

## **Bible Study for September 5 - 11, 2022**

**Read:** 1 Timothy 1:12-20

### **Notes:**

The letters to Timothy are called the Pastoral Epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. They are also unique because they are written to persons rather than congregations. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.

The book of 1 Timothy was written due to difficulties in the Ephesian church. Normally Paul would write the leadership of a congregation, but in this case the leadership was the problem! Paul therefore wrote to his devoted co-worker regarding his views on the situation, pointing out where the leadership had strayed.

In this week's lesson, Paul has begun the delicate balancing of his authority over the congregation with the merciful message of God's love for sinners.

### **Questions to Ponder:**

How many times in your life did you flaunt authority? Why did you do it? Was it just a phase you went through, or does it still continue to this day?

How does Paul establish both his authority and his humility in verses 12-16?

What does Paul teach about the Lord in this section? Note the verbs, nouns, and adjectives. How might this help keep Timothy on the right course in the face of opposition?

Paul mentions that he received mercy for his actions because they had been done in "ignorance and unbelief", as mentioned in verse 13. What does that term mean to you? How might such attitudes be repaired?

Note how "ignorance and unbelief" compare with those who "have shipwrecked their faith" in verse 19. What is the difference? Should one group be treated differently from the other?