

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Faith, Grace, Love and Mercy!

Into: As Paul is talking about the law (1 Timothy 1:8-11), he is reminded of his own conversion. Paul's whole former life was geared around the law. Paul describes what he used to be like before he met Christ:

"If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless." Philippians 3:4-6

Paul had an excellent religious upbringing. He was very legalistic, 'in regard to the law a Pharisee... as for righteousness based on the law, Faultless.'. A Pharisee was distinguished by their strict observance of the traditional and written law.

v12 Paul is thankful for to Jesus for the provision of strength for the ministry.  
'I thank Christ Jesus who has given me strength'

**Prayer** Lord Jesus, I thank you for\_\_\_\_

What do you need strengthening for today?

Lord Jesus, I need strength for\_\_\_\_

God is the God of 2nd chances! **Paul recognizes that Jesus Christ has appointed him to his service.** As believers in Jesus Christ we too have been appointed to his service. We have been given a royal commission!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the

Father will give you." John 15:16

Our appointment to serve Jesus as our King should lead us to bear fruit for eternity.

What are you doing to serve the Lord?

Ask yourself, how can I serve the Lord in my current job, family, or situation?

Would you say that you are bearing fruit or not?

The best advice is to start serving where God has planted you i.e. family, school, job vocation etc. Start serving those directly around you.

v13 Paul gives a brief testimony which is more fully outlined in Acts 9 & 26. Doug referred to Paul's conversion 2 weeks ago.

"I too was convinced that I ought to do all that was possible to oppose the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **10** And that is just what I did in Jerusalem. On the authority of the chief priests I put many of the Lord's people in prison, and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. **11** Many a time I went from one synagogue to another to have them punished, and I tried to force them to blaspheme. I was so obsessed with persecuting them that I even hunted them down in foreign cities."  
Acts 26:9-11

Paul had blood on his hands! He may not have killed the believers directly but he was certainly involved (Acts 7:58).

v14 Paul was shown mercy, grace, faith and love in Christ Jesus.

How are you displaying the grace that the Lord Jesus has poured out in your life?

How are you showing the love of Christ?

"**17** Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard

through the word about Christ." Romans 10:17

If faith comes from hearing the message through the word, who are you sharing the word with?

"Grace may be defined as the unmerited or undeserving favor of God to those who are under condemnation." Enns, *Moody Handbook of Theology*

v15 'Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - of whom I am the worst'

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him." John 3:17

Example of David Hamilton, *A Cause Worth Living For*

David Hamilton Testimony <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1293033/Former-Ulster-fighter-David-Hamilton-abandons-life-violence-finding-God.html>

v 16 As a believer, **God has appointed you to serve him so that you may display his mercy, grace, faith and love to those around you.** Those who have not been set free from sin and who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. That is your purpose as a believer. Jesus came to offer salvation that leads to eternal life. You have the most important assignment to point others towards the love of Christ and eternal life.

Confess any sin, be filled with the Holy Spirit and be obedient to the calling to serve/bear fruit for your Savior Jesus Christ.

v17 Paul is giving praise for the mercy, grace, love, faith and salvation that have been poured out on him.

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Lord Jesus, as I think of my salvation, I praise you because\_\_\_\_**

### **Application**

1) Lord I am thankful for\_\_\_\_

Lord I need strength for\_\_\_\_

2) The Lord Jesus Christ has appointed you to his service. How are you serving/bearing fruit for him? Pray for opportunities. VBS, and prayer walking.

3) Think about how you can display grace, mercy, peace and love to those around you. Write them down.

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4) Think about your own salvation and give thanks and praise.