

1 Timothy 1.12-20

Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners

@ 17 My Pastor asked me HOST visiting AUSTRALIAN Bible Teacher; Talbot

STRICT Man with some STERN Views of LIFE and FAITH

He believed ONLY 2 Postures for PRAYER – Standing or Kneeling

Drove to Newport Beach – Fish & Chips – He wanted to Eat on Beach

Walked among BABES & BUFF on their Beach Towels

Realized my COOL IMAGE – Trying Hard to Project – Soon Sink Like ROCK

NOT Prayed for FISH & CHIPS yet – Wondered if Ordered to Kneel or Stand!

STOOD! – Lifting Fish & Chips to God – HUNG my HEAD in SHAME!

Our Teacher from DOWN UNDER had Strong View about 1 Timothy 1

vs. 9,10 the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine

LAW for Sinners – ONLY tell UNBELIEVERS Stern News Condemnation

If – only if - CRY Out in Repentance then Free to Share Gospel – Never Before

NOT Exactly a SEEKER-SENSITIVE Theology!!

PARTIAL Truth – NEVER throw Pearls before SWINE or CHEAPEN Gospel

NEVER Lower Bar of GOD'S Holiness, Righteousness, and Judgment

But we have 2 TOOLS in our Ministry Tool-Box > LAW and GOSPEL

We have Seen: LAW of God is SOIL from which TRUE LOVE will GROW

LAW like GUARD RAIL on Highway for BELIEVERS

Marks out LIMITS of HOLINESS & RIGHTEOUSNESS > Keeps us SAFE!

Now Paul turns from LAW to GOSPEL: SALVATION & SERVICE

Was Wondrous GOSPEL that BROKE LAW-KEEPING Pharisee named SAUL

1. Deliverance from the Law's Penalty

a. I was

v. 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent.

Opposition to New Movement called WAY - Cursed the Name of Jesus

Now Realized was Blasphemy, because Jesus was FULLY GOD / fully man

For you have heard of my previous way of life in Judaism, how intensely I persecuted the church of God and tried to destroy it. Galatians 1.13

Dr. LUKE Official PERSONAL Biographer > INSPIRED by Holy Spirit

Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison. Acts 8.3

'dragged off': WILD ANIMAL MANGLING its VICTIMS / Men & Women

In my obsession against them, I even went to foreign cities to persecute them. Acts 26.11

Instead of DESTROYING the FAITH -- he DISPERSED the FAITH

With Every NEW Follower > ANGRY SAUL is MORE FRUSTRATED

v. 15 "sinners, of whom I am the foremost" - "worst, first, or chief"

Because he had persecuted Christ's followers so vigorously.

20 – 25 yrs AFTER Conversion: VIVID Sense of Unworthiness/ Source Strength

God RESISTS the PROUD > Gives GRACE to the HUMBLE

WORST? Once we Know WONDER of GRACE > See OUR Great NEED!

b. I was given

v. 12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service,

Usually the thanksgiving in Paul's Epistles follows the salutation.

But PAUL was URGENT to Tell Timothy DANGERS from FALSE Teachers

Now we find familiar expression of Thanks! > **Christ "who empowered me"**

Lord "considered" Paul faithful "appointing him diakonia" / service or ministry

"faithful" or "trustworthy" 17 X's in the Pastorals

Thankful GIFTS of GRACE in Christ: him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service

What PAUL has BEEN GIVEN – 20+ yrs – Just What TIMID Timothy Needs

INNER STRENGTH – God puts FIRE in Paul's BELLY to PRESS ON!

FAITHFUL – Faith is Gift received from HIM who is The Faithful ONE!

APPOINTED – Team Player – MASTER puts Each One of Us in POSITION

Lord said ANANIAS about PAUL: "...he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel" Acts 9.15

FOOTNOTE: Pastoral Letters (Timothy/Titus) – Fill out Paul's BIOGRAPHY

Acts 28 Imprisonment was not END > Released > Continued to Serve

LETTERS written During 4th M Journey - between 62 – 68 AD - SPAIN??

