

***BLESSED TO BECOME A
BLESSING!***

II Timothy 4:9-13

**Woodland Park Church of Christ
20 December 2020**

Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ **for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—**

Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. **Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful (profitable) to me** for

ministry. ¹² And Tychicus I have sent to Ephesus. ¹³ Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books, especially the parchments.

II Timothy 4:9-13

CONTEXT

- ▶ Paul is near the end of his earthly walk and is providing instruction to his son in the gospel – Timothy.
- ▶ Today’s text comes immediately after Paul’s remark –

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to **all** who love His appearing.” II Timothy 4:7–8

Interesting that Paul would call for Mark at this critical juncture of his and deem him *profitable*.

- ▶ Recall, on Paul's first missionary work, Barnabas was Paul's right-hand man and John Mark assisted them. **See Acts 13:1–5**
- ▶ However, no sooner than they started good, John Mark left the work.

Now when Paul and his party set sail from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John (Mark), departing from them, returned to Jerusalem. Acts 13:13

Paul remembers John Mark's behavior before he started his second missionary work and refused to include him, much to the dismay and chagrin of Barnabas.

Then after some days Paul said to Barnabas, “Let us now go back and visit our brethren in every city where we have preached the word of the Lord, and see how they are doing.” ³⁷ Now

Barnabas was determined to take with them John called Mark. ³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take with them the one who had departed from them in Pamphylia, and had not gone with them to the work. ³⁹ Then the contention became

so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. Acts 15:36–40

So, what transpired between Acts 15:38 and II Timothy 4:11?

- ▶ John Mark worked with Barnabas and evidently developed his faith. He didn't sulk and give up on his faith or turn away!
- ▶ John Mark had become a good friend to Paul and trusted church leader.
 - **Colossians 4:10**: Paul exhorts the church to receive JM
 - **Philemon 24**: mentioned in same verse as Luke as Paul's fellow laborer
- ▶ He authored the book of Mark -- one of the four accounts of the gospel of Christ.


Points from the Text

1. Endeavor to Be of Worth and Value to Others
 2. Mend Bridges, Don't Burn Them
 3. Live in the Land of Beginning Again
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I. Endeavor to Become Profitable (Valuable) to Those who Depend and Count on Us -

- ▶ The Church
- ▶ Our Family
- ▶ Our Employer
- ▶ Customers/clients/patients - we lose business when we are not considered to be profitable. When you're self-employed, like some of us, that could be problematic.

When we are adding value and are profitable, like John Mark, people request our advice, presence and service.



Concerning the Family and Children --

Americans are expected to spend about \$30 billion this holiday season.

Important to remember that the most important things in life are not things.

Sure, I remember waiting with eager anticipation for the gifts and toys my parents would go to great lengths to purchase to make the day special.

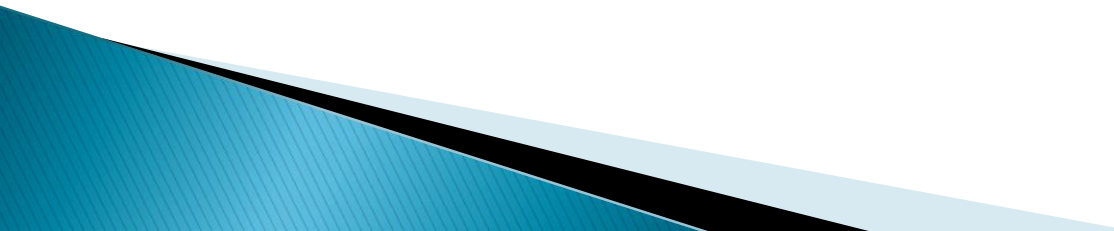
But the lessons, values and principles remain the most enduring – the toys and clothes are long gone

The lessons and values continue to yield a harvest!



Note Solomon's exhortation –

A wise son heeds *and* accepts [and is the result of] **his father's discipline *and* instruction,** but a scoffer does not listen to reprimand *and* does not learn from his errors. Proverbs 13:1 (AMP)



II. Mend Bridges, Don't Burn Them

Then the contention became so sharp that they parted from one another. And so Barnabas took Mark and sailed to Cyprus; ⁴⁰ but Paul chose Silas and departed, being commended by the brethren to the grace of God. Acts 15:39-40

People who work and live together may inevitably and occasionally have disagreements.

So, the key is not as much about avoiding disagreements, but how to respond and resolve them.

- ▶ Disagree without becoming disagreeable.
- ▶ Even when we have been wronged, the Bible provides guidance on how to react.

