



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

God's Grace Made Paul a Model Minister June 24-26, 2017

(1 Timothy 1:12–17) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. ¹³ Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴ The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1. What are some things about Paul that made him an unlikely minister of the gospel? How might his past have “haunted” him? Can you relate to Paul’s situation? If so, how and why?
2. It seems that Paul had always been a confident man (cf. Philippians 3:4-6). Is confidence a good or bad thing? Explain your answer.

3. Agree or disagree and why? When Paul says that he was shown mercy because he acted in ignorance and unbelief, he was making an excuse for his sins.
4. What is the relationship between grace, faith, and love? (v.14)
5. When a teacher makes an example of a misbehaving student, it typically involves a public punishment meant to discourage others from similar behavior. What does Paul mean when he says that God made an example of him for our sake?
6. By referring to himself as the “worst of sinners,” Paul intends to comfort us. Think of times in your life when you would find this especially comforting. Explain why.
7. What enabled Paul to overcome his past and serve God in peace and joy? (v.12) Not every Christian serves in public ministry, but how does the truth of verse 12 apply to all Christians?
8. As a follower of Jesus, you have already received eternal life. Explain.