



The following is the summary of the Sunday sermon that is sent to the body at Steadfast in an email called "The Weekly"

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## **1 Timothy 1:12-20**

### **The Gospel of Grace on Display**

Whenever Paul shares his testimony in Scripture, or shares about his life and ministry, there's always a purpose. In 1 Timothy 1, his purpose was to correct the false teachers as well as to encourage Timothy and the church in Ephesus. One of the major themes of the pastoral epistles is sound doctrine. Paul knew that all sound doctrine is centered in the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the gospel, not what the false teachers proclaim, that leads to freedom and godly living. Paul's life was a testimony of the power of the gospel of the grace of God. The gospel is unique and powerful! It is unlike any other message that is proclaimed by false teachers in the past or today. At the center of the gospel, is the person and work of Jesus Christ. In this passage, Paul uses his life as an example of how the uniqueness of the gospel is seen in the life of a believer.

The uniqueness of the gospel of the grace of God is seen in how the believer has been saved. God in His grace sent His Son to this earth to save sinners (13-15). To read a little about Paul's life before Christ look up Acts 22:4-5, 19-20. God's grace and mercy are seen in the believer's salvation. Without God's grace through Jesus Christ Paul would have been done for (and so would we). The super abundant grace of God radically saved and transformed Paul's life. God used Paul's life as an example to the watching world. God in His grace uses believers as an example of His transforming power (16). Paul's argument was this, "If God is patient and gracious enough to save me, He is patient and gracious enough to save anyone." That's not all! The uniqueness of the gospel of the grace of God is seen in how the believer has been put into service by Jesus Christ. By the grace of God, Jesus Christ has given the undeserving believer the privilege of serving Him (12). Paul went from being the ultimate sinner to becoming the ultimate saint. Paul went from being the worst enemy of God to becoming one of the finest servants of God to ever live. This is how unique and powerful the gospel is! By God's grace through Jesus Christ Paul was made into a worshiper of God. The result of the believer experiencing the grace of God leads the believer to worship (17).

Having received God's grace through Jesus Christ and having experienced both the uniqueness and power of the gospel, Paul knew that it must be defended (18-20). Paul was not ignorant of Satan's schemes and he knew that Satan would try to twist and distort the truth of the gospel so that the work of Christ might be hindered in people's lives.

Take some time this week to worship Jesus for who He is and what He's done. Praise God for His grace and patience. Thank Him for the uniqueness and power of the gospel. Pray for lost sinners that they might come to know Jesus and that your life would be a living testimony of the transforming power of

Christ. Also, pray that God would help you to be discerning so that you might recognize any teaching that departs from the true gospel of the grace of God. Remember, all sound doctrine is centered in the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Matt Shada