**PAUL’S TESTIMONY**

**I Timothy 1:12-17**

[**12**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-12/)**And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**

[**13**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-13/)**Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.**

[**14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-14/)**And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**

[**15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-15/)**This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

[**16**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-16/)**Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.**

[**17**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-17/)**Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**INTRO:**

**\*\*Timothy was a young pastor who faced many challenges in the church. He had to combat false teachers in the church, (I Timothy 1:18-20); the rise of false doctrine, (I Timothy 1:3-7; 4:1-3; 6:3-5); disorder in the worship services, (I Timothy 2:1-15); the need to find and ordain qualified leaders, (I Timothy 3:1-14); and materialism.**

**\*\*Paul began to give Timothy his testimony in order to encourage Timothy to let him know that God could help Timothy because he knew God had helped him.**

**\*\*I want to look at Paul’s Testimony and let it be a help to encourage you and I and the church as a whole!**

**I. PAUL’S TESTIMONY AS A SINNER**

 **A. Look at the Deeds of this Sinner**

**I Timothy 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.**

 **1. Paul was a Blaspheming Man**

 **2. Paul was a Bully Man**

**\*\*Paul persecuted Christ, Christians, and the Church.**

**Acts 9:4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**

 **3. Paul was a Bloodthirsty Man**

**Acts 9:1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord,**

**\*\*Paul was a wicked man before he met the Lord! God found Paul in his wickedness and still saved him!**

**\*\*God found us in our wickedness as well because we have all done Wrong Things, Worldly Things, and Wicked Things. We all needed to be saved!**

 **B. Look at the Deception of this Sinner**

 **1. Paul was Blind to his Ignorance**

**I Timothy 1:13b but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.**

**\*\*Paul was saying, “I’ve done some stupid things!”**

**\*\*Haven’t we all done some stupid things in our life?**

 **2. Paul was Blind to his Iniquity**

**\*\*Paul thought what he was doing before he got saved was the right thing to do, but he found out he was all wrong!**

**\*\*We were once blind to our iniquity at one time, and there are lost people around us that are blind to their iniquity as well.**

 **C. Look at the Deliverance of this Sinner**

**I Timothy 1:15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.**

**\*\*Paul said the only remedy for sinners, and for even the chief sinner which he said was himself, is for Jesus Christ to save their souls!**

 **1. Sinners Need God**

 **2. Sinners Need Grace**

**\*\*The only thing that can deliver a sinner is the same thing that delivered Paul and delivered you – Salvation!**

**II. PAUL’S TESTIMONY AS A SAINT**

 **A. Look at the Means of his Conversion**

**I Timothy 1:13-14 : but I obtained mercy, . . .** [**14**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Timothy-1-14/)**And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.**

**\*\*It took Mercy and Grace!**

 **1. Mercy and Grace Cleansed Paul from Dirty Sins**

 **2. Mercy and Grace Changed Paul from Deadly Sins**

**\*\*It still takes an abundant amount of Mercy and Grace to save a sinner from Dark, Dirty, and Deadly Sins!**

 **B. Look at the Manifestation of his Conversion**

**\*\*God’s grace is filled with Faith and Love! It’s like the cream in the donut, and it’s impossible to get God’s grace and not get the faith and love that’s in the middle of it all!**

 **1. Paul had a God he could Trust! (That’s Faith!)**

 **2. Paul had a God he could Treasure! (That’s Love!)**

**\*\*Salvation will cause a person to believe what they once doubted and love what they once hated!**

**III. PAUL’S TESTIMONY AS A SERVANT**

 **A. Paul Had Reasons for his Service**

**I Timothy 1:12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;**

 **1. God Gifted Paul a Ministry**

 **2. God Gave Paul a Ministry**

**\*\*It did not surprise God that he placed me here to preach, and it didn’t surprise God that you would be here today with me, and it didn’t surprise God that we would be facing the challenges we are facing together!**

