

In the first half of chapter one, Paul established the “aim” of his letter to Timothy—right behavior in God’s church by guarding sound doctrine. Here, in this section, Paul reaches back in his own life to recount the foundation of all sound doctrine—the Gospel, and he achieves this by briefly telling of his own conversion story.

1 Timothy 1:12-20

Jesus Came to Save Sinners

I. COMPARING OUR STORIES

MY EXPERIENCE...

YOUR EXPERIENCE...

Having an aim is important. Knowing where you want to go, a clear vision, and path steps to get there, is a vital part of any team, career, relationship, or community. Someone once said, “Aim for nothing and you’ll get it every time.” While the results are always in the Lord’s hands, a clear aim, informed by God’s Word, of where we want to go is how we can practically walk by faith.

II. CONSIDERING OUR STRUGGLES

WHY is a testimony of any kind a powerful tool?

WHEN it comes to considering your experience with Christ, **DO** you ever find yourself “hindered” because of your past sin?

HOW have you personally experienced God’s grace and/or mercy?

CAN you recall a time when God used your personal testimony to encourage someone else in understanding the Gospel?

1 Timothy 1:12-20

Jesus Came to Save Sinners

Read 1 Timothy 1:12-20

OBSERVATION

According to vs. 12, why does Paul begin by thanking Christ Jesus?

How does Paul describe his former way of life in vs. 13?

What did Paul receive in vs. 13, and what overflowed for him in vs. 14?

According to vs. 15, what does Paul reveal as Jesus' purpose statement, and what does Paul say *his* role is in this (vs. 16)?

What charge does Paul give Timothy in vs. 18?

According to vs. 19, what is the result if Paul's charge is not followed, and what two examples are given in vs. 20?

INTERPRETATION

Review Paul's former life from Acts 7:54-58, 8:3, 9:1-9. What do these passages reveal about Paul's description of who he was from 1 Timothy 1:13?

What did Paul deserve for his actions listed in vs. 13? See Leviticus 24:14-16, John 10:33.

Explain the difference between mercy and grace. How did Paul receive both and why is this significant in understanding the Gospel?

How did Paul's life serve as a display of Jesus' perfect patience to others (vs. 16)? How is this similar to us and our lives today? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:20 for insight.

What were the prophecies previously made about Timothy (vs. 18)? See 1 Timothy 4:14, 2 Timothy 1:6-7 for insight.

As you consider the "aim" Paul mentions in 1:5, his charge to Timothy in 1:18-19, and the danger that appears from two men in 1:19-20, what can you conclude about the "good warfare" to be waged in vs. 18? Keep in mind Paul's words to Timothy in Acts 20:28-30.

What does it mean that Hymenaeus and Alexander were "handed over to Satan"? And why were they given to him? (vs. 20). How is this considered part of the "good warfare" mentioned in this section?

APPLICATION

How can we wage good warfare as we walk faithfully in the context of our specific church community?