

Being Thankful to Jesus Christ

In 1 Timothy 1 Paul expresses his thanks to Christ:

1. For enabling him (12a)
2. Because He counted him faithful (12b)
3. Putting him into the ministry (12c)

Q. What can you list as things to thank Christ for in your life today?

Paul recognizes that God's grace has been extended to him despite his former ways as:

1. A blasphemer (13b)
2. A persecutor (13c)
3. An insolent man (13d)
4. A man of ignorance and unbelief (13e)

Q. What do you recall about your life that God has pardoned and forgiven you for?

Good News to tell

Paul notes that the grace of the Lord was exceedingly abundant to him (14) and that this grace given to him is to be shown to be a pattern for others (15-17)

Q. What pattern of Good News for others can you derive from verses 15-17? Write a short answer to the question "Why is Jesus Christ Good News to sinners?" using verses from the New Testament to give content to your answer.



This study prepared by Rev Steve Webster at St Michaels Anglican Church North Carlton and may be reproduced for non-profit use for study groups



Small Group Notes

the first letter to timothy

Lessons on Life in the Church #2 Grace in Abundance

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." 1 Timothy 1:15

Study No.2

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Changing tack and turning attention away from the topic of false teachers, the Apostle now wants to emphasise the positive. Scripture presents us with Paul's own testimony of a faith based on sound doctrine.

And the award goes to...

- Q.1 Think of people in the newspapers this past month who got what they deserved for their actions? Can you think of examples both positive and negative?
- Q.2 What performance based "systems" exist in the world today? Political.. Sport.. Social.. Personal..
- Q.3 What are the positive aspects of having to measure up to someone else's performance criteria? What are the negatives?



Profiling Paul



1. Paul's former way of life

In groups of 3 look at and discuss the following Bible passages in relation to the verses in 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and consider Paul's way of life before encountering Jesus Christ.

Verse in 1 Timothy	Passage to read	Your comments
1:13, 15-16	Acts 7:54-8:3	
	Acts 9:1-9	
	Acts 26:9-11	
	Philippians 3:5-6	
	Galatians 1:13-14	

Q.4 How justified is Paul in making the claims about himself verses 13, 15 and 16, even calling himself the "worst of sinners"?

2. Paul's new way of life

Verse in 1 Timothy	Passage to read	Your comments
1:12, 14	Acts 9:10-22	
	Acts 26:19-23	
	Ephesians 3:8,9	
	Philippians 3:7-12	
	1 Corinthians 15:7-11	

Amazing Grace

Q.5 What do you think Paul 'deserved' for his actions in his previous way of life?

[Remember, he had the sanction of the 'Chief Priests' (Acts 26:and believed he was doing God's work– the church presented a threat to all that Paul held most dear. Its worst offense was its proclamation of one who had suffered a death cursed by the Jewish law as Lord and Messiah (Deut. 21:22-23). The survival of Israel, it seemed, demanded that the followers of Jesus be wiped out. Could his murderous actions be any way justified?]

READ Ephesians 2:8-9 & Titus 3:3-7

WRITE a definition in your own words of what the Bible means by "God's grace"

"nothing we can do can make God love us more;
nothing we can do can make God love us less"

Sound Doctrine

Collect Paul's 'trustworthy sayings' onto the page to appreciate the truth of his Gospel:

- 1 Tim 1:15 _____
- 1 Tim 3:1 _____
- 1 Tim 4:9 _____
- 2 Tim 2:11 _____
- Titus 3:4-8 _____



Albert Finney plays John Newton in the 2007 film 'Amazing Grace'. Newton was a slave trader and wrote the famous hymn of the same title as this film You can research his story at http://www.anointedlinks.com/amazing_grace.html and find there a great illustration of what the Bible teaches us about God's grace.