

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

**Paul — A Pattern For
Potential Believers**
(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

THE BOOK OF 1 TIMOTHY

Introduction / Greeting (1 Timothy 1:1-7)

The Lord Jesus Christ OUR Hope (1:1,2)

We need to understand the importance & value of the doctrine of Christ & be committed to teach believe and practice nothing else! (1:3-7)

The Lawful Use of the Law (1:5-11)

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The Lawful Use of the Law (1 Timothy 1:5-11)

God's Law produces love, a good conscience, sincere faith (5)

Those who stray from the truth cause division & strife (6,7)

Many fail to understand the purpose of Law of Moses and
still attempt to bind it today (7)

The Law is good, but it must be used correctly, i.e., not as our
authority, but pointing to & in harmony w/ the gospel (8-11)

1 Timothy 1:12–17 (NKJV)

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, ¹³ although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴ And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

1 Timothy 1:12–17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

¹⁷ Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

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(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

**1 Timothy 1:11
(NKJV)**

¹¹ according to the
glorious gospel of
the blessed God
which was
committed to my
trust.



Paul's example is a tremendous illustration of the power of the glorious gospel (1:11).



The Law of Moses did not produce the great apostle nor his conversion but the gospel of Jesus Christ did!



“His thanksgiving for the privilege of ministering the Gospel reminded him of the utter difference of his former life, and he gave all credit to the mercy and grace of God who had provided the Gospel” (*Kent p. 89*)

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(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

1 Timothy 1:12
(NKJV)

¹² And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry,

- **“And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord”** : Not a passing expression of thanks but the revelation of a constant attitude of gratitude, as the present tense shows (1:12).
- **“Who has enabled me”** : Paul’s gratitude stemmed from the fact that God, in His grace, had provided Paul all necessary enablement (Acts 9:22; 2 Cor. 12:9)
- **“He counted me faithful”** : Considered him trustworthy (Acts 22:3; Phili. 3:6)
- **“Putting me into the ministry”** : Jesus placed him into a privileged place of service (Ac. 9:15; Col. 1:25)

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(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

1 Timothy 1:13
(NKJV)

¹³ although I was
formerly a
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because I did *it*
ignorantly in unbelief.

- **“although I was formerly”** : a person can break from the past and truly change. (13; 1 Cor. 6:11).
- **“a blasphemer”** : Paul had spoken evil, slanderous and reproachful things against Christ and His people (Acts 9:1; 26:9,11)
- **“a persecutor”** : Paul even traveled from Jerusalem to Damascus, 120 miles to the NE, in the hopes of finding Christians to persecute them (Acts 9:4-5; 22:4; 26:11; Gal. 1:13)
- **“and an insolent man”** : Paul not only arrested people, but he was violent in so doing (Acts 8:3; 9:13; 26:10-11)

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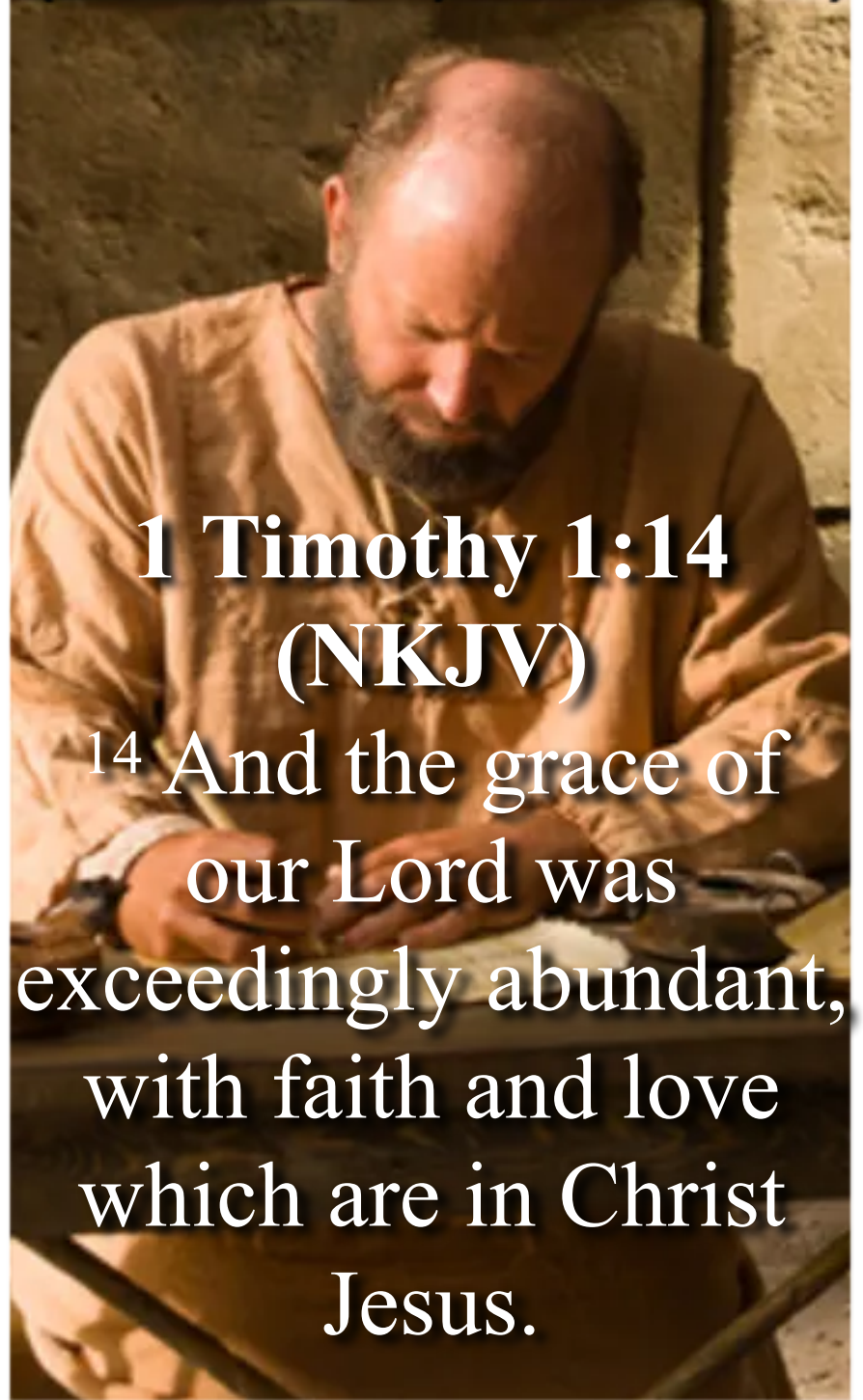
**1 Timothy 1:13
(NKJV)**

