

From Wreckage to Witness: Paul and the Current of Grace

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I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, 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 immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. 1 Timothy 1:12-16

- God looks for someone who is available and faithful, and then He enables them to do the work that He would have done. (v.12)
- The power of God's mercy and grace can change even the most hardened hearts and put us into service. (v. 13)
- God's mercy and grace are much greater than your past sins and way of living. (v. 14)
- Christ came to save sinners. (v. 15)
- The Lord chose the most unlikely candidate and saved him so that everyone who came after Paul might be encouraged to believe in Jesus. (v.16)

How can you position yourself in the current of God's grace?

- Be faithful.
- Overflow with gratitude.
- Realize that the current of God will use your past for his purposes.

Let's Talk About It

Most people wonder how a good God could send anyone to hell. But a deeper question is—how could a holy God ever welcome someone like me into heaven? Paul, once the worst of sinners, reminds us that no one is beyond God's mercy. His story is proof that grace isn't earned—it's received. If God could use Paul's past for His purpose, He can use yours too. So where do you see His grace at work in your life right now?

1 Timothy 1:12-16; Luke 16:10; 2 Chronicles 16:9

Discussion questions:

- Which part of the message impacted or challenged you?
- What part of Paul's story surprised or encouraged you the most—and why? (Consider his past, his transformation, or how God used him afterward.)
- Have you ever felt like your past disqualified you from being used by God? How does Paul's story speak to that feeling?
- What does it mean to you that God's mercy is greater than your mistakes? How have you experienced that personally?
- What is one small area of your life where you can begin showing faithfulness this week? (Think about your words, relationships, habits, or responsibilities.)

Take a Step

This week, take time to reflect on how God's mercy and grace have shaped your story—especially the parts you once tried to hide or forget. Then, ask God how He might want to use that part of your past to encourage or serve someone else..

Here's My Prayer

Jesus, thank You for Your mercy that meets us at our worst and Your grace that gives us a new purpose. Help us to be faithful with what You've given us and to trust that even our past can be used for Your glory. Lead us in Your will and use our lives to point others to You. In Jesus' name, amen.