

This is a Faithful Saying

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Tracts are free as the Lord provides. Contributions appreciated, and will be used in Mission work.

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The thoughts that we would like to call to your attention are found in I Timothy 1:12-16: “And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; who was before a blasphemer, and persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.”

This is a portion of Paul’s instructions to his son in the ministry, young Timothy, who was undoubtedly the pastor of the church at Ephesus (I Timothy 1:3). God is using Paul to instruct this young minister (and His ministers in every generation), to watch himself and to watch his doctrine (I Timothy 4:16); in the two epistles addressed to him. However, this would be a good thing for every Christian to do. In our text Paul reveals to us that he is a trophy of divine grace; but he isn’t boasting of his sinful past – he is exalting Christ Jesus who died on the cross as the sinners’ substitute “and was raised again for their justification,” (Romans 4:25) which made possible his salvation.

According to Paul no sinner is beyond the reach of saving grace, who will accept Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour! He reveals that he was the chief sinner, and that he was saved as a pattern, or example of saving grace (I Timothy 1:15-16). Saul, the persecutor’s sinful life is used as an example of what God’s grace can do for a hell deserving sinner. His conversion is positive proof that it takes saving grace to make purpose in life. This grace, the manifestation of this love, this mercy is all revealed in Paul because: **“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.”**

Paul says that the message of salvation is **“worthy of all acceptance.”** The message of salvation is worthy of acceptance to the extent that Christ Jesus becomes the Lord and Master of the believer’s life, in a personal way. This great message is worthy of every one’s acceptance. Therefore, it is to be accepted by you, my friend! The only choice that anyone has is to either accept Christ as his Saviour, or perish in his sins. Christ is the only Saviour from sin – man either trusts Him as Saviour, or dies in his sins and goes to Hell. Your attitude toward Christ, so far as you are concerned, is the thing that will determine your destiny – therefore, it behooves you to trust Him at once as your Saviour if you haven’t already done so. Today is the day to settle the matter – right now is the time!