20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

# Introduction

## C. Another was Demas

1. He had been a fellow laborer of Paul

**Philemon 23-24**

**23** There salute thee Epaphras, my fellowprisoner in Christ Jesus;

**24** Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.

2. He was associated with a respected crowd

3. He finally deserted Paul

**Why Did Demas Become A Deserter?**

# **I. His Commitment Was Conditional**

**A. Demas had been in good company, doing good things**

**1. Paul had counted him a faithful friend**

**2. He had been with Paul during a time of great need**

**B. Outward appearances can be deceiving**

**1. Some serve well until the going gets tough**

**Acts 13:13**

**Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia: and John departing from them returned to Jerusalem.**

**2. Some serve God for earthly rewards or recognition**

**3 John 9**

**I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not.**

# **I. His Commitment Was Conditional**

**C. Jesus warned those who keep looking back**

**Luke 9:62**

**And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.**

- 1. They wonder about the value of eternal rewards**
- 2. They finally conclude the world offers more than Christ**

**2 Timothy 4:10**

**For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia.**

## **II. His Love Was Lacking**

### **A. Paul found no fault with the labor of Demas**

**1. He evidently did his work well**

**2. Paul saw him as one of the trusted team**

### **B. Paul's example should have caused Jesus to love Christ**

**1 Corinthians 11:1**

**Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.**

**2 Timothy 3:10**

**But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,**

## **II. His Love Was Lacking**

### **C. Time proved Demas lacked real love for Christ**

#### **1. He had a lower focus**

#### **Colossians 3:1-2**

**1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.**

**2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.**

#### **Luke 12:15**

**And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**

### **III. His Motivation was Misplaced**

**A. Demas served out of duty rather than delight**

**B. He missed Paul's motive of doing all for the glory of God**

**Colossians 3:17, 23**

**17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.**

**23 And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;**

**C. His desire for earthly rewards finally caused his downfall**

# **What About Our Commitment to Christ?**