

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 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