

# Paul, the Grateful Servant – 1 Tim. 1:12-17

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- I. Introduction
  - a. Conversion
  - b. There is perhaps no greater example of conversion than that which converted Saul of Tarsus into Paul the Apostle
  - c. Acts 9:1-8 – READ, or Scripture Reading
  - d. In 1 Timothy, Paul looks back on what changes had occurred in his life with gratitude
- II. Key Thought: Paul was grateful of Jesus because of what God had done for him in Christ
- III. What God did - 12
  - a. Enabled him/ strengthened him
    - i. There were things he could not do
      1. He could not please God
      2. He could not accept the truth
      3. He could not stop kicking against the pricks
      4. He certainly could not live for Christ
      5. He could not see the truth
    - ii. God enabled him
      1. By making further progress down the wrong road impossible
      2. By physically blinding him
      3. By humbling him
      4. By providing a way of escape from the life he had been living
  - b. Counted him faithful
    - i. God had more in mind for Saul of Tarsus than for him to simply stop sinning
    - ii. He wanted him to faithfully serve
    - iii. Entrusted with the gospel - 1 Timothy 1:11 NASB according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, with which I have been entrusted.
    - iv. A preacher of the unfathomable riches of Christ – Eph. 3:8-10
  - c. Put him into service
    - i. Made an apostle – 1 Timothy 1:1 NASB Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus according to the commandment of God our Savior, and of Christ Jesus, who is our hope,
    - ii. Took the gospel to the Gentile world
    - iii. He worked hard! 2 Cor. 11:23-28
    - iv. Jesus' words – Acts 9:15-16
- IV. What Paul had been – v. 13

- a. Here
    - i. Blasphemer
    - ii. Persecutor
    - iii. Insolent
  - b. Elsewhere
    - i. Acts 26:9-11
    - ii. Acts 8:1-4
  - c. Acting ignorantly
    - i. Acting without knowledge
    - ii. The knowledge was available
    - iii. But Saul of Tarsus was acting contrary to it
  - d. Unbelieving
    - i. When you don't believe, you act ignorantly
    - ii. When you believe, you stop acting ignorantly
    - iii. Nearly all of our foolish actions are due to small faith
- V. What it took for God to help Paul – v. 14-15
- a. Exceedingly abundant grace
  - b. In Christ Jesus
    - i. Faith
    - ii. Love
    - iii. A Purpose
      - 1. To save sinners
      - 2. Brought Jesus into the world
- VI. Why the chief of sinners was saved – v. 16
- a. The chief of sinners
    - i. The least of the saints – Eph. 3:8-10
    - ii. Not worthy to be called an apostle – 1 Cor. 15:9-10
  - b. To demonstrate Jesus' perfect patience
  - c. To serve as an example
  - d. So others would believe on Him for eternal life
  - e. What about you?
    - i. Have you been converted
    - ii. Remember what your life was like
    - iii. Are you serving in the kingdom
      - 1. We may not suffer as much as Paul in service to the Lord
      - 2. But any suffering
        - a. is worth it to us
        - b. He is worthy of it
    - iv. Do not seek to be a pampered Christian
    - v. Be a servant like your Master, Jesus Christ
- VII. Conclusion
- a. What can we say about a God like that? V. 17
    - i. To him be glory and honor forever and ever
    - ii. Words and lives of thanksgiving
    - iii. Do I faithfully serve this God?
  - b. Invitation

- i. Acts 22:14-16
- ii. God wants you to know his will
- iii. He wants you to serve as His witness in this world
- iv. He wants you to wash away your sins, by being baptized without delay
- v. Then you can live as his grateful servant
  - 1. Working hard for the Lord
  - 2. With praise and thanksgiving