514 I. TIMOTHY. I.   
   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION.   
 AUTHORIZED VERSION REVISED.   
 ua corto. thanks to him "that put strength in Christ Jesus our Lord, who   
 me, even Christ Jesus our Lord, that hath enabled me, for that   
 . \*he counted me faithful, Yappointing he counted me faithful,   
 x1 Cor. vii, me to the ministry ; }8 though I? was putting me into the minis-   
 3. try ; 13 who was before a   
 before a blasphemer, and a perse- blasphemer, and a per-   
 Kose . secutor, and injurious: but   
 Pbili.0° eytor, and an insulter: yet I ob- I obtained mercy, because   
 alukerniti, tained mercy, because \*I did it TE did it ignorantly in un-   
 sia. ignorantly in unbelief. 14> But the belief. 4 And the grace   
 & grace of our Lord was exceeding of our Lord was exceeding   
 abundant with faith and   
 d Luke vii abundant with faith @and love love which is in Christ   
   
 was (indicating simply the past; pointing marked for a certain aim or end: and so   
 to the time during which this his commis- it is best taken here,—not for the act of   
 sion had been growing into its fulness and “putting me into, the ministry, as A. V.)   
 importance) entrusted (not these people. to the ministry (what sort of ministry, is   
 ‘The connexion with the following appears declared, Acts xx. 24); 18. (and all   
 to be this: his mind is full of the more is he thankful, seeing that he   
 at the thought of the commission which was was once a direct opponent of the Gospel),   
 thus entrusted to him: he does not regret being before (the participle is con-   
 the charge, but overflows with gratitude at cessive, though I was before) a blasphemer   
 the remembrance of Christ’s grace to him, (see Acts xxvi. 9, 11), persecutor, and   
 especially he recollects also what he insulter (one who added insult to persecu-   
 once was; how nearly approaching [for I tion. The facts which justified the use of   
 would not exclude even that thought as such a term were known to St. Paul’s con-   
 having contributed to produce these strong science: we might well infer them, from   
 expressions] some of those whom he has his own confessions in Acts xxii. 4, and   
 just mentioned. So that he now gocs off xxvi. 9—12, He. describes himself as   
 from the immediate subject, even more com- “being exceedingly mad against them’):   
 pletely and suddenly than is his in his howbeit (“ God’s mercy and St. Paul’s want   
 other writings, as again and again in these of it are put in sharp contrast.” Ellicott)   
 pastoral Epistles: shewing thereby, I I had mercy shewn me, because I did it   
 believe, the tokens of advancing age, and ignorantly (so Rom. x. 2, of the Jews,   
 of that faster hold of individual habits “They have a zeal of God, but not aceord-   
 of thought and mannerisms, which cha- ing to knowledge.” Compare also, as most   
 racterizes the decline life). important parallel, Lord’s prayer for   
 12 ff.] (See summary on ver. 3.) I give murderers, Luke xxiii. in unbelief (un-   
 thanks (this peculiar expression is only belief was his state, which his ignorance   
 used by the Apostle here and in 2 Tim. of what he did was a consequence. The   
 i, 3) to that put strength in me (viz. clause is a very weighty one, as to   
 for His work: he is here treating of the others under similar circumstances: and   
 divine enlightening and strengthening should lead us to form our judgments in all   
 which he received for the ministry: com- charity respecting even persecutors—and if   
 pare Acts ix. 22, where the same word of them, then surely even with a wider ex-   
 in the Greek occurs, “Saul increased tension of charity to those generally, who   
 in strength”’—a coincidence not to be over- lie in the ignorance of unbelief, whatever   
 looked), [even] Christ Jesns our Lord, that he its cause, or its 14.) But   
 He accounted me faithful (compare the (contrast still his former state, and ex-   
 strikingly similar expression, Cor. vii. 25, planatory of his having found mercy) the   
 “I give my opinion, as having received grace of our Lord (His mercy shewn to me   
 mercy from the Lord to be faithful :” —but not in strengthening me for His   
 —He knew me to be such an one, in work, endowing me with spiritual gifts,   
 His foresight, as would prove faithful &e., as Chrysostom and others, for the   
 to the great trust), appointing me (com- mercy shewn to him is the ruling idea   
 pare 1 Thess. vy. 9. The expression is through the whole, and he recurs to it   
 there used of that appointment of God in again ver. 16, never having risen above it   
 His sovereignty, by which our eourse is to that of his higher gifts) superabounded