

Redeemed, Recruited, and Rejoicing

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Our text today comes from the first letter Paul had written to the young preacher, Timothy. Paul had established the church in Ephesus, and after spending three years there, he departed leaving Timothy to pastor the church. The work had not been easy. Timothy faced many challenges as a young pastor and had grown discouraged.

In an attempt to encourage Timothy, Paul uses his life and ministry as an example of what God could do through a willing and obedient vessel. Paul never got over his salvation experience or the honor of being used of the Lord in such a mighty way. Paul knew if God could work in his life, equipping and using him in service, He could equip and use Timothy as well.

I don't know if you have ever pondered the Lord's hand working in your life, but I sure have. I am amazed at the opportunities He has provided and the help I have received while seeking to serve the Lord. I realize what I have received and the way God has worked in my life. I know if God can use me, He can use anyone for His glory.

I hope the message today will help encourage you in your walk with the Lord. If you are unsaved, I pray you will realize your need and discover what you are missing. I want to discuss the [observations](#) Paul discloses as we consider: [Redeemed, Recruited, and Rejoicing](#).

I. The Position He Enjoyed (12-14) – Paul discusses his gratitude concerning the opportunities he has enjoyed serving the Lord. He speaks to Timothy regarding:

A. The Ministry (12) – [And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry.](#) Paul was clearly thankful for the ministry he enjoyed, serving the Lord. He was excited about the many opportunities the Lord had provided and the work that had been accomplished. However, Paul held a proper perspective. He knew he had not enjoyed success in ministry based on his own accomplishments or abilities. He was well aware that Christ had enabled him to be used in such a mighty way. He knew the Lord had counted him faithful and placed him in the ministry. All the praise went to Christ the Lord. He could think of no greater honor than being able to serve the Lord at His leisure.

- I too am thankful for the many opportunities the Lord has given me to serve Him. I am not where I am today of my own doing or based upon personal ability. The Lord has equipped me to serve Him in the capacity He has called me to fulfill. He has placed me where He wanted me according to His divine will.

- All are not called to serve as pastors of a church, but all believers are called to serve the Lord in some capacity. We often speak of “full time ministry,” and I know what we mean, but the reality is all believers are called to serve the Lord “full time.” There is never a time when we are not in Christ and released of our obligations. If you have been equipped to teach, sing, witness, or serve in any capacity, you ought to praise the Lord for His equipping you to do so and providing an opportunity to serve!

B. The Mercy (13) – [Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.](#) Paul knew he was undeserving of any grace from the Lord. He knew he did not deserve the opportunity to proclaim Christ through preaching the Gospel. He had been a blasphemer of the Lord, a persecutor of the church, and injurious to those who sought to serve the Lord. In essence Paul did everything he could to hinder the church and the spread of the Gospel. He knew he deserved judgment, but he rejoiced for the mercy he had received. Rather than dealing with him in the way he had earned, the Lord withheld what he genuinely deserved and offered mercy to him.

- We maybe didn't oppose the church in the ways Paul did. We maybe weren't responsible for the injury and death of those who served the Lord, but we too were undeserving. We lived our lives in order to please the flesh. We had no desire for the ways of God. We rejected His Word and His leading in our lives. God would have been just to have left us in our sin, but He offered mercy. We certainly did not earn the right to be used of Him, but He overlooked our faults and failures and allowed us a place within the body of Christ!

C. The Mystery (14) – [And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.](#) Paul continued to be amazed at the grace he had received. He had lived a life worthy of death and condemnation and yet grace filled with love and faith was offered instead. The Lord had not dealt with him in the way he had deserved or expected. He had received an overflowing abundance of grace and love in his life. He was then able to embrace the very Gospel he had worked so hard to dispute and dispel.

- Isn't the grace of our Lord amazing? In fact, it is so amazing it is almost mysterious. We were loved while we were unlovable. We were offered grace instead of the judgment we deserved. Being unworthy, we are offered the opportunity to serve the Lord and honor Him. His grace and love is poured out abundantly in our lives! [Eph.1:7 – In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace.](#)

II. The Pardon He Received (15-16) – Paul rejoiced in his gracious pardon. He speaks of:

A. The Savior (15) – *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* As he seeks to comfort Timothy, Paul reminds him of the gracious sacrifice Christ made on behalf of all men. He laid aside the glory He possessed in heaven, having His deity veiled by a robe of flesh, came to earth and walked among men in order to offer His body a sacrifice for sin. He came with purpose: to provide salvation for all who look to Him by faith and believe in His finished work!

