

### Worksheet #3: 1 Timothy 1:12–20 (NKJV)

And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting *me* into the ministry, <sup>13</sup> although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. <sup>14</sup> And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. <sup>15</sup> This *is* a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. <sup>16</sup> However, 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. <sup>17</sup> Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>18</sup> This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, <sup>19</sup> having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, <sup>20</sup> of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.

**Interpretation:** *Read through the passage, and then review and make notes under the questions below.*

1. What must it have meant to Paul to sense that Christ had “counted [him to be] faithful,” placing him in ministry (v. 12)?

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2. In what sense had Paul received “mercy,” and in what sense had he received abundant “grace” (vv. 13–14)?

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3. Why could Paul say that the “faith and love which are in Christ Jesus” was an evidence of grace in his life (v. 14)?

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4. Why could Paul claim to be “chief” among sinners (v. 15)?

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5. How does Christ’s mercy to Paul allow God to demonstrate his longsuffering? In what sense does Paul serve as “a pattern” (or model) to those who will believe (v. 16)?

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6. What does it mean for Christ to be King “eternal, immortal, invisible” and for God to “alone [be] wise” (v. 17)? What does this communicate about God’s character?

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7. What might Paul have in mind when he refers to “the prophecies previously made” concerning Timothy (v. 18)? How does 1 Tim. 4:14 help us to understand this phrase?

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8. What might Paul mean when he says that he “delivered” two people “to Satan” (v. 20)? How would such an action teach them “not to blaspheme”?

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**Application:** *Take time to reflect on the implications of this passage for your own life today.*

9. What does this passage mean for your walk with the Lord?

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10. How does this passage challenge the way you think about situations in daily life? What should you do about that?

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