

PERSONAL APPLICATION

- Where do you feel you need God's strengthening in your life at this time?
- What can you do this week to be a better steward of the things God may have entrusted you with?
- What steps can you take this week to either become more aware of your need for God, your need for his provision, or to receive what you need from him.

PRAYER

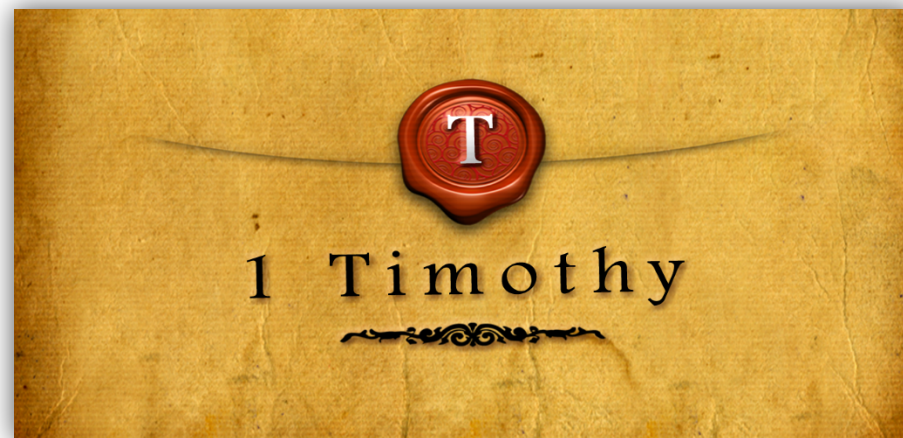
- Ask God to open your eyes to see how much you need him. Especially pray for God's help in recognizing any sin in your life, and repenting from those sins.
- God offers grace (favor), faith, and love. Pray for these wherever you may need them at this time in your life.
- Jesus came to save sinners. List of 3 people you know who need to know this truth and commit to pray daily for them this week.

NOTES



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1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17 – The Gospel: God and Us

CONNECT

- How would you describe your place in your family, black sheep, parents' pet, one of the gang, or forgotten child?
- Think about the health of your current relationships; friendships, workmates, family, etc. What makes a relationship healthy or unhealthy?
- What is one of your all-time favorite sayings? Why?

WHAT

In the movie 'Hitch', Will Smith played the role of a 'date doctor', trying to help men learn how to relate to women. What does that have to do with today's discussion? Well it's often said that, 'Christianity isn't religion, it's relationship'. What this means is that Christianity isn't about how well you are doing what you need to do in order to impress God. Rather, it's about understanding your role, God's role, and how the two of you interact. Paul breaks these elements down for Timothy and summarizes them in a pithy saying to make them easy to remember. In this study we will look at Paul's instructions to Timothy on how to relate to God and discuss how we can apply them to our own lives.

WORD

“¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. ¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But 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 (NIV)

1. God’s Part

“¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.”

1 Timothy 1:12 (NIV)

God’s role in Paul’s life was to strengthen him, trust him, and appoint him to service. Why do we need God’s strength and how does he strengthen us? What are some things God has entrusted us with? Do you think God is aware that sometimes, we are not yet as trustworthy as he considers us to be? Why do you think he trusts us anyway?

2. Our Part

“¹³Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.”
1 Timothy 1:13-14 (NIV)

We all started as ‘black sheep’ in God’s family. We were separated from God and opposed to, or at best, ignorant of him. God pours out his grace on us along with faith and love, inviting us to be ‘parent’s pets’. What are some ways that we can receive God’s grace, faith, and love?

3. God and us

“¹⁵Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. ¹⁶But 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 1:15–16 (NIV)

Jesus came into the world to save sinners, a mission powerfully completed on the cross. In the process, Jesus demonstrates his mercy and ‘immense patience’ as we simply believe in him and receive eternal life. That’s Christianity in a nutshell, summarized in Paul’s ‘trustworthy saying’. Jesus supplied all we need for salvation thru his life, death, and resurrection. Our part is to recognize our need, believe in his provision, and receive what he offers. Where are you in this equation?
