

1Timothy 1:12–17

Jesus Christ, the King: the Blessed God in Whom There Is Inexhaustible Goodness for Those Who Have None

Thursday, September 8, 2022 • Read 1Tim 1:12–17

Questions from the Scripture text: Whom does the apostle thank in v12? What has the Lord done to him? Why? Into what did He put Paul? What four things had Paul previously been (v13)? But what did the apostle obtain? Why? What was abundant to him (v14)? With what two things? In Whom are they found? What two things does he say about what he is about to say in v15? Who came into the world? To do what? For whom? And who was the chief? What had the apostle obtained (v16)? For what reason—what would Christ show first in him? In order to show what? For whom? What does v17 now call Christ? with what three attributes? Whom does this make Him? In what is He alone? What two things is He to receive? For how long?

Why does Christ save and use sinners? 1Timothy 1:12–17 looks forward to the second serial reading in morning public worship on the coming Lord's Day. In these six verses of Holy Scripture, the Holy Spirit teaches us that **the glorious God saves and uses sinners precisely to show that His alone is all the glory and goodness.**

The apostle has just been making the point that the law accuses all of us for all our sin (v8–10) which makes the gospel that much better, since it is not we who can hope to be good, but the blessed God Himself Whom we can hope to have as our goodness (v11).

Now, the apostle presents exhibit A: himself! Christ Jesus, the church's Lord, has enabled him, accounted him faithful, and put him into the ministry (v12). But this certainly wasn't because there was in Paul any "raw material" to work with. His raw material was blasphemy (direct offense against God), persecution (offense against God by way of His people), and violent arrogance (offense against God by view of himself).

So, what was it that the apostle found? An opportunity to turn over a new leaf? An opportunity to make it up to God? No, no, no! He found mercy to be delivered from his ignorant unbelief (v13). He found exceedingly abundant grace to produce faith where unbelief had existed and love where ignorance had existed (v14). And where/how did he find all of this? In Christ Jesus!

Yes, there is a sense in which the apostle here says that he was a chief of sinners (v15). But in the context, he is saying something much more wonderful: he is the chief of what it looks like to be saved from sin. He is a chief of finding mercy. He is a chief of receiving grace. He is a chief of being given faith and love. He is the chief because his salvation is "a pattern" (v16). If Christ's grace can bring

For all who are going to believe on Christ for eternal life, it is only by grace that they will do so—there is no raw material in them that makes them savable, only divine mercy in God from which He is a Savior.

So the "faithful saying" isn't so much about the chief example of being-saved as it is about the One Who came into the world as Savior of sinners! He is the Savior (Jesus). He is the King (Christ). He is God (the Lord).

And for Paul's salvation, and that of everyone else whom the King is saving, the apostle explodes into the doxology of v17. Jesus is eternal, from outside of time. Jesus is immortal—the word translated here meaning not subject to death or any sort of degeneration... so immortal/incorruptible/unchangeable. Jesus is, before He "came into the world" as a man (v15), the invisible God, Who alone is wise. And for Who He is, and what He has done in saving sinners, He will indeed be honored and glorified forever and ever! To this, the apostle gives a hearty "Amen." And it is the honoring of this glory that Timothy's reformation work in Ephesus must seek now to preserve.

What about you made/makes you a proper object for Christ's salvation? How can you hope to be saved? What aspects of God's character are thus displayed? How are you responding to Him?

Sample prayer: Lord, to us belong blasphemy against You, mistreatment of others, and too high a view of ourselves. But to You belong mercy and grace to give faith and love. You are the King eternal, immortal, invisible, God only-wise. Forgive us and sanctify us, we pray, unto Your unending honor and glory, Lord Jesus, AMEN!

Suggested songs: ARP32AB "What Blessedness" or TPH224 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

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(The following is a machine-generated transcription. PLEASE BE AWARE of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

First Timothy 1 versus 12 through 17. These are the words of God and I thank Christ Jesus. Our Lord who has enabled me because he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. Although, I formerly I was formerly Although I was formerly a blasphemer persecutor and an insolent man, but I obtained mercy because I did it.

