

“Letters to Timothy” (Part 1)
Pastor Jeff Alexander + September 11, 2016

Who is Timothy? What is the purpose of Paul’s letter to him?

Paul gives a brief testimony of Jesus saving him and appointing him to ministry.

1 Tim. 1:12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service.

What does it mean to be appointed to the service of Jesus?

Are you also appointed to His service? How do you know?

1 Tim. 1:13 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.

***Acts 8:3** Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.*

Even though Saul was persecuting the church, he was really working against Jesus Himself.

***Acts 9:1** Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples. He went to the high priest **2** and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. **3** As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. **4** He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” **5** “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. **6** “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”*

1 Tim. 1:14 The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Paul was saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus Christ, who transformed Paul’s hatred into love.

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

Paul confesses that he is the worst of sinners. His life seems to say, “If Jesus can save me, there’s no doubt He can save you, too!”

***Luke 19:10** “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”*

1 Tim. 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.