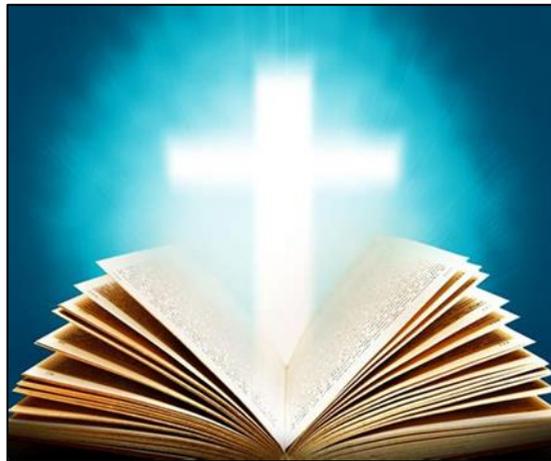


1 Timothy 1:12-20 Paul – an amazing example of God's grace

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. 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. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance.. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--of whom I am the worst. 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. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience. Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith. Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.



This description of Paul's own case illustrate the two thoughts that have been in his mind:-

(1) to encourage Timothy to faithful ministry,



(2) the saving and heart warming power of true doctrine compared with the condemning, despairing character of the false.



I thank Christ Jesus our Lord,

The importance of an attitude of gratitude!

Jesus the Messiah – the focus

Our – inclusive! Lord (usually referring to Jesus)



I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength,

The Lord's activity in his (and our) life
Strength to live for God is needed and is available



that he considered me faithful,

It is his opinion that matters.

And what he 'sees' he creates – Paul's desire to be faithful

Faithfulness doesn't need great talents but it enables us to be useful to God



appointing me to his service.

A great commission and honour
- an apostle of The Lord with the message of salvation.



Even though I was once a blasphemer
and a persecutor and a violent man,

And I punished them often in every synagogue and compelled them to blaspheme; and being exceedingly enraged against them, I persecuted them even to foreign cities. Acts 26:11

How was he a blasphemer as an 'orthodox' rabbi?

He persecuted and 'punished' believers in Jesus

And was deceived in believing he was doing God's will!

Note the violent rage and madness of religious unbelief.

**We cannot forget what we were – it can keep us humble
but we remember it from the position of redeemed men and women.**

I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

God is a merciful God –

No excuses – but an explanation

He was an unbeliever and spiritually blind



The grace of **our** Lord was poured out on me abundantly,

Undeserved favour

A very great amount

1, poured out

2, abundantly



The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly,
along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

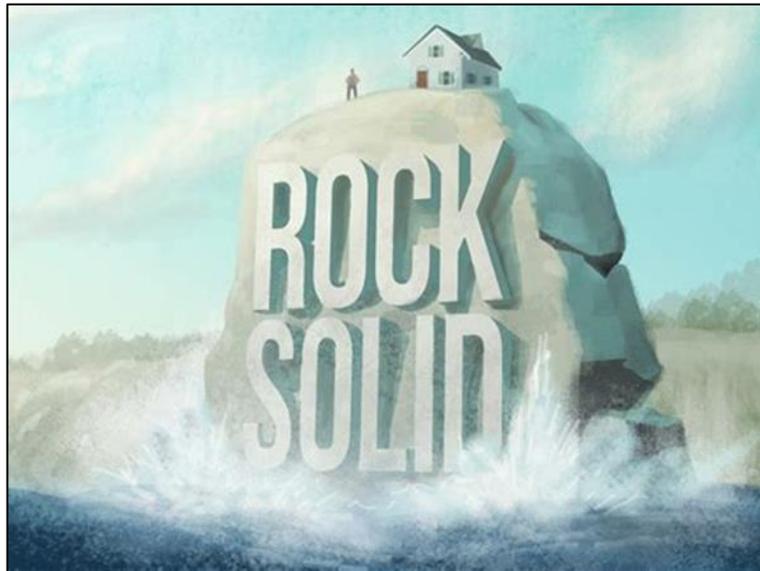
Grace gifts include faith and love.
Jesus is the source and the object of them.



Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance..

The first example of 5 statements that encapsulate profound truths

In a confused, uncertain and deceptive world, there are somethings that you can depend on!