- We too need reminded of the grace that was extended to us through Christ coming into this world as the means of salvation. Had He not come, taking our place and bearing our sin while suffering the righteous judgment of God, we would have no hope of salvation or eternal life.

B. The Security (15) – *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.* Timothy dealt with those who sought an alternative way to God and shared a false message. He was continually being called upon to defend his faith. Paul offers encouragement and confidence. While others refused the Gospel, Paul was convinced it was truth. He knew Christ had been faithful to the cross and was well able to save. There was no need to worry about being secure in Christ. He had fulfilled the righteous demand of God and secured our redemption on the cross. There was much uncertainty in Timothy's life, but faith in the Lord should never be in question!

- There is much in life that brings uncertainty. There is much that I cannot explain or understand. However, I am secure in Christ my Lord. He fully and eternally satisfied the demands of God as He died upon the cross. He rose again in life, triumphant over death. My faith rests solely in Him and I have no need for fear or dread. I am secure in Christ my Lord! *John 1:12 – But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.*

C. The Sovereignty (15) – *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.* Paul never got over what the Lord did for him through salvation. He had described his role in the persecution of the church, being a blasphemer and injurious to the church. Of all the people he knew, Paul believed he was the least worthy of salvation, but it had been given him by grace. Although he was the chief of sinners, he had received salvation. God chose to offer such grace to one undeserving!

- We ought to rejoice for the sovereignty of God in our lives as well. Like Paul, we too were undeserving. I could never have lived good enough to merit salvation. I had earned the judgment of God, but grace was offered where judgment was deserved. God chose to provide the means of salvation for an undeserving world. We are saved through His abundant grace! *Rom.1:16 – For I am*

not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

D. The Succession (16) – Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting. Paul had received saving grace, and the Lord used his life and ministry to reach many others. Timothy was reached by the life and ministry of Paul. He encouraged Timothy to remain steadfast in the faith, knowing God would use him to reach others as well.

- The world is watching our lives and our witness for Christ. Each of us has great potential in reaching the lost. As we live our lives for the Lord, we are bearing witness to His saving power. May we always set a good example that will influence others to come to Christ by faith!

III. The Praise He Offered (17) – Finally we discover the praise Paul offers unto Christ the Lord. He praised the Lord because he knew Him personally. Paul was aware of:

A. The Authority of Christ (17a) – Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. Paul knew Christ was the eternal King, immortal and abounding in wisdom. He had experienced His grace and His great power. Paul was convinced Jesus was the Christ and that none compared to Him. He had risen from the dead, never to die again. He knew Christ was seated at the right hand of the Father, awaiting the time for His return. He knew he would never face a situation or need that Christ could not understand or handle. What did he or Timothy have to fear? Christ ruled and none would ever challenge His authority!

B. The Acclamation of Christ (17b) – Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen. Paul had met some powerful men. He was acquainted with those who held positions of power, but none were worthy of the honor and glory reserved for Christ alone. Paul was humbled as he considered the provision of grace and he desired to praise the Lord. He knew Christ would receive praise from men on earth and that praise would continue throughout eternity. He did not want to fail in offering praise.

- Would you also agree that Jesus is worthy of our praise? Would you agree that we ought to honor Him for His great provision and love for us? He has provided the means of our salvation. Through Christ we are forgiven of sin and reconciled to God. In Him we have the promise of eternal life. One day we will behold Him in all of His glory. All the saved will praise Him throughout eternity, but I don't want to wait until then. I want to praise Him now!

Conclusion: Paul was truly thankful for his redemption. He was thankful the Lord had placed him in ministry, allowing him to have a part in the Kingdom work. He realized the need to offer praise unto the Lord for His continued grace and provision.

We too have much to praise Jesus for. He has been gracious in each of our lives. He is the means of our salvation. He has allowed us a small part in His great plan. I am genuinely thankful for all He has done for me and the opportunity to serve Him!

Do you know the Lord as your Savior? Have you experienced the great mercy and grace Paul spoke of? If not, I urge you to respond the Lord's call in salvation. Repent of sin and believe on Him by faith. If you are saved, surely He has been good to you as well. Praise Him for His goodness and grace!