

W O M E N ' S B I B L E S T U D Y

Equipped

F O R T H E F I G H T

The Power of the Gospel

1 Timothy 1:12-20

Lesson 2

Simply put, the message of this week's lesson is that if God could save Paul, clearly He can save anyone! In our passage, Paul reminds us that he was once a blasphemer and persecutor set out to destroy the church and discredit the name of Jesus. Thankfully, he had a powerful face to face encounter with Jesus Christ and his life was forever changed. He boldly proclaims in 1 Timothy 1:15 that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners and I am the worst of them all." Not only were his eyes opened to his true condition, but he also saw Jesus for who He really was – the Savior.

Paul knew firsthand the transforming power of the gospel. Once a blasphemer of Jesus, Paul was now blessing Him. Once a persecutor of Christians, Paul was now preaching the gospel to them! Paul is living proof that Christ can change the direction of our lives when we commit ourselves to Him. Let this be a strong message to your heart this week. Instead of looking back with regret and shame, remember that your past does not disqualify you from serving God. As a believer, you are a new creation in Christ with a new direction, new attitudes and actions, and most of all, a new future! Fix your eyes on Jesus and embrace the ministry He has for the new you.

Paul's testimony also teaches us that no one is ever too lost or too far from God. Perhaps today you have lost hope in someone you love ever changing or coming to know the Lord. As far as you can see, it seems impossible that they will ever surrender their life to Him. Just as God changed Paul, He can do the same for your loved one. Don't let discouragement or disappointment cause you to give up hope. God can change our situations. God can change us. God can change others. Remember these lessons and thank God for them!

Open your Bible and begin with a word of prayer

This Week's Scripture: 1 Timothy 1:12-20

"And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, ¹³although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. ¹⁴And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. ¹⁶However, 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. ¹⁷Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. ¹⁸This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, ²⁰of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme."
NKJV

This Week's Memory Verse:

***"And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith
and love which are in Christ Jesus."
1 Timothy 1:14***

1. We often think that the only people in the ministry are pastors, counselors, teachers and the like. However, a minister is simply one who serves others for the sake of spreading the gospel which includes all of us who name Jesus as our Lord. Of course, we cannot minister in our own strength, but Paul has given us the formula for a successful ministry. Read verse 12 of this week's scripture and answer the following questions.

- a. What did the Lord do so that Paul could minister? _____

- b. What was the only thing Paul had to do in order to minister? _____

“Begin at once; before you venture away from this quiet moment, ask your King to take you wholly into His service, and place all the hours of this day quite simply at His disposal, and ask Him to make and keep you ready to do just exactly what He appoints. Never mind about tomorrow; one day at a time is enough. Try it today, and see if it is not a day of strange, almost curious peace, so sweet that you will be only too thankful when tomorrow comes to ask Him to take it also.”

– Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879)

2. Some of us feel that we are not good enough to be put into the ministry. Perhaps it is for those saints that Paul mentions what he was and did before he decided to follow Jesus Christ. What was he like before his conversion, according to verse 13? _____

a. What insight does Acts 8:1-3 give us regarding Paul’s previous life as Saul? What did he do?

b. Personal: What were you like before you decided to follow Christ? _____

c. What hope do verses 14 and 15 give to those of us who have had a difficult past?

Group Discussion

Are you able to accept this hope for yourself and be counted as faithful in order to be put into the ministry? Why or why not? _____

“The Old Testament Hebrew word that we translate atonement means literally “to cover up.” The animal sacrifices were intended to “cover” a man’s sins. In the New Testament, however; the meaning of atoning sacrifice is conveyed by the word expiate, which means “to put away.” The blood that Jesus shed in our behalf on the cross at Calvary does not merely cover up our sin, it puts away our sin as though it had never been committed.”

– T. W. Wilson (1919-2001)

3. In verse 18, Paul reminds Timothy about the time when there was a prophetic word spoken over him before he was sent out to the mission field. How did Paul want Timothy to approach his calling, according to verse 18b? _____

a. How do you wage war in the Christian life, according to Colossians 3:5? _____

4. Paul ends this section of scripture with a warning. What had some rejected, according to verse 19? _____

a. What was the outcome of this rejection? _____

5. The power of the gospel is wrapped up nicely in 1 John 5:1-5. Please meditate on these scriptures and summarize what they say about being a follower of Christ and the power available to us. _____

a. How can you apply this battle plan to your own Christian life? _____

