

“Paul: A Testimony of Mercy and Matchless Grace”

Topic – Transformation: From Saul the Sinner to Paul the Saint

Text – 1 Timothy 1:12-20

Series – God’s Blueprint for the Church

The Apostle’s Gratitude for His Call to the Gospel Ministry

I. The recipient of Paul's gratitude – “*Christ Jesus our Lord*” (1:12a)

- A. Constant spirit of gratitude – “I thank” (1:12a)
- B. Common spirit of gratitude shared
- C. Paul's gratitude for the constraint of His call “*into the ministry*” (1:12b)
 - 1. What attribute qualified Paul to be called to the gospel ministry?
 - 2. The preeminent quality Christ valued in Paul was he was “faithful” (1:12b)

II. The Reason for Paul's Gratitude – His Transformation (1:13)

- A. Who Paul was before Christ (1:13a)
 - 1. Blasphemer (Acts 26:11)
 - 2. Persecutor of the church (Acts 26:10-11)
 - 3. Injurious (1:13a)
- B. Who Paul was after Christ (1:13b-14)
 - 1. Paul was the object of God's mercy. (1:13b)

Lesson – It is one thing to sin out of ignorance ; however, it is a perilous thing to willfully sin against God’s Truth.

Hebrews 10:26 – “For if we sin willfully [*deliberately*] after that we have received the knowledge of the Truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,”

- 2. Paul was the object of God's grace. (1:14)

III. The Necessity of God's Mercy and Grace (1:15-16)

- A. The Essence of the Gospel (1:15a)
- B. The Extent of the Gospel – “*of whom I am chief*” (1:15c)
- C. The Evidence of God’s “*exceeding abundant*” grace (1:16)

Paul’s sinful past was an extraordinary backdrop for Christ’s mercy and patience.

A Doxology of Praise

1 Timothy 1:17 – “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.”