



26 APRIL 2026 PM

1 Timothy 1:3-17

SERVE

= to be a servant to; to perform the duties of

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

1 Timothy 1:16

INTRODUCTION

- for the last several weeks, we have been looking at the challenge given by the Apostle Paul to the church at Corinth concerning giving...themselves to God and their money for a special offering
- tonight, I want to step back from that text and look at the blessings that come from giving ourselves to God

when Paul wrote this first letter to Timothy, he only had about seven more years to live

he looked back on his early days of ministry and wanted Timothy to understand the blessings that could be his if he fully surrendered

- in our text, Paul described the chaos of the world he and Timothy were living in and the special challenges that come with it

verses 3-4 the need to stay and teach

verses 6-7 vain jangling and confusion

verses 9-10 'the list'

verse 20 problem people

2 Timothy 1:15 Phygellus, Hermogenes

2 Timothy 2:17 Hymenaeus, Philetus

there are plenty of challenges to keep us away from serving God...**BUT**

in **verse 16**, Paul gave his **PERSPECTIVE** on the ministry of God:

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

in **verse 17**, he gave his **PRIORITY** concerning the ministry of God:

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

don't miss this: two keys elements:

we are to show Christ to the world by living a godly example before them

we are to make certain Christ receives all the honor and glory from our lives

with our *perspective* focused and our *priority* straight, understanding the challenges that have been presented to us...

let's look at the **PROVISION** of a life given over to God's use

1. YOU HAVE BEEN ENTRUSTED **verse 11**

According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust.

notice that it is a **GLORIOUS** gospel...God designed it and there is nothing we need to add to or take from it

entrust = to assign the responsibility for doing something to someone; to place into one's care or protection

1 Thessalonians 2:4

But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

what a tremendous responsibility was given not only to Paul and the early church, but to us, as well

in **Acts 10**, an angel appeared to Cornelius and instructed him to call for Peter

Romans 10:14

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?

this gospel given to us? it is also called:

1 Timothy 6:3 doctrine according to godliness

2 Timothy 1:13 sound words

2 Timothy 4:3 sound doctrine

Titus 2:8 sound speech

every day, in numerous ways, we decide **IF** and **HOW** we will share this gospel that is entrusted to us

verse 13 would you trust YOU???

1 Corinthians 15:9 persecuted the church

Acts 9:1 breathing out threatenings...slaughter

2. YOU HAVE BEEN ENABLED **verse 12**

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

let's define a few terms:

enable = (endunamo) to give power to

counted = given worthy honor

putting into = to place intentionally

* this word is in the *aorist* tense, meaning it is an action that must be renewed

this implies reliance on Christ

more than being entrusted with the gospel, Paul understood he had also been given the ability to do what he was charged with

1 Thessalonians 5:24

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...

1 Corinthians 2:4

And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...

NOTE: in **verses 13, 16**, twice Paul tells us he *obtained mercy* a phrase that means 'to be hardened'

he was hardened against his past sins

he was hardened toward future challenges

3. YOU SHOULD BE AN ENSAMPLE vs 16

Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

if you look up the word *ensample* in the dictionary, you will find it is 'an archaic word used only in ancient texts to describe a moral example'

the word we use today is **example**

it's a shame we have replaced a good, biblical word with a shallow one

ex- is a prefix meaning 'out'

extend you hand

exceed the boundary

en- is a prefix meaning 'to put into'

endanger the visitors

encase the artifact in glass

so an *ensample* is a moral quality that can be put into another person by living as an *example* in front of them

Paul desired to be an ensample to others; he did not shy away from the responsibility of impacting those around him

1 Thessalonians 1:7

...so that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia...

NOTE: these were the churches Paul was challenging to give to his special project...they learned from the ensample of the Thessalonians

the world has plenty of examples of how to live:

the internet is filled with click bait and
content driven to generate income

there are lots of examples...bad examples
abound in the world today

but we have relegated ensamples to the dustbin
of history...

in Sunday School this morning, I stated
the following:

Everyone has influence. Someone is
following you.

verse 16 ...to them which should hereafter
believe on him to life everlasting.

Will you be the ensample they need poured
into them?