

Christ came to save sinners

1 Timothy 1:12-16

1 Timothy 1:12-16 ¹²I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

¹³though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief,

¹⁴and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.

¹⁶But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.

→ **Bullet Points of this**

Paul the sinner

- Blasphemer, persecutor
- Violent aggressor
- Chief of sinners
- Mercy / grace
- Perfect patience
- our EXAMPLE

1 Timothy 1:12-16 ¹² I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service,
¹³ even though I was formerly a **blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor**. Yet I was shown **mercy** because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;
¹⁴ and the **grace of our Lord was more than abundant**, with the faith and love which are *found* in Christ Jesus.
¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world **to save sinners**, among whom **I am foremost of all**.
¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as **an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life**.

→ Psalm 103

Psalm 103

Psalm 103:8-17

⁸The Lord is **compassionate** and **gracious**, Slow to anger and ***abounding in lovingkindness***.

⁹He will not always strive *with us*, Nor will He keep *His anger* forever.

¹⁰***He has not dealt with us according to our sins, Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.***

¹¹For as high as the heavens are above the earth, So great is His lovingkindness toward those who fear Him.

¹²**As far as the east is from the west, So far has He removed our transgressions from us.**

¹³Just as a father has compassion on *his* children, So the Lord has **compassion** on those who fear Him.

¹⁴For He Himself knows our frame; He is mindful that we are *but* dust.

¹⁵As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes.

¹⁶When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.

¹⁷**But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting** on those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children,

→ God is FAITHFUL

GOD is *faithful*

1Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 1Tim. 1:15

Heb. 10:23; 1John 1:9

God is FAITHFUL – an oft repeated statement, but one also that is exemplified over and over throughout the Bible..

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

1 Timothy 1:15 It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Hebrews 11:11 By faith even Sarah herself received ability to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised.

And of course: 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

→ IF forgiven, Why don't I 'feel like it' -

If I am forgiven,
why don't I 'feel
like it'?

If I am forgiven, why don't I 'feel like it' --

The old problem of 'feelings' as 'evidence of truth' –

Feelings tell you how you FEEL...

Multiple reasons why you may feel that way.. And all could be wrong!

→ **Problem with forgiveness – some things it doesn't do!**

Forgiveness DOESN'T

- Remove all consequences
- Remove knowledge / memory

Forgiveness DOESN'T

Doesn't Undo ALL consequences –

WHILE it does save from wrath / judgment against those sins – many consequences will remain – temporal, relational, financial, social, etc.

Doesn't remove KNOWLEDGE and MEMORY – either in US or in OTHERS

Paul remembered his SINS...

We NEED such to motivate to NOT do again, to remind how awful sin is..

→ *God promised, have I done what HE SAID?*

Have I DONE what God said?

Acts 2:38-39; 8:20-23

1John 1:8-10

Problem here is two-fold

Have I done what God asked (

Acts 2:38-39 - know assuredly (36), repent, baptized - forgiven

Acts 8:20-23; 1John 1:8-10)

→ THEN deal with conscience

My Conscience

Dealing with conscience –

A great gift from God ... part of our moral being.

The ability to sit in judgment upon SELF –

The motivator of most change in our lives...

In Acts 2 -- 'they were pricked in their heart' – their conscience declared them GUILTY!

→ HOW Does this work?

Conscience is TRAINED – it sits in judgment ACCORDING to its (my) knowledge.

Some, poorly knowing, excuse what is condemned!

Some, also lacking good knowledge, condemn what is excused.

Here, is condemning in self what has been forgiven.

Conscience

- “with knowledge”
- ‘evil conscience’
- ‘over-active’ -

Dealing with conscience –

Conscience is TRAINED – it sits in judgment ACCORDING to its (my) knowledge.

Romans 2:14-15...

Some, poorly knowing, excuse what is condemned!

i.e., Paul persecuted the church ‘in all good conscience’. Acts 23:1

Others have seared their conscience (1Tim. 4:2)

Titus 1:15 To the pure, all things are pure; but to those who are defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience are defiled.

Some, also lacking good knowledge, condemn what is excused.

Here, is condemning in self what has been forgiven.

Training our Conscience

Know as much about God as possible

Know as much about God as possible – Prov. 1:7; Ps. 111:10

Know as much about God's WORD as possible – 2 Tim. 3: Eph. 5: ; Col. 3:16-17, etc.

Know as much about LIFE as possible...

Experience, Heb. 5:14

experience of OTHERS, 1Pet. 5:5; Prov. 16:31; Lev. 19:32

ability to reason and deduce,

Know as much about WISDOM as possible...

Seek it..

KNOW what it produces – James 3:

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God IS faithful

He says what He means

He means what He says

He does what He says

He will do

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