

The Person God Wants To Use
(To Lead Others To Christ)
1 Timothy 1:11-16

Introduction:

1. Last week we saw salvation made simple here in 1 Timothy 1. What did we learn?
 - Salvation cannot be attained by self-effort. You cannot work for it!
 - Salvation has been provided through a Savior. God brought deliverance from outside of ourselves!
 - Salvation is secured by simple faith. You simply believe on God's answer for your sin – Jesus Christ. Believe that what He did is enough.
2. This is what Paul called "*the glorious gospel of the blessed God.*" It is glorious! vs. 11
 - Praise God, He didn't set up salvation's plan such that a person had to be a genius, or a college graduate, or have a high IQ to figure it out. Even a child can understand the way to heaven through Jesus Christ.
3. But did you know that God's plan of salvation is not only to be trusted in and believed? It is also to be shared! God's desire is for we that have been saved to communicate this glorious gospel (good news) to others.
4. The gospel of Christ is good news, no doubt. But what good is good news if people don't hear it and know about it? Are there people that you know and rub shoulders with that have never heard the good news of Christ?
5. You can be the channel that God uses to lead others to Jesus Christ. God desires to use you, Christian! How do we know this?

First, because God has entrusted the gospel to you – vs. 11

1. Jesus Christ had entrusted the glorious gospel to Paul. Paul did not receive it from Peter, James, or John. Paul did not receive this gospel message from any of the twelve apostles. He received it by direct revelation of Jesus Christ. Galatians 1:11-12
2. Paul calls it the "*glorious gospel*" because he didn't receive it from Christ on earth. He received it from the risen, exalted, glorified Christ! It is the message that Christ is glorified at the right hand of the Father and offering grace to all His enemies on earth.
3. This good news of Christ and His grace was a deposit of truth that Christ had made in Paul. Paul, in turn, had deposited this truth into other faithful men. God's plan was for them to deposit that truth into others and pass their faith along. 2 Timothy 2:2
4. This continued through the years until, finally, you and I have received it. It has now been committed to our trust. What an honor, but what a responsibility.
5. God has made a deposit in us, and God expects a return on that investment. God desires that we share this good news and bring forth fruit by leading others to Christ. John 15:5, 8

6. Let me show you an example of this: Paul had gone to Thessalonica and led many to Christ. They had turned from idols to serve the living and true God. What did they in turn do? 1 Thessalonians 1:8
7. The gospel of Christ has been entrusted to you. You don't want it to be in vain.

Second, because God has enabled you to share it with others – vs. 12

1. Notice the word “*enabled.*” It literally means “to empower.” God had empowered Paul to share the good news of God's grace with others. After Paul's salvation, he immediately began to minister the gospel to others. Acts 9:20-21
2. But God didn't just do this for Paul! God does this for **every** believer.
3. When you trust Christ as your Savior, God's very Spirit comes to live and dwell inside of you and provide power for you to live your new life in Christ. It is He who enables you to serve God as you seek to make His gospel known to others. Acts 4:31
 - You say, “I just can't open my mouth to others about Jesus Christ.” You are right. You can't. But God's Spirit can do it through you! Philippians 4:13
4. God has saved you and put His Spirit in you in order that you may minister for Him (vs. 12). Every believer has been put into the ministry. That is, you are saved to serve Him.
5. You may not have the gift of teaching. You may never be a full-time pastor. But God has enabled you to speak for Him, take the good news that has been committed to your trust, and bring forth fruit.

Third, because God has given you a testimony to back up your words

1. If you are a saved, you have a testimony of salvation. You have a story about your conversion to Christ. Here in our text, Paul shares his story. Paul's conversion is told at least six times in the New Testament. Here it is again. vs. 13-16
2. Paul was a changed man. Before Christ, he was a blasphemer who rejected Jesus Christ, a persecutor of Christians, and “*injurious*” (violent and abusive). He lived his life “*ignorantly in unbelief*” (vs. 13). We all have a testimony of our life before Christ.
 - Like Paul, sometimes it is not very pretty. Titus 3:3-4
3. But Christ changed Paul by His grace (vs. 14). It was grace that changed Paul's life, grace that broke down his pride on the road to Damascus, grace that empowered him to proclaim Christ boldly to others. To Paul was committed the gospel of grace!
4. That grace is available to all through Christ's finished work. This is why Christ came. He came to save sinners. Nobody is beyond saving. vs. 15
5. Do not fear that you are too great a sinner, and that Christ would never want you. Christ will save you, and then fill you with His Spirit to share your testimony of grace with others.
6. You can lead others to Christ if you are saved. You have a testimony to share like Paul. Paul called himself the least of all saints. Paul stands as a testimony that

God can save anybody, and God can use anybody. Paul is a pattern (or example) of this. vs. 16

In Conclusion:

1. Maybe you are here today, and you don't have a testimony of salvation. You cannot look back in your life and remember a time when you realized you were a sinner needing Christ, and asked Him to save you.
2. You can have a testimony today! You can get your salvation settled today!
3. If you are already saved, Christian, who is the person that God wants to use to lead others to Christ? You!