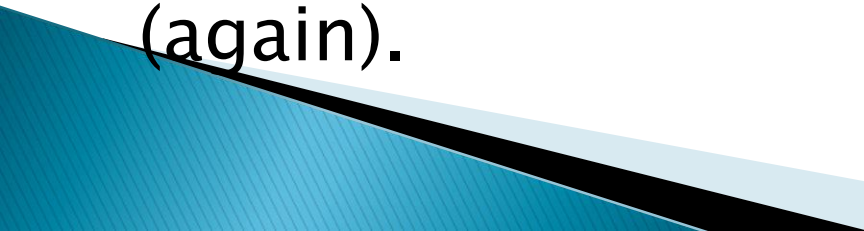
*Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, **be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. 1 Peter 3:9***

III. Live in the *Land of Beginning Again*

As the curtains begin to close on 2020, I am certain that many of us will reflect on our lives over the past year.

Hopefully, your successes and triumphs far exceeded the setbacks and failures.

Like when Mark was not allowed to accompany Paul on the second missionary campaign, I am certain that there are times we wish we could do some things over (again).



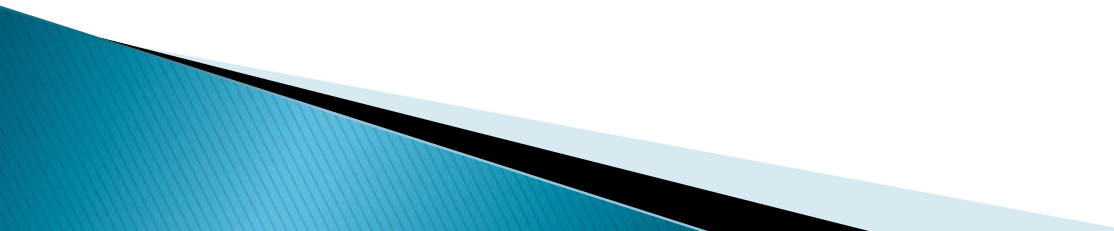
- ▶ It doesn't do any good to continue to kick ourselves and commiserate over our past failures, indiscretions and misgivings, becoming paralyzed by disappointment, humiliation.
 - Unfortunately, disappointment and temporary setbacks and defeat are a part of the human experience – **Parents impart this to children!**
- ▶ Now the LORD said to Samuel, “**How long will you mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go;** I am sending you to Jesse the Bethlehemite. For I have provided Myself a king among his sons.”

- ▶ Be a student of life and learn from past missteps and blunders.
- ▶ Longing and wishing to do something over is an exercise in futility, i.e. useless.
- ▶ With God's help we can succeed, if we learn from yesterday's failure.

*Let the wicked leave (behind) his way
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
and let him return to the LORD, and He will
have compassion (mercy) on him,
and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.*

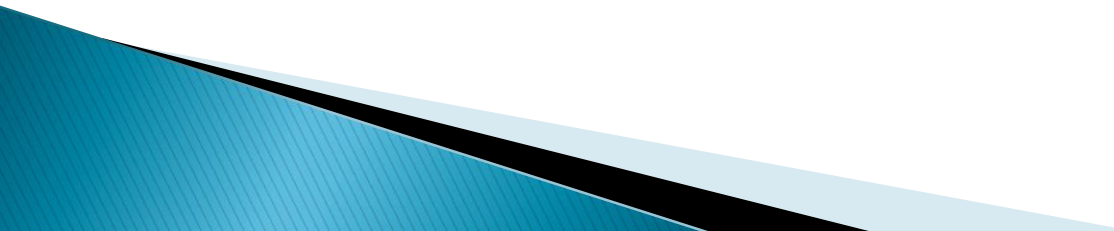
Isaiah 55:7 (AMP)

When one door closes another door opens; but we so often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door, that we do not see the ones which open for us. A.G.Bell



“Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the LORD, **“Though your sins are like
scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They shall be as wool.**

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
You shall eat the good of the land;
²⁰ But if you refuse and rebel,
You shall be devoured by the sword”;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
Isaiah 1:18-20



**We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a
Happy and prosperous New Year!**

Spread lots of love and good cheer, but
please do so safely and responsibly.
Remember to –

**Wash your hands;
Cover your face; &
Practice social distancing**

Avoid large gatherings!



Lord's Invitation Extended to All

- ▶ **Be added to the Lord's body**

Hear the gospel (Acts 15:7; I
Corinthians 15:1-4)

Believe (Acts 15:7; Rom. 10:17)

Repent (Acts 2:38)

Confess (Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10)

Be baptized (Acts 2:38, 8:38)

Lord's Invitation (cont'd)

- ▶ **Be reconciled unto the Lord (1 John 1:8–9); or**
- ▶ **Desire prayer (James 5:16).**