

## Trophies of the Grace of God

1 Timothy 1:12–17

**Ready:** Discuss what your life was like before you came to Christ.

**Set & Go:** Primary Text: 1 Timothy 1:12–17      Secondary Text: John 9:41

**Set 1:** Read 1 Timothy 1:12–17 and answer the following questions:

What specifically does Paul thank God for in v 12?

How does Paul describe his life before Christ in v 13?

What is the trustworthy statement found in v 15?

For what reason did Paul find mercy (v 16)?

**Set 2:** Briefly discuss: In v 12 Paul goes out of his way to show how much of a sinner he was before Christ saved him, and he directly connects his thanksgiving to this reality. The abundance of God's grace (v 14) is seen in that He "saved a wretch" like Paul. In the same way, the degree to which you will give thanks to God for your salvation will be determined by your ability to see how great a sinner you were when He saved you. Paul wants us remembering our past so that we can revel in God's mercy.

**Go 2a:** Think about the three ways Paul described himself in v 13. How would you describe yourself as an unbeliever? If you have been a Christian since childhood, describe how you would have behaved had God not rescued you?

**Go 2b:** Look at v 12. Who brought about your salvation? On what basis did He do it? How should this make you respond to Him?

**Go 2c:** Discuss the phrase "Unless your sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet"

**Set 3:** Briefly discuss: Look at the emphatic language Paul uses in v 15 (e.g. "trustworthy statement," "deserving full acceptance"). The profound statement is "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Jesus did not come for those who are self-righteous but for those who see their sin. In John 9:41 Jesus told the Pharisees that because they would not admit their blindness but said "we see," they would not be saved. Salvation is for those who see their sin and confess it.

**Go 3a:** When did you really begin to see yourself as a sinner? How did the Lord reveal this to you?

**Go 3b:** When did you begin to see Christ as your only hope for forgiveness? How did the Lord reveal this to you?

**Go 3c:** Do you still see yourself as a sinner in need of ongoing forgiveness? How does the Lord remind you of your continuing need of Him?

**Set 4:** Briefly discuss: Paul's point in this section is to prove that no one is beyond the reach of God's mercy and grace. If God saved Paul, He can save the vilest offender. This truth should shape how we see God's grace toward us (it is limitless) and how we see God's grace toward those we know who are not yet believers. No matter what they've done; they are not beyond hope, and we ought to continue to pray for them and to pursue them with the gospel. Never give up.

**Go 4a:** Are there times when you think that God has not or will not forgive you? When do these thoughts tend to come? What is going on in your life? How might you preach the gospel to yourself in those times?

**Go 4b:** Do you know any unbelievers with whom you are tempted to give up hope? Why? How can you preach the gospel to yourself as a means of spurring you on in evangelism?

**Go 4c:** Do you share the gospel with the unbelievers in your life? If not, what keeps you? How will fanning the flames of the gospel in your heart encourage you toward evangelism?

# Trophies of the Grace of God

1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17

- 1) Christians thank God for saving them in spite of themselves (v 12-13)
- 2) God gets the glory when we realize Christ came to save sinners (v14-15)
- 3) God's saving sinners reminds us that no one is beyond His ability to save (v16)