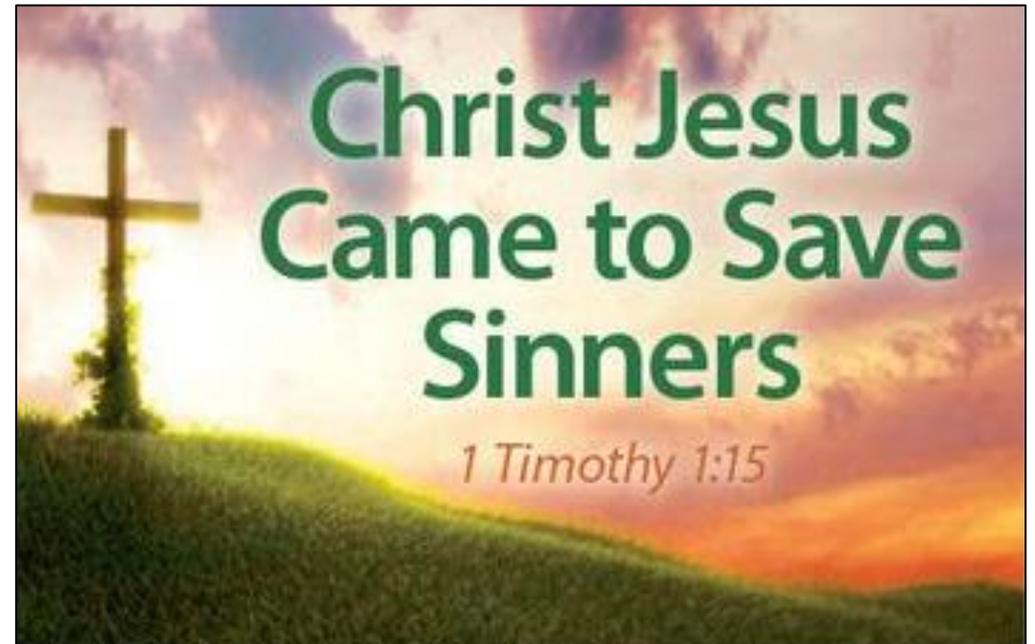
Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance..
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-

The wonderful mission of Jesus

The Messiah

Left glory and entered this fallen world
To save (not just to set a good example)
Sinners - rebels and enemies

It's not the 'righteous' Jesus came for

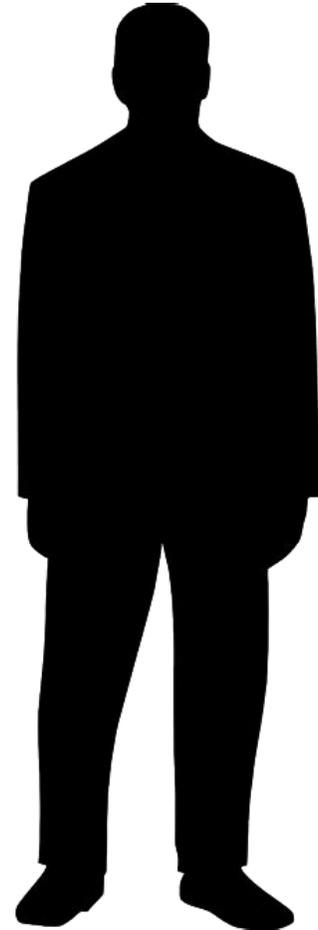


Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners--
of whom I am the worst.

Paul, having seen himself as he was,
now considers himself as No.1 sinner
See his confession in Acts 26:11

What about our own experiences of God giving
us self-revelation?

Some sinners have sunk lower than others but
we are all drowning in sin until Jesus rescues us.



But for that very reason I was shown mercy

The first reason God did it was because he loves!

But there was also another purpose in his saving Paul.



But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me,
the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience

God gets the glory – shown in Jesus' actions

Unlimited patience – but don't deliberately try it!

The Lord is at work on the most unlikely of people
to bring them to a living faith in Him.



PATIENCE

as an example for those who would believe on him
and receive eternal life.

If he can do it for me (and he has), then he can do it for others.

