Paul, the Grateful Servant – 1 Tim. 1:12-17
Preached by Brent Paschall – brent@brentnrachel.com
February 2012, at Blue Ridge Church of Christ – www.blueridgecoc.org

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 coverted
   ii. Remember what your life was life
   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