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- **“but I obtained mercy”** : A mercy that Paul had not shown Christians. Paul understood his salvation was completely undeserved (1 Cor. 15:10; Gal. 1:15; Acts 9:6; 22:10,16).
- **“because I did it ignorantly in unbelief”** : Not an excuse for his sin! Sins committed in ignorance are still sins before God (Le. 4:1-10; Ac. 17:30)
- ◆ Paul is noting that his opposition to Christ was not a determined opposition to God or His will, for Paul thought he was serving God by persecuting the church (Acts 26:9-11; 23:1; Gal. 1:14; Phili. 3:5-6).

Paul : A Pattern For Potential Believers

(1 Timothy 1:12-17)



**1 Timothy 1:14
(NKJV)**

**14 And the grace of
our Lord was
exceedingly abundant,
with faith and love
which are in Christ
Jesus.**

- **“And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant”** : His ignorance did not make his sins any less sinful or any less in need of God’s grace. (Rom. 5:20)
- ◆ Grace was shown to Paul when Jesus appeared to him (Gal. 1:15)
- ◆ Paul received grace when he believed, repented and was baptized (Acts 9:8,9, 11-18; 22:16)
- **“with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus”** : Paul found in Christ what he should believe in and how he could be a recipient of God’s love (2 Tim. 1:13; Rom. 5:8-10)

Paul : A Pattern For Potential Believers

(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

**1 Timothy 1:15
(NKJV)**

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

- **“This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance”** : A truth that is completely **trustworthy** and deserving of **full acceptance** — (cf 1 Tim. 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim. 2:11; Titus 3:8)
- **“that Christ Jesus came into the world”** : Implies Jesus’s preexistence (Jno. 1:14; Heb. 10:5; Phil. 2:6,7; Gal. 4:4; etc). Jesus said He “came down from heaven” (Jno. 3:13; 6:33, 38, 51, 62; 8:42; 16:28–30; 17:5)
- **“to save sinners”** : the reason why Jesus came (Matt. 1:21; Jno. 1:29; Ro. 5:6, 8–10. 1 Jno. 4:9,10)

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**1 Timothy 1:15
(NKJV)**

15 This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

- **“of whom I am chief”** : i.e., “foremost”
 - This indicates that even now, years after his conversion, he deeply regrets his past (vs. 13; 1 Cor. 15:9; Eph. 3:8)
- ◆ Stephen’s death (Ac 7:58; 8:1)
- ◆ Made havoc of the church (Ac 8:3)
- ◆ Imprisoned Christians & voted to have them killed (Ac 9:1,2; 22:4)
- ◆ Compelled Christians to blaspheme (Ac 26:9-11)
- ◆ His goal was to destroy the church of God (Ga 1:13)
- ◆ The argument is: “If I, (Paul), can be saved, then so can anyone else.”

Paul : A Pattern For Potential Believers

(1 Timothy 1:12-17)

**1 Timothy 1:16
(NKJV)**

¹⁶ However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

- **“However, for this reason I obtained mercy”** : By forgiving Paul, Jesus made him a prime example of what His grace can do (Rom. 5:8,9; cf. Titus 3:3-5; 1 Cor. 6:6-11).
- **“that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life”** : Paul stood before the eyes of all as a witness to the power, the grace, and the love of the Lord, so that the greatest of sinners need not doubt God's desire and will to save them (Jno. 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9)

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**1 Timothy 1:17
(NKJV)**

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

- This contemplation of God's grace as seen in Paul's case prompted him to one of his typical doxologies.
- It is filled with awe and adoration of the Lord. King eternal (lit., "King of the Ages") emphasizes God's sovereignty over all the ebb and flow of human history. (Ps. 10:16)
- Immortal & invisible speak of two of God's attributes: His eternality and His spiritual essence. (Rom. 1:23; Col. 1:15)
- The only God emphasizes His uniqueness in superiority. (Jno. 17:3-5)
- To God alone must all honor and glory be ascribed, eternally. (cf. 6:16).

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Paul : A Pattern (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

If Paul can be saved ANYONE can be saved!

God's GRACE is available to anyone willing to change their life and serve God (Titus 2:11,12)

Jesus is the ONE & ONLY WAY of salvation (Jno. 14:6)

Are we as THANKFUL as we ought to be for God's salvation available in Christ — What does our life show?
(2 Cor. 5:14,15)

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1 Corinthians 15:9–11 (NKJV)

⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. ¹¹ Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.