

WORK OF GOD

From the series – 1 TIMOTHY: EVERY MOMENT, EVERY DAY

SUMMARY...

Often, when we think about work, it is ‘our work’ that we are thinking about. We think about work through the lens of the role or title we have – teacher, doctor, real estate agent, etc. But for the Apostle Paul, when he thanks Jesus for work, he thanks Jesus for strengthening him to do Jesus’s work ([1 Timothy 1:12](#)). The work that Jesus had accomplished *in* Paul shaped how Paul saw the work that Jesus wanted to accomplish *through* Paul. As we read [1 Timothy 1:12-17](#), we see one of the clearest articulations in the entire New Testament of the Gospel message. The Apostle Paul is unable to speak about the Gospel without being reminded of the generous and gracious mercy extended to him by Jesus. The work that God has invited us to be part of is so much bigger than what we do Monday through Friday, from nine to five. The work of God is to serve as ‘prime examples’ of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done to anyone and everyone around us.

BIBLE STUDY & DISCUSSION

1. Read [Acts 26:9-11](#) and then [1 Timothy 1:12-13](#) – why was Jesus able to consider Paul ‘trustworthy’ to serve Him? What impact did God’s mercy have on Paul and how he understood his ‘even though...’ story?
2. ‘Even though’ Paul had a backstory that we would assume would disqualify him from being used by God, he readily shares his story. Why is Paul so willing to share his ‘even though...’ story? Have you struggled with feeling ‘disqualified’ from being used by God because of your ‘even though...’ story? If yes, how should God’s mercy towards us in Christ Jesus flip that script? How could you (or have you) used your story to explain the saving grace of Christ Jesus to someone?
3. Read [1 Timothy 1:14](#) – In reflecting on God’s mercy, the Apostle Paul is overwhelmed with gratitude in light of the generosity and grace of Jesus to ‘fill him’ with what he needed most – faith and love. To what extent has His mercy changed you? Do you express gratitude towards God for the things He has done in your life? How is this gratitude shaping every moment of every day? If gratitude is lacking, what might be the source of that and what practical things can we do daily to have hearts filled with gratitude towards God?
4. Read [1 Timothy 1:15](#) – In nine short words – ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’ the Apostle Paul articulates the Gospel message and declares that this news is worthy of our trust. How should these nine words shape how we see ourselves and how we see Jesus? To further understand this point, read [Matthew 19:25-26](#). If Jesus came to save sinners, that means there is no room for self-salvation. In what ways do you see ‘self-salvation’ rear its ugly head in your life?
5. Read [1 Timothy 1:16](#) – The Apostle Paul makes clear that in light of God’s work in us (salvation) our work is to serve as ‘prime examples’ of God’s patience and mercy. Is the example you’re currently

setting for those around you consistent with the work that God has done in you? In what ways do you want to see God grow your example of who Jesus is and all that He has done.

NEXT STEPS...

The Apostle Paul was generous with his 'even though...' story. He did not hide who he was or what he had done before meeting Jesus. Consequently, countless numbers of people have been encouraged by his example and placed their faith in Jesus as a result. Identify some ways God might want you to recognize the ways He has worked in you as ultimately shaping His work through you.

If the work that God has called us to is to serve as a 'prime example' to those around us, who can you begin sharing your 'even though...' story with so that they might learn about God's patience, grace, mercy and love? Pray for your "one" and share how you can do the work of Jesus this week.

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