**\*\*Right where we are today in this point in time, God wants you and me and this church to serve Him faithfully!**

**\*\*You and I have reasons to be here today and to serve the Lord! We must not stop no matter what!**

 **B. Paul Had Resources for his Service**

 **1. Paul was Enabled to work in the ministry!**

 **2. Paul was Equipped to work in the ministry!**

 **3. Paul was Energized to work in the ministry!**

**\*\*God had the resources to use Paul, and God has the resources to use you and I and this church in the work of the Lord!**

**\*\*Paul was telling Timothy, “Don’t you give up son! The Lord has resources for you to do the work just like he did for me!”**

**\*\*Church we cannot give up now!**

**IV. PAUL’S TESTIMONY AS A STORYTELLER**

**I Timothy 1:16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.**

 **A. Paul’s Story was a Story about God’s Pity**

 **1. We call God’s Pity, Mercy**

 **a. His Mercy offered us Forgiveness for our Sins**

 **b. His Mercy offered us Forgiveness for our Souls**

 **2. We call God’s Pity, Marvelous**

 **a. It’s Marvelous because it is Undeserving!**

 **b. It’s Marvelous because it is Un-measurable!**

**\*\*If you want to help the church tell others about God’s Pity (God’s Mercy) on your life! Be a storyteller like Paul was!**

 **B. Paul’s Story was a Story about God’s Pattern**

**I Timothy 1:16 I obtained mercy, . . . for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.**

**\*\*Paul told his story about God’s mercy everywhere he went because he realized something.**

 **1. It was a pattern that was an Example!**

 **a. It was an example of how the Savior works!**

 **b. It was an example of how this Salvation works!**

 **2. It was a pattern that was an Exhibit!**

 **a. People could see a Difference in Paul’s Life**

 **b. People could see a Dedication in Paul’s Life**

**\*\*We’ve got to tell our story about what Christ means to us and what this Church means to us and what Christianity means to us! That’s how you help others and help the church!**

**V. PAUL’S TESTIMONY AS A SUPPORTER**

 **A. Paul’s PRAISE showed he supported his Christ!**

**I Timothy 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**\*\*Do you praise God in such a way that others know that you love and support everything about Jesus Christ? Can people see Jesus in you and on you because they see your praises for Him?**

 **B. Paul’s PRAYERS showed he supported his Churches!**

**Ephesians 3:14-19 14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,** [**15**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-3-15/) **Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,** [**16**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-3-16/) **That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;**

[**17**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-3-17/) **That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,** [**18**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-3-18/) **May be able to comprehend with all saints what *is* the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;** [**19**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/Ephesians-3-19/) **And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.**

**\*\*The best way you can support your church is to pray for your church like Paul did!**

 **C. Paul’s PEN showed he supported his Clergymen!**

**I Corinthians 16:10-11 10 Now if Timotheus come, see that he may be with you without fear: for he worketh the work of the Lord, as I also *do*.** [**11**](https://www.kingjamesbibleonline.org/1-Corinthians-16-11/) **Let no man therefore despise him: but conduct him forth in peace, that he may come unto me: for I look for him with the brethren.**

**\*\*Our testimony must show we support the preacher as you’re your testimony does! I’m thankful for your support!**

**CLOSE**

**\*\*The point behind this message is that Paul’s Testimony was an encouragement not only to Timothy, but it can be an encouragement to us as well!**

**\*\*Timothy had things he was fighting and battling just like we are today, but Paul said, “Timothy, let me remind you what God did for me!”**

**\*\*You and I need to remember what God did for Paul and what God did for you and me, and what God has done for this church!**

**\*\*We cannot just lay down and die, and we just can’t lay down and quit!**

**\*\*When those on the left quit standing, just keep standing! When those on the right quit standing, just keep standing!**

**When those in front of us quit standing, just keep standing! When those behind us quit standing, just keep standing!**

**\*\*Will you come to the altar today and bring your burdens to the Lord and pray for your church, your fellow Christians, for your preacher, and for whatever you need to pray about?**