Ignorantly and unbelief and the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save. Sinners of whom. I am chief. However, for this reason, I obtained mercy that in me first Jesus Christ might show all along suffering as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

Now to the king eternal and mortal invisible to God, who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

So far the reading of God's inspired in anerent word.

Well, Paul has just told Timothy, or reminded Timothy probably verses 8 through 10 that God's law, exposes us as sinners and that therefore that goodness, which we want to see come out of us. Cannot come from us. And it can, however, come from God. And so he is saying that.

He received grace, according to the glorious Gospel of the Blessed God, which was committed to his trust. That God is the one from whom goodness comes and God himself. It was the one who can be our goodness and now in verses 12 through 17. The Apostle is presenting himself as the example of that goodness.

He says Christ Jesus, our Lord has enabled me because he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry. That is that the Lord Jesus enables him in his ministry and he accounts him faithful. Not because there's faithfulness in Paul not, because there's like, there's some raw material in Paul that God can use, but because God decides to count him faithful in Christ and brings him to faith.

Therefore in Christ, by which He can be counted righteous. And that then God is the one who not only counted him faithful. But enabled him. God is the one who put him into the ministry. Now, when he talks to Timothy about the gift that is in Timothy by the laying on of hands.

They remind Timothy that. God is the one who has put Timothy into the ministry too. And therefore Timothy isn't selected on the basis of the raw material, that was in him before he became a Christian or before he became a minister but it is God who worked in Timothy by grace, who had worked in Paul by grace.

So what did Paul's raw material look like, blasphemy, persecution and violent, arrogance or insolence here, which is a word that means violence and arrogance. So it says, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor and an insolent man. So he didn't. So God didn't, look at someone who was

Excuse me. God didn't. Look at someone who was a blasphemer, direct offense against God, a persecutor offense against God, by way of his people and a violently, arrogant, man, offense against God by the view that he had of himself. So Paul got everyone wrong and everything wrong and he responded wrongly to all of it.

So when he says God counted me faithful. He's not saying God looked at that and he thought, oh well, that guy's faithful, He means. God decided to make me faithful. God decided to count me as faithful. And God is the one who enables him. And for someone like Timothy, who, perhaps as we see in the passage, he's in the letters, maybe a little make, or that's not a good word because making this is a good thing.

A little timid. Timid, Timothy fearful I suppose for someone like Timothy it's important to him to know that God is the one from whom the faithfulness comes. So what did the Apostle find verse? Oh,

Was it an opportunity to turn over a new leaf? Or to make what he had done up to God. No, He found an opportunity to receive mercy to be delivered from ignorance and unbelief. It would be quite wrong to read verse 13 in a way that says. Well, if you didn't have a chance to, to know better, it was okay with God.

No God, mercifully. Saved him out of ignorance and unbelief. So when he says I obtained mercy because I did it, ignorantly in unbelief. He's saying, God was merciful to me and gave me knowledge of himself. Instead of my ignorance, God was merciful to me and gave me faith instead of my unbelief.

If you're ignorant, what you need is mercy, if you're unbelieving, what you need is mercy, not to say it was okay for you to be ignorant or unbelieving, but to take away your ignorance and unbelief delivery. You from it for ignorance and unbelief are wicked.

The apostle found exceedingly, abundant grace in the Lord. He says in verse 14 and the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus, that's the exact opposite of what he had in himself. He didn't have those and he had ignorance in himself and he got faith as a gift from Christ Jesus.

Sorry, you had an unbelief in himself and he received faith as a gift from Christ Jesus. He had ignorance, not knowing God in himself, but he received the knowledge of God and the love of God from Christ Jesus. So it's the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, what the Apostle lacked in himself, Jesus had in himself and he received from Christ, what he needed to have in himself.

This is a great comfort to you and I hope you get in the habit of whenever you are thinking about what you need before, God, what you lack before God, remembering that whatever it is. You need is in Christ, Jesus. Whatever it is. You lack is in Christ Jesus, if your faith is small, if you're knowledge of God is small, if your love for God is small, if your love for others is small, if your patience is small, if you're comfort and consolation, and joy and gratitude and contentment are small Christ, Jesus has all of these things in abundance, but he doesn't just have them in abundance for himself.

