

## NEVER FORSAKEN

In chapter four, Paul was setting his spiritual house in order – “Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.” (2 Kings 20:1) [King Hezekiah]

We will examine our lesson text by the following four homiletical points.

- Diligence (2Tim.4:9) come quickly
- Demas (2Tim.4:10a) corrupted by world (OMCD)
- Deployment (2Tim.4:10b-13a) companions of ministry
- Delivery (2Tim.4:13b) coat and books

Today’s study is taken from 2Tim.4:10 – “For Demas **has forsaken** (enkataleipo / a.a.ind) me, having loved (agapao / a.a.ptc) this present world and has departed (poreuomai / a.m.ind) into Thessalonica.”

The action of the aorist ptc (having loved this present world / OMCD) precedes the action of the two aorist indicatives (has forsaken me and departed).

The title of our lesson is derived from the triple compound Greek word – enkataleipo (en – in the sphere of or circumstance) and (kata – according to or hostile circumstance) and (leipo – leaving behind or leaving one in a strait).

**Enkataleipo** refers to a person forsaking someone who is in a state of hostile conflict or circumstances.

<b>This lesson will study five aspects of the doctrine of NEVER FORSAKEN.</b>
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**1. Two members of the Godhead forsook the other member while dying on the cross for the sins of the world.**

“And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.” (1 John 2:2)

“And about the 9<sup>th</sup> hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice saying, ‘Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani, that is, My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken (enkataleipo) Me.’” (Matt.27:47) (quoted Ps.22:1)

God the Father and God the Holy Spirit were committed by messianic prophecy to forsake God the Son amidst the hostile circumstance of the cross while dying for the sins of the entire world (John 1:29; 2 Cor.5:21; Titus 2:14; 1 Pet.2:24; Heb.9:28).

**2. The same members of the Godhead were committed by messianic prophecy to NOT forsake God the Son while in the hostile circumstances of His burial-resurrection.**

“Because Thou wilt not abandon (enkataleipo) My soul to Hades, nor allow Thy Holy One to undergo decay.” (Acts 2:27)

“”He looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that He was neither abandoned (enkataleipo) to Hades, nor did His flesh suffer decay.” (Acts 2:31) (Quoted Ps.16:10)

3. **As a result of faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (gospel/ 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16), every believer has the guarantee that all three members of the Godhead will NEVER FORSAKE him no matter how hostile the circumstance of life.**

“And I give eternal life to them; and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.” (John 14:16)

**PROMISE:** “I will never (ouk/me) desert (aniemi/ let go of) you, nor will I ever (ouk/me) forsake (enkataleipo) you.” (Heb.13:5)

“We were afflicted in every way, **but not** crushed; perplexed, **but not** despairing; persecuted, but not forsaken (enkataleipo); struck down, **but not** destroyed.” (2 Cor.4:8-9)

4. **Close friends and colleagues may forsake you amidst your worst circumstances of life but Jesus Christ will NEVER FORSAKE you (Heb.13:5; Josh.1:5).**

“For Demas, having loved this present world, has deserted (enkataleipo) me and gone to Thessalonica.” (2 Tim.4:10)

“At my first defense no one supported me, but all deserted (enkataleipo) me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me.” (2 Tim.4:16-17a; 1:15)

5. **Church age believers are warned against forsaking the assembling together of the local church during difficult and hostile times (Heb.10:22-25) [1 of 5 exhortations of “Let us”].**

The following five exhortations are based on propitiuous work of Jesus Christ on the cross – “By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb.10:10, 12-14)

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|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Let us draw near                 | (Heb.10:22)         | four conditions               |
| • Let us hold fast                 | (Heb.10:23)         | two conditions                |
| • Let us consider                  | (Heb.10:24)         | two conditions                |
| • <b>Let us <u>not</u> forsake</b> | <b>(Heb.10:25a)</b> | <b>one negative condition</b> |
| • Let us encourage                 | (Heb.10:25b)        | one condition                 |

“Not forsaking (enkataleipo) our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encourage one another and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.” (Heb.10:25)

**As Paul faced the certainty of death, he found comfort in the certainty of the doctrine of NEVER FORSAKEN.** “Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thess.4:18)