

## APPLICATION

Each week of our study, application will focus on two things: **personal character transformation** and **bible study methods**.

A person's Christian spirituality can often be seen in one thing: their level of gratitude. Are you consistently grateful? (1:12)

**CHALLENGE:** As Paul does in this passage, share your testimony with one person this week. (1:12-16)

**1 Timothy 1:15-16** is a simple but fantastic model for sharing your faith. There are two steps here:

- 1) Declare the simple Gospel—Jesus died to save sinners.
- 2) Tell how you accepted Jesus' offer of salvation.

This is something all of us can do.

What does it mean to "fight the good fight"? (1:18)

Are you in "the good fight" or a bunch of distracting fights?

## HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Good Bible study is built on good **Observation**. This is the first and most important step in Bible Study methods. Because it is so crucial we will revisit it today.

When you read the Bible, pay close attention to the text. Read and reread. Look for the following clues and pieces of evidence and examine each as you practice the critical step of observation:

- ◇ **Rare/Unusual Words**—every word was chosen intentionally. Why this one? Where else is it used? What is the context?
- ◇ **Repeated Words**—these may be a clue to an important theme
- ◇ **Key Words**—words like "so that," "for," "because" or "in order that" are major clues to purpose, cause and argument flow
- ◇ **Main Verbs**—these words carry the weight and movement
- ◇ **Connect Words**—"but," "therefore," etc. are critical connectors
- ◇ **Sentence Structure**—this is often a clue to emphasis and intent

**PRACTICE:** Write 25 observations from only **Acts 1:8**. (can you get 50?)

# FIRST TIMOTHY

1:12-20

**EASTER  
SERVICES  
April, 24**

**8:00 / 9:30 / 11:00 AM**

**No Adult Communities**

**No Kids Min./Nursery at 8:00**

APRIL 10, 2011

# FIRST TIMOTHY 1:12-20

## A BAD EXAMPLE

## FOR FURTHER STUDY

Paul continues in this section the theme of instructing false teachers. This responsibility was so critical for Timothy that Paul uses his best example of God's grace and mercy as a way of encouraging Timothy to stay strong.

**1:12-14**—These three verses are one sentence in the original text. The context jumps off from **verse 11** where Paul states that he has been *entrusted with the gospel*. This leads to the illustration of his conversion.

There are multiple reasons to see these verses referring to Paul's conversion event, described in **Acts 9, 22, and 26**. 1) A specific verb tense is used throughout conveying completed action in the past. 2) Paul describes himself as "formerly a blasphemer, persecutor and violent aggressor." These correspond to his "zeal for the Lord" as the active Saul of Tarsus (**Philippians 3:4ff**) before meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road. 3) This illustration flows directly into the statement of **v.15-16** which speak of salvation in general, and Paul's salvation in particular.

Why did Christ Jesus save Paul? If he was still a *violent aggressor*, how did Jesus *consider him faithful*? What is the basis for God's mercy?

**1:15**—The formula "*It is a trustworthy statement deserving...*" is used five times by Paul and only in the Pastoral Epistles (**1 Tim 3:1; 4:9; Titus 3:8; 2 Tim 2:11**). It seems to introduce either a quote or a well-known saying. Paul completes the connection by adding at the end of the statement about Christ's death for sinners, "*among whom I am the foremost of all.*"

If God can save Paul, then He can save anybody.

**1:16**—Here is the reason Paul was shown mercy, *so that* God could make an example of Paul; an example of His mercy and grace.

**1:17**—This terse saying is likely another borrowed statement from the church during Paul's day. It is a beautiful statement of worship.

**1:18-20**—Paul now connects all of **1:3-17** and applies it to Timothy. "*This command*" refers back to **1:3-4**. Paul "*entrusts*" it to Timothy as God "*entrusted*" the gospel to Paul (**v.11**), so the line of authority continues.

Paul mentions two men who were perhaps false teachers. They are *blasphemers* (**v.20**), conspicuously similar to the old Paul. Could Paul be encouraging Timothy that God can rescue these two troublemakers as well?

For more background and helps on First Timothy, go to our site [faithbibleonline.org](http://faithbibleonline.org) under the *Messages* tab for the **First Timothy Tool Kit**. Open an easy PDF and you are on your way.

