

**Title:** The King of Ages Loves the Chief of Sinners

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

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#### Draft Summary

- Gratitude (“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord”)
- Grace and mercy (“who has strengthened me, because He regarded me faithful”)
- Faith and service (“putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer”)

#### Possible Discussion Questions

- How has Jesus been your Lord and King in your life?
  - How has God strengthened you?
  - In what ways may we be put into service for God’s kingdom?
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#### Introduction

*I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord,...Now to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”* (1 Timothy 1:12, 17)

- Christ Jesus = King Jesus
- Jesus’ kingship is of first importance.

John 3:5

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

- kingship of Jesus = basis of salvation

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 1:12-17

“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He regarded me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy saying and deserving full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost. Yet for this reason I was shown mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all His patience as an example for those who are going to believe upon Him for eternal life. Now to the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

<https://accordance.bible/link/read/LSB#1Tim. 1:12>

#### EXPOSITION

***“I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord,***

### *Christ Jesus our Lord*

- Grace = undeserved favor
  - We have favor before God because of what Jesus has done.
- As a result, Jesus is our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

### ***who has strengthened me***

- past point of time where God has endowed with power (root word of "dynamite")
  - Looking back to first encounter with Jesus on the Road to Damascus.
  - See Paul's history (Acts 7-9)

2 Timothy 1:7

for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

### ***because He regarded me faithful,***

- regarded = count/consider

James 1:2

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds,

2 Peter 3:9

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

- God's election = He alone regarded Paul as faithful = He was justified in Christ.

Isaiah 55:8-9

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- God's ways are far above any human understanding. He chooses as He wills.

### ***putting me into service,***

Acts 9:1-6 (Paul's Conversion)

But Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he went on his way, he approached Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven shone around him. And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do."

***even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor.***

*blasphemer*

John 5:23

that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

- anyone who does not honor Jesus as God the Father = blasphemer

*persecutor and a violent aggressor*

Acts 8:1-3

And Saul approved of [Stephen's] execution.

And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

1 Corinthians 15:9

For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

***Yet I was shown mercy***

Mercy

- God's friendly compassion to forgive
- God removed all your inquiry by pardoning you through Christ by faith in Him.

Titus 3:4-6

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

***because I acted ignorantly in unbelief;***

- points to God's mercy
- Paul previously acted in ignorance and blindness.

Romans 1:21-22

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools,

***and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant,***

- the amount of God's grace is boundless.

Psalms 103:10-12

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.

***with the faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.***

- salvation is not by our own faith but comes from faith in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:3

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**APPLICATION**

***Question: Are you in Christ Jesus or outside him?***

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Luke 11:9-10

And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.