He has them in abundance. In his grace which means he gives you from what he is and what he is. Like precisely because you are not like that. And you are not that. And so the grace of our Lord is exceedingly, abundant there is greatly more than enough in Jesus to make up whatever we like You will never exhaust the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Yes, there is a sense in which the apostles saying, here, in verse 15, that he is a chief of sinners. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners of whom. I am chief and many people will say, oh, We need to know ourselves as the chief of sinners.

Well, that's true. And the apostle says that about himself, but that's not the first thing he was. That's not the only thing that he was in first place in in this passage. However, for this reason, I obtained mercy that in me. First Jesus Christ might show all along suffering.

So he's not saying I'm the chief of sinners to set. An example for us, of of going around like, Reformed Eeyors and home, the chief of sinners are never able to enjoy God, always enjoying just my flesh. There are a lot of reform. Well, we're gonna have to put that in fear quotes.

There's a lot of people who call themselves reform that I've heard who tend to speak in such a way and I'm exaggerating a little bit but look at what he says he was first in. He was first in Jesus Christ, showing him long suffering. However, for this reason, I obtained mercy that in me first.

Jesus Christ might show along suffering. Well, in which way is he first? He's not first chronologically. Here's the last converted of the Apostles and fairly late.

Is first because being the chief of sinners, made him. The most marvelous example of the patience and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ that the one who thought that he was righteous in himself and hated the name of Jesus and hated anybody for trusting in Jesus. And thought he was good enough without Jesus, which is almost literally The sin of the devil that this one, this one became the Apostle of the Gentiles.

Not just got converted, but could we give the apostle to the Gentiles? And so, this is what he was chief in. Yes, Chief of sinners, but chief and being shown long suffering by Jesus, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on him everlasting life. So which one of the two things is a pattern pseudo-reformed Eeyore or knowing the greatness of the patience of the Lord Jesus.

And the greatness of the grace of Christ, not only to put away our sin, but to count us faithful, and to put us into service, for Christ and enable us for serving Him. That's what he's a pattern for. And if we're gonna follow the pattern that he talks about in these verses, then we should follow the pattern of rejoicing over Jesus Christ.

As the blessed God. And that is exactly what verse 17 is saying. He says now to the king and there's no question who the king is. The king is the Christ. He's the

Messiah. He's the anointed, the king is the Christ and he has been, I think Christ Jesus, our Lord, verse 12 with the faith and love which are in Christ.

Jesus verse 14. This is a faithful saying that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners verse 15. This reason, I obtained mercy that in me first, Jesus Christ might show all along suffering verse 16, there's no question who he's talking about when he says the king. He says he's referring to Jesus.

Now to the king that this escalates quickly, eternal immortal invisible that he is God from all eternity. The invisible God. Before he ever became added to himself a visible humanity to God, who alone is wise? That is that Jesus is the Blessed God from verse 11, whose gospel? He is preaching, here's the king from Everlasting to everlasting from out of time from outside of time as eternal.

Here's the king who has life in himself and from whom all other genuine life is derived. Here's the king invisible because he is God alone. Wives. This is why there's an exceeding abundance in Jesus that can never be exhausted because he's the living. God and to him, be honor and glory forever and ever.

Amen. And so the Apostles setting before, Timothy good. Hope for his ministry, but also a good goal for his ministry. Not that the kind of sinner Timothy got saved from being would be shown forth, but the kind of Savior Jesus is to all sinners would be. So, Sean forth and that he would be glorified as God who saved us.

Let's pray.

Lord. We thank you for bearing with us and our weakness, even at this time of day, but we pray Lord that you would help us by your spirit, that you would write on our hearts. The marvelous truth that we have gotten to hear told from your word just now and that you would make us love for our lives.

To be Also, according to the pattern of showing, the kind of Savior that Jesus, is that he would be known as God. Who had saved. Sinners and God whose grace has exceedingly. Abundant for all that we need in order to serve him. Well, because he accounted, as faithful, He is the one who has put us into service.

And so we pray. Lord, that you would.

That you would keep sanctifying us, keep cleansing us, keep making us grow, and grace and holiness. So that we will be those who both rejoice over Christ adoring him as the eternal and mortal and invisible God. And who love to serve him and such a way that others will see his glory too.

So, grant this to us, we ask in his name, amen.