

Colossians 4:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.

Analysis

Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you. Paul mentions two more companions. "Luke, the beloved physician" (Loukas ho iatros ho agapētos, Λουκᾶς ὁ ἰατρὸς ὁ ἀγαπητός) identifies Luke by profession and affection. Luke authored the third gospel and Acts, documenting early Christianity with historical precision. His medical training possibly served Paul's chronic physical ailments. Luke's faithful companionship, especially during imprisonments, exemplifies loyal friendship.

"Demas" receives no descriptive commendation, just bare name. Later, Paul sadly reports: "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world" (2 Timothy 4:10). Here, Demas still served alongside Paul, but his heart's trajectory toward apostasy may have already been discernible. Not all who start well finish well; spiritual consistency requires ongoing vigilance against worldly allurement.

Historical Context

Luke was Gentile (apparently the only Gentile NT author) and educated professional (physicians required extensive training). His voluntary service to Paul despite his professional status demonstrates Christianity's appeal across social classes and Luke's genuine devotion transcending career considerations. Demas's eventual apostasy reminds that proximity to godly leaders doesn't guarantee perseverance; each individual must maintain personal faithfulness to Christ.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What professional skills or resources could you dedicate to gospel service like Luke dedicated medical training?
2. How do you maintain vigilance against 'loving this present world' and drifting from faithfulness like Demas?
3. Who provides you faithful companionship through trials, and do you treasure and reciprocate such friendship?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάζεται ὁμᾶς Λουκᾶς ὁ ἰατρὸς ὁ ἀγαπητὸς καὶ
greet you Luke physician the beloved and
G782 G5209 G3065 G3588 G2395 G3588 G27 G2532

Δημᾶς

Demas

G1214

Additional Cross-References

Philemon 1:24 (Parallel theme): Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.