

The Pastoral Epistles

I Timothy 1:12-17 – “12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. 13 Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. 14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

15 Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 16 But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

Paul, an apostle, was thankful that Jesus Christ had considered him _____.

Paul recognized two important elements to Christ’s trust:

His “_____” came from Christ

His “_____” came from Christ

The fact that God would see him as trustworthy in the ministry doesn’t seem overly surprising to Paul because God acted consistently to His character. Paul says:

“I was shown _____.” What reason did Paul see for this?

“The _____ of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly.” Paul says that hand in hand with this favor the Lord demonstrated, he has also found _____ and _____ which are in Christ.

*** Theological Point – Because Christ is the source of faith and love, our capacity to have full faith and love are inhibited unless He becomes the object of both in our lives.**

Now, Paul says he was shown mercy because he acted in ignorance and unbelief. What kind of man does Paul say he was?

A _____

A _____

A _____ man

Paul goes on to demonstrate the greatness of salvation if he can be saved. After all, “Christ Jesus came into the world to _____ sinners.” Paul goes on to emphasize that, not only can Jesus save sinners, He saved me, and “I am the _____.”

*** Theological Point – As we interpret this, would we have to conclude that Paul was indeed the worst sinner of all time, or do we understand him to be making a simple statement from his own perspective?**

Paul arranges a logical argument for those who believe themselves to be beyond God’s grace: “I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense _____...”

Paul says he was an example for those who would _____ in him. What does it mean to “believe” in him?

*** Theological Point – There is no such thing as partial saving faith. Our trust is in one thing or another. Jesus said that one must leave “father and mother” to follow him. In similar fashion, you cannot serve God and mammon.**

Verse 17 demonstrates the resulting attitude of one who understands something of God’s great salvation. To our King who is _____, _____, _____ and _____, we ought to give:

And
