

## Just One of Many Great Testimonies

### I Tim. 1:12-17

#### ***The Lord's mercy/unlimited grace can save the worst sinner. 12-14***

- ❖ Paul liked to share his testimony, pointing out how he had once persecuted the church, Acts 22:3ff, 26:4ff., I Cor. 15:8-10, Gal. 1:13-24.
- ❖ Here thanks is offered to Christ rather than to the Father as he most typically does, Eph. 5:20, Col. 1:3, 3:17.
- ❖ Grace and mercy are paired together as in Eph. 2:4,5. Here the Lord's grace was "abundant/unlimited"—which Paul sure needed!

#### ***The Lord's perfect patience with Paul is an example to us all. 15-16***

- ❖ Christ came into the world to save sinners, and Paul views himself as being the worst of the worst. Notice he says "I am" emphatically.
- ❖ Paul viewed his personal salvation to be an example/pattern for the way God will be able to win the hearts of people—even those who were once very antagonistic towards Christ.
- ❖ How about other testimonies like Timothy's or yours?
- ❖ But why share this with Timothy since he knew Paul's testimony? Because Timothy also has a special job to do, see v.18 and not to give up hope for reaching those problem teachers, II Tim. 2:25,26.

#### ***The Lord surely deserves praise forever for saving us. 17***

- ❖ This sure sounds like a 1<sup>st</sup> century hymn, as with 6:15,16. See also Eph. 3:21, Phil. 4:30, Rom. 11:36.
- ❖ The *Lord* here = Jesus, see 6:15/Rev. 19:16, II Tim. 4:18.
- ❖ Because God graciously saved us He deserves our eternal gratitude.

*Do you have a testimony? Do you share it for the sake of others?*

