

1. What does it mean that Christ Jesus considered Paul to be faithful?
2. Paul accuses himself of being the chief of sinners. What sins did he commit to earn this distinction?
3. What can we learn from the Lord's mercy toward Paul?
4. In many places Paul invites us to follow his example of Christian living. What is he an example of here?

To put it another way:

1 Tim 1:12-13 (NIV) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

1 Tim 1:3-4 (ESV) I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief

Cross references:

Acts 8:1-3 (DBY) And Saul was consenting to his being killed. And on that day there arose a great persecution against the assembly which was in Jerusalem, and all were scattered into the countries of Judaea and Samaria except the apostles. 2And pious men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul ravaged the assembly, entering into the houses one after another, and dragging off both men and women delivered them up to prison.

2 Cor 4:15 (DBY) For all things [are] for your sakes, that the grace abounding through the many may cause thanksgiving to abound to the glory of God.

5. What does Paul remind Timothy of, as an encouragement for him to fight the good fight?

6. What might be a similar motivation for us?

7. How can someone “shipwreck” their faith?

8. What does it mean to be handed over to Satan, as happened to Hymenaeus and Alexander?

Cross references:

Acts 26:9-11 (ESV) I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And I did so in Jerusalem. I not only locked up many of the saints in prison after receiving authority from the chief priests, but when they were put to death I cast my vote against them. And I punished them often in all the synagogues and tried to make them blaspheme, and in raging fury against them I persecuted them even to foreign cities.

2 Tim 1:13 (ESV) Follow the pattern of the sound[d] words that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

Mark 2:17 (KJV) When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

1 Tim 4:14 (ESV) Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you.

1 Cor 5:4-5 (ESV) When you are assembled in the name of the Lord Jesus and my spirit is present, with the power of our Lord Jesus, you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

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