Believing ON him is more than believing IN him.

The result is the gift of eternal life



Now to the King eternal (of the ages), immortal, invisible,
the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

It is time to praise the Lord!

The attributes of God: -

**When we 'see' Him - the only proper
response is praise and worship
Forever!**

Amen - yes yes yes!



Timothy, my son,

That was part of the introduction - start with God!

Now back to the point of the letter...

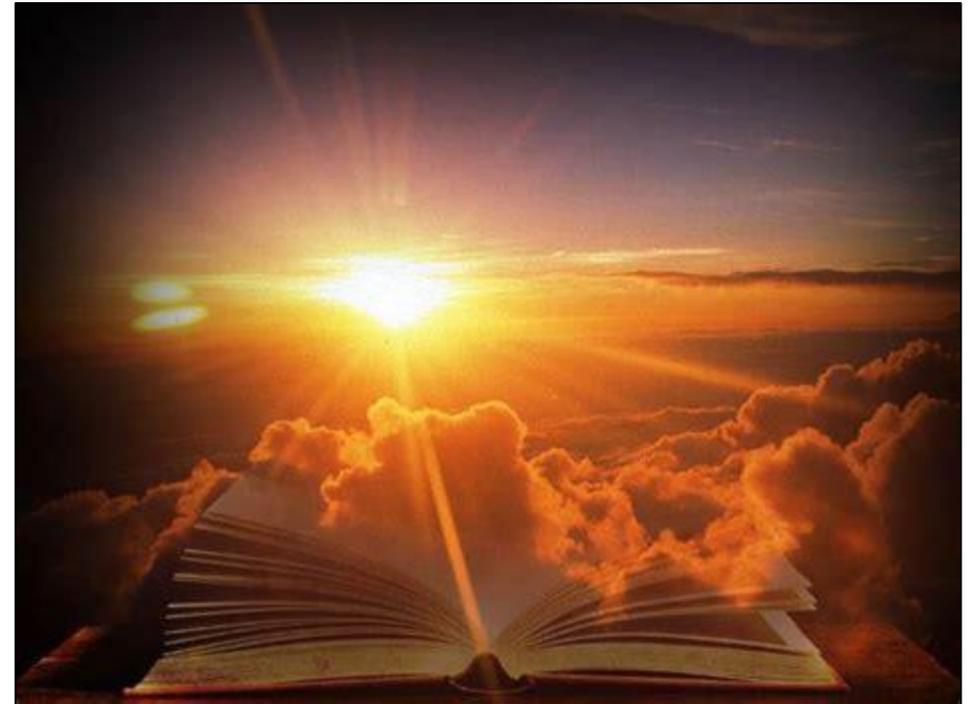
An affectionate greeting Do you include the person's name in your letters, not just at the beginning?



Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies
once made about you,

Something for you
Instructions and promises in the
prophecies for him.

What is the place of prophecy today?
How do we test them?



I give you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by following them you may fight the good fight,

The aim of these things from God is to enable us to fight
- but it is a good fight!

Not the world's ways or weapons.



fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience.

What keeps it as a good fight also depends on **how** we do it
Faith – in God's revealed will for us
Conscience bearing witness that we are doing what is right
before God

Hold on
Tight!

Some have rejected these and so have shipwrecked their faith.

which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

Tragic examples have happened.
Let go of the faith and conscience (bend the rules etc.) - nautical term of which Paul was personally acquainted on several occasions – shipwreck is a real disaster.



Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander,
whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.

2 men who claimed to be followers of
the Lord Jesus who have gone off track

Now outside the protection of fellowship
In Satan's territory

With the hope they might learn the
error of their ways and be restored.



We can see six different reasons why we should follow the pattern of Paul's command to Timothy to remain in Ephesus and **not give up in difficult times.**

We should "Remain in Ephesus" . . .

- Because they need the truth (1Ti_1:3-7).
- Because you minister in a hard place (1Ti_1:8-11).
- Because God uses unworthy people (1Ti_1:12-16).
- Because you serve a great God (1Ti_1:17).
- Because you are in a battle and cannot surrender (1Ti_1:18).
- Because not everyone else does (1Ti_1:19-20).