2nd Journey: Paul & Silas passed thru Tim's Hometown LYSTRA > CALLED

1st Missionary Journey	2nd Missionary Journey	3rd Missionary Journey
Apostle: Paul	Apostle: Paul	Apostle: Paul
Associate: Barnabas	Associate: Silas	Associate: Timothy
Apprentice: John Mark	Apprentice: Timothy	Apprentices: Sopater, Aristarchus, Secundus, Gaius, Tychicus, Trophimus, and Luke

Today STOLEN Sermon Title from book Written in 1666 – Pastor like PAUL
John BUNYAN – Trophy of INNER Strength & FAITHFULNESS in JESUS



WAKEUP PUBLISHING

JOHN BUNYAN
GRACE ABOUNDING TO THE
CHIEF OF SINNERS

“Grace Abounding to the Chief of Sinners”

Spiritual Autobiography John Bunyan

Poor Man, Preacher, Puritan, Prisoner 12 yrs preaching
without a license – Author of “Pilgrim’s Progress”

Book written while in Bedford Prison in 1666

'Grace Abounding' 'Where sin abounded, grace did much
more abound' Romans 5:20 (KJV)

2. Display of the Lord’s Pardon

a. Mercy – Some SINS in OT could NOT be FORGIVEN – Intentional SINS

“the priest shall make atonement before the LORD for the person who makes a mistake, when he sins unintentionally, to make atonement for him, and he shall be forgiven ... But the person who does anything *with a high hand*...reviles the LORD, and that person shall be cut off from among his people. Because he has despised the word of the LORD”
Numbers 15.29-31

v. 13 But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief

IGNORANCE – Not OPEN-EYED and WILLFUL ‘Not Intentional’

SINCERE Pharisee BELIEVED Persecution was HOLY Service of Living God

He was SHOWN MERCY > Mercy MET him in his DESPAIR and SIN

VERY Bad, but NOT BEYOND Mercy > Mercy OVERFLOWED

WHAT is MERCY?? > God does NOT Treat us like we DESERVE

WHY? God is MERCIFUL!! Nothing DESERVING, WORTHY in US

b. Grace

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

Mercy – God does not treat us like we deserve
 Grace – God does treat us like we do not deserve

Mercy: What DO NOT Get – DAMNED / Grace: What DO Get – DELIVERED

GRACE > OVERFLOWS – FAITH & LOVE that are in CHRIST JESUS

Grace: 1-word Summary God’s Salvation in X, Free Gift to Undeserving Sinners

155 X’s in the NT - 100 X’s in Paul’s letters – 13 X’s in Pastoral Letters

God’s Riches at Christ’s Expense

“Was poured out on me abundantly” - “exceedingly abounded”

PREACHING Gospel BEST DONE by those who’ve EXPERIENCED It!

Honor of GERMANY plays WORLD CUP Final Soon – Look at UBERS / Super

“Where sin abounded, grace super-overflowed (overflowed all the more)”

Romans 5:20

“Faith super-increases (is growing beyond measure).” 2 Thessalonians 1:3

“I super-overflow (overflow abundantly) with joy” 2 Corinthians 7:4

“We are praying super-abundantly (with intense earnestness).” 1 Thessalonians 3:10

“The peace of God sur (-super)-passes all understanding” Philippians 4:7

“Esteem the leaders super-abundantly (very highly) in love” 1 Thessalonians 5:13

“In order that I might not super-exalt myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh” 2 Corinthians 12:7

Paul received UBER/Super GRACE – Ministered with UBER ZEAL for GOD

"Just as the sun is not darkened by the whole world enjoying its light, and could, indeed light up ten worlds; just as 100,000 candles might be lit from one light and not detract from it; just as a learned man is able to make a thousand others learned, and the more he gives, the more he has, so is Christ, our Lord, an infinite source of all grace. The fountain always runs over, full of grace." Martin Luther

c. Hope – – God made Paul an ARCHITECTURAL SKETCH – BLUEPRINT

vs. 15,16 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But 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.

v. 15 1st of FIVE “Faithful Sayings” in PASTORAL Letters

Common Sayings / Poem / Hymn > Apostolic ENDORSEMENT

Just 4 DECADES since the DEATH of Jesus – Already RELIABLE Saying

20/25 yrs in X: I AM – Not WAS – Salvation NEVER gives us SUPERIORITY

HOLY SPIRIT – in your LIFE makes you HOLY and HUMBLE

EXAMPLE gives HOPE >> ‘IF Paul could be FORGIVEN, ME TOO!’

Example if this PERSECUTING THUG can be SAVED, You can too!

ESSENCE of Gospel: SAVE Sinners, Prime Focus on HEART of Lost

OFFER of Gospel: Universal for ‘all nations’

“I know not why God’s wondrous grace to me he hath made known,
Nor why, unworthy, Christ in love, redeemed me for his own.”

Daniel Webster Whittle, 1883

Crazy Fundamentalist PHARISEE / Crazy Fundamentalist Christian? YES!

