



## Amazing Grace - 1 Tim 1:12-17

Feb 23 - Sarah Zezchuk

### INTRO

In 1 Timothy 1, Paul is encouraging Timothy in his ministry to the church in Ephesus. Paul is concerned about false teachers who are focusing on their own knowledge and power, instead of focusing on the Grace of God. He shares the story of his conversion, highlighting Jesus' transformative power in his life. The church in Ephesus needed to be focusing on God's power and not their own, and the same is true for us today.

*Open with prayer<sup>1</sup>, then read 1 Tim 1:12-17 together as a group. Consider dividing it by paragraph. It's helpful to all use the same Bible translation. SLC preaches from the NLT.*

### SERMON RECAP

1. Intro: A tale as old as time about a man transforming because of grace & love.
2. Recap start of 1 Timothy, and who Paul is writing to.
3. The Story of Paul's Conversion
  - a. Was a Pharisee persecuting Christians, was changed by Jesus- 1 Tim 1:13 & Acts 9
  - b. Didn't change religions, but changed how he lived out his faith
4. God's Amazing Grace
  - a. Paul had been a Pharisee, known for thinking condemning other people for not living the way God wanted them to
  - b. Concerned that the false teachers in Ephesus were distracting from the true focus of the Gospel - 1 Tim 1:4

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<sup>1</sup> Some groups prefer to begin with a longer time of sharing and prayer. This is a good instinct and ensures that prayer time doesn't get shortened by time constraints.



- c. It's God's grace that transforms our life, so we should be sharing that with people - 1:16
  - d. What distracts us from God's grace:
    - i. Looking the part
    - ii. Self-confidence
    - iii. Thinking we can live however we want
    - iv. Talking instead of doing
  - e. Paul was completely captured by God's grace and it changed how he lived. Hyperpleonazō. Beyond-many. Hyper much grace.
  - f. Was realistic, I AM A SINNER, but knew how much God valued him
    - i. Jesus came to the world to save sinners. I am one of them. (1:15)
    - ii. This is where the LAW has a purpose. To help us know that we are sinners. Going to dig in more in Life Group.
5. Our Response to Grace
- a. Realizing our sin
    - i. Stay aware of being both sinners and also loved by Christ
    - ii. John Newton's Amazing Grace
  - b. Reflecting on Jesus' actions
    - i. Lent - Repent (change your mind)
    - ii. Communion - Reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection
  - c. Above all: Lives are transformed because God's Grace is truly amazing

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Much of 1 Timothy is focussed directly on addressing particular situations within the church in Ephesus. But in this week's passage, Paul focusses on something different. It's a meditation on God's grace in his life. Do you think this a random digression by Paul? Or is this integral to his main topic of correcting the false teachers in Ephesus?
2. Read Romans 5:20-21, and Romans 7:1-13. According to Paul, what purpose does the law serve?
3. What does 'here is a trustworthy saying' mean? Try and answer this together as a group by reading 1 Timothy 1:12, 1 Timothy 3:1, 1 Timothy 4:8-9, 2 Timothy 2:11-13, Titus 3:3-8.
4. How would you define the word *sin*?<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Remember, the Greek word for sin, *hamartia*, was the word used for when an archer missed the target. We discussed this in our teaching on Ephesians 2 in October.



5. In 1 Tim 1:13, Paul writes, “God had mercy on me because I did it [sinned] in ignorance and unbelief.” Read Luke 12:47-48 and Romans 6:23 together, then discuss this question: does ignorance and unbelief let us “off the hook” for our sins? Why do you think so, or why not? What are the implications of a yes or a no answer?
6. Paul calls himself the “worst” of all sinners in 1 Tim 1:15. Is this literally true? Compare to Matthew 7:5.
7. How would you describe Jesus’ views on the Law and on grace? What role, if any, do they play in our lives as followers of the way of Jesus?? See, for instance, Matthew 5:17-20; 9:12-13.
8. Paul describes the way that God’s grace has transformed his life. In his case, it was a dramatic transformation. For others of us, it is more gradual or subtle. What are some of the ways God’s grace has changed your life?

## ACT & PRAY

1. As a group, share areas of praise and need. Write them down so you can be praying for them during the week.
2. Remind yourselves of your Adopt-a-Missionary, and any prayer requests you’ve seen from them.
3. Pray for Alpha. Huge thanks to those groups who are helping with food!
4. Spend time praying, either all together, or in smaller groups. Feel free to experiment with silent prayer, written prayer, etc.

