

# Outline for 1 Timothy 1:12-17

## Introduction

### 1. Opening Question:

- Think of the worst sinner in your life—can God transform their life?
- *"Please don't say their name."*
- Did you know that God can save—even them?

### 2. Main Declaration:

- The Gospel changes lives.

### 3. Personal Illustration:

- Reflect on hearing the Gospel at a young age and feeling like your testimony isn't as drastic as others.
- Truth: The Gospel transforms every life, no matter the starting point.

### 4. Connection:

- Paul had a dramatic testimony of transformation.

### 5. Transition:

- Tonight, let's look at **1 Timothy 1:12-17** to hear Paul's perspective on his calling and testimony.

## I. Paul Was Thankful for His Calling (v. 12)

*"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry."*

### 1. Christ Enabled Paul:

- *Enabled* means empowered or strengthened.
  - **Key Cross-References:** Philippians 4:13; 2 Timothy 2:1.

- Paul acknowledges that his strength and ability to serve came from Christ, not himself.

## 2. **Jesus Counted Him Faithful:**

- God saw what Paul could become through His grace.
  - *1 Corinthians 15:9-10*—Paul's faithfulness came from God's grace.
  - *Ephesians 2:10*—We are God's workmanship created for His purposes.

## 3. **Reflection:**

- God's grace transforms lives and makes faithfulness possible.

## 4. **Examples of Transformed Lives:**

- Biblical: The disciples, Zacchaeus, Mary Magdalene.
- Modern: C.S. Lewis, Lee Strobel, Charles Colson, and even people we know personally.

## 5. **Application:**

- Like Paul, we should thank God for saving us and allowing us to serve Him.

## 6. **Transition:**

- Paul's gratitude leads him to reflect on the mercy he received, which he explains in verses 13-15.

## **II. Paul Recalls His Misuse of the Law (vv. 13-15)**

*"Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."*

### 1. **Paul's Past:**

- Blasphemer: Spoke against Christ.
- Persecutor: Opposed and harmed Christians.
- Injurious: Caused physical and emotional harm.

### 2. **Paul's Ignorance:**

- He acted in unbelief, believing a lie and fighting against God.

### 3. **The Gospel's Power:**

- *"This is a faithful saying... Christ Jesus came to save sinners; of whom I am chief."*
- Paul recognized himself as the worst sinner, yet God's grace reached him.

### 4. **Encouragement for Us:**

- If God can save Paul, He can save anyone—even those we think are beyond hope.

### 5. **Application:**

- God's mercy and grace should inspire us to share the Gospel with others, no matter their past.

### 6. **Transition:**

- Reflecting on his transformation leads Paul to praise God in verse 17.

## **III. Paul Praises God for His Attributes (v. 17)**

*"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen."*

### 1. **Attributes of God:**

- King eternal: God reigns forever.
- Immortal: God is everlasting.
- Invisible: God is unseen but always present.
- Only wise God: God's wisdom surpasses all.

### 2. **Paul's Response:**

- Worship flows naturally from reflecting on God's mercy and grace.

### 3. **Application:**

- When we remember what God has done for us, we are moved to praise and worship Him.

## **Why Does This Matter?**

### 1. For Timothy:

- Paul's testimony shows that God's grace is enough for anyone.
- Encouragement for Timothy to trust God's strength in ministry.

### 2. For the Church in Ephesus:

- A reminder that the Gospel transforms lives and no one is beyond God's reach.
- A call to humility and trust in God's power.

### 3. For Us Today:

- God's grace hasn't changed.
- We can trust Him to save and use anyone—including us.

## Discussion Questions

1. Who is someone in your life that you thought might never change? How does Paul's story encourage you to keep praying for them? (*Without using names.*)
2. Have you ever felt unworthy or unqualified to serve God? How does Paul's testimony about God enabling him give you hope?
3. How can remembering what God has done for you personally inspire you to share the Gospel with others?