NEW Fundamental - One KILLS – One shows COMPASSION

One sees GOD of REVENGE / One KNOWS a God of REDEMPTION

Jesus is HOPE of World – Change HEARTS & MINDS – Makes People NEW

Middle East – ENDLESS Cycle of REVENGE – Kill JEW / Kill ARAB

Their SINS against Each Other > VERY Intentional, Very HIGH HANDED

NEITHER Judaism or Islam EXTEND Full Forgiveness, even to Their Own

Must CONVERT to their CREED & CULTURE to Enter their COMMUNITY

Certainly NOT to an ENEMY: Even 1st Xtians NOT want to ACCEPT SAUL!!

Jesus Freely Forgives & Commands Love Enemies, NOT Forgive, Not Forgiven

CONFESS Jesus bring YOUR CULTURE to Enrich & Enhance our Community

Living GOD > Still ABLE to turn HARDENED SAULS into HUMBLE PAULS

HARD? Incredibly! HURT? Terribly! WANT to Kill in REVENGE? Probably!

Out of BROKENESS & BITTERNESS God can bring BLESSING of Kingdom

IMPERFECT Reflection of Eternal Beauty > BEGINS when COME to CROSS



JOHN NEWTON, Clerk [preacher], Once an infidel and libertine, A servant of slaves in Africa, Was, by the rich mercy of our Lord and Saviour, JESUS CHRIST, restored, pardoned and appointed to preach the Gospel which he had long laboured to destroy. He ministered, near sixteen years in Olney, in Bucks, And twenty eight years in this Church.

Written by John Newton, Inscribed on His Tombstone, 1807

Only 2 things of which I am Sure: 1) I am great SINNER / 2) X is great SAVIOR

d. Glory – All GRACE leads to All GLORY – Paul’s Preaching > PRAISE!

GOSPEL leads to SPONTANEOUS Praise of God > GLORY

v. 17 To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

KING: Sovereign RULER over ALL THINGS: Time, Universe, People

ETERNAL: King of ALL AGES, beyond CHANGES of TIME

IMMORTAL: Beyond Decay and Death, UNCHANGING

INVISIBLE: Beyond limits of Every Horizon, None has seen or Can

ONLY: No RIVALS > NONE OTHER > Incomparable

“Man proposes; God disposes. ...Paul before his conversion— may try to destroy the church; God will establish it...He will use the very man who tried to destroy it!...man is a mere creature of time, God is the King of the ages” Gordon Fee

Last Monday morning in Carbondale, IL Abir Safar brewed herself a cup of Chai tea and opened her computer to work on her PhD thesis. A surge of anguish swept over her as she read the flashing text from a government official that her mother, aunt and little brother had been killed in an Israeli airstrike on their small apartment building in the Gaza strip.

On Tuesday morning, she called her Christian friends and asked them to meet with her for prayer. Six months earlier, Abir had met two Christian PhD students who were free enough in Christ to love the shy, Muslim intern’l student. She walked into the freedom won for her by Christ’s liberating sacrifice at Calvary.

“My family is dead,” she wept with her Christian friends. “They were innocent victims of a terrible war. They should not have been killed. But, Jesus died in innocence for me that I might be free to forgive others and I do.” On the following Wednesday, Abir flew back to her homeland to bury her family. She flew alone but free from being abandoned; sad but free from anger; hurt but free from hatred. Free, in Christ, to love.

3. Decision of your Life's Purpose

Aged Apostle NOW gives his Son in the Faith a Solemn Charge

v. 18 This charge I entrust to you... // 2nd Time in this Chapter (verse 3)

Considered LAW and GOSPEL > Now Timothy MUST CHOOSE

FALSE Teachers in Ephesus or Paul the FAITHFUL Teacher > No Neutrality

TRUTH demands a VERDICT > CHOICE is Hard, Difficult, RIGHT

a. Excommunication

1) Rejection - TWO MEN who FAILED

vs. 19,20 By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander

Remember – NT Letter like ONE Side of Phone Call – Not CERTAIN all Details

BOTH Men's Names appear in 2 Timothy > STILL in DANGEROUS Place

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."
2 Timothy 2.15.19

HYMENAUS – Wrongly Handled God's Word – Message & Ministry FALSE

Paul on TRIAL – Alexander? Chief ACCUSER – VERDICT: Guilty > DEATH

Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!
2 Timothy 4:14-16

Someone Named ALEXANDER like JUDAS who Betrayed our LORD

What HAPPENED??– DISCONNECT between HEAD & HEART

vs. 19,20 wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith...

