

*¹²I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him, ¹³even though I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people. **But God** had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. ¹⁴Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus. ¹⁵This is a trustworthy saying, and everyone should accept it: “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners”—and I am the worst of them all. ¹⁶**But God** had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life. ¹⁷All honor and glory to God forever and ever! He is the eternal King, the unseen one who never dies; he alone is God. Amen.*

– 1 TIMOTHY 1:12-17, NLT

1. Everyone has a “before Christ” _____ story

“...I used to blaspheme the name of Christ. In my insolence, I persecuted his people...I am the worst of them all.” – v. 13, 15

“Saul [Paul] was going everywhere to destroy the church. He went from house to house, dragging out both men and women to throw them into prison.” – ACTS 8:3

“Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord’s followers.” – Acts 9:1

“I persecuted the followers of the Way, hounding some to death, arresting both men and women and throwing them in prison.” – ACTS 22:4

“I used to believe that I ought to do everything I could to oppose the very name of Jesus the Nazarene.” – ACTS 26:9

“You know what I was like when I followed the Jewish religion—how I violently persecuted God’s church. I did my best to destroy it.” – GALATIANS 1:13

2. Everyone is offered a “with Christ” _____ story

*“**But God** had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief.” – v. 13*

“Oh, how generous and gracious our Lord was! He filled me with the faith and love that come from Christ Jesus.” – v. 14

““Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’—and I am the worst of them all.” – v. 15

“For I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is the power of God at work, saving everyone who believes.” – ROMANS 1:16

“We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are.” – ROMANS 3:22

“And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart.” – EZEKIEL 36:26

3. Everyone is offered “through Christ” a _____ story

“...who has given me strength to do his work. He considered me trustworthy and appointed me to serve him.” – v. 12

*“**But God** had mercy on me so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of his great patience with even the worst sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in him and receive eternal life.” – v. 16*

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.” – JOHN 14:12

“This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” – 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Today’s Takeaway & Invitation...

Jesus wants to do for _____ what He did for Paul