Timothy possesses two valuable things which he must carefully guard, an objective treasure called ‘the faith,’ meaning the apostolic faith, and a subjective one called ‘a good conscience’...they need to be preserved together. John Stott

Head: “I am a SINNER” / Heart: “Actually, you are pretty good....”

Head: “Christ SAVES” / Heart: “Not ME, too bad, too far away, GONE CASE”

Head: “Christ can Save ANYONE” / Heart: “Not my family, friend, county...”

DANGEROUS DISCONNECT – Head & Heart – If NOT Correct That

Live in FOG of Falsehood and HYPOCRISY > Christians & Churches TODAY

Read Hymenaeus and Alexander & YOU – SHIPWRECK!

‘A bad conscience is the mother to all heresies’

John Calvin

Fandio iray siny tsy mahaleo fandoto iray tandroka! (A pot of clean water can’t resist a ladle of dirty water!) Malagasy proverb from Madagascar

A Little DIRTY Water will SPOIL the WHOLE Container of CLEAN Water

Few FALSE Teachers will POLLUTE the PURE Doctrine of WHOLE Church

One man described his pastor:

“He is such a good preacher, he should never get out of the pulpit; but he is such a poor Christian, he should never get into the pulpit” Churchman on his Pastor

2) Restoration?? HANDED over to SATAN = Excommunication

v. 20 whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Paul to Church in Corinth: “man has his father’s wife”....

you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord 1 Corinthians 5.5

PUBLIC Acknowledgement of SPHERE of Satan they Already Chosen to Enter

For some have already strayed after Satan. 1 Timothy 5.15

HOPE in this HORRIBLE Situation: v. 20 that they *may learn* not to blaspheme

NOT Permanent or Irrevocable > So they will REPENT & be Restored

Purpose: To jolt the offender into repentance, induced by the fearful thought of being turned over to Satan’s control.

“Blaspheme” – Misuse GOD’s Name / Dangerous / Done OFTEN by Christians

IF Paul could be SAVED – there is EVERY HOPE for Hymenaeus & Alexander

b. Endurance – Christ has made PAUL FAITHFUL – Timothy can be TOO!

vs. 18,19 This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience.

COMMAND – Sense of URGENT OBLIGATION / Military Language

Jesus calls US to be GOOD SOLDIERS and GOOD SAILORS!

We are CALLED to believe Law & Gospel / Good Conscience / Sincere Faith

IMPT Link – Doctrine / Duty, Belief / Behavior, Conviction / Conscience

1) Promised - Timothy's Ordination & Induction into Missionary Work

v. 18 in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you

PROPHECIES – Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 1 Timothy 4.14

Like HOLY SPIRIT called Paul & Barnabas during Worship: ANTIOCH Church

If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. John 7.17

2) Proven Timothy Walked Walk & Talked Talk / Waged Good Warfare

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you...For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. Philippians 2.19-22

It is precisely by preserving a good conscience that Timothy will be able to keep faith. Thus belief and behavior, conviction and conscience, the intellectual and the moral, are closely linked....God's truth contains ethical demands...if we disregard the voice of conscience, allowing sin to remain unconfessed and unforsaken, our faith will not long survive. John Stott

READ Vss. Remember – Powerful Sunday in church I served 20 yrs ago

One Sunday Visitor – Next Day my Office – Intro Self: Christian Child Molestor

Served 10 yrs PRISON – Saved, Studied Scripture, Set Free from That SIN

WELCOMED – Believe God SAVES/CHANGES – WATCH – his good & kids

TOLD Elders his Story – NOT Whole Church – Several yrs – Discipler, Teacher

TRUST Grew – Often in our HOME – Sons loved like UNCLE & he them

Woman / Visitor of Church – ANGRY about our Gospel-Demands

Found PICTURE on Gov't Website WARN against Child MOLESTERS

POOP hit FAN Big Time – Coconut WIRELESS LIT UP Across ISLAND!!

Church Members / Parents – ANGRY, BETRAYED, CONFUSED

Met him “What do you want to do?” IF RUN, Look Guilty, Same Happen Again

AGREED – This Coming Sunday – Stand with you in Service – Your TESTIFY

“Christian Brother, you know, grown to trust, welcome into homes & hearts....”

HONEST Confession – Terrible SINS – WISELY Without EXPLICIT Details

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

1 Timothy 1.15,16

1 Timothy 1:¹²I 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. ¹⁷To the King of ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. ¹⁸This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, ²⁰among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.