

October 6, 2019 – I Timothy 1:12-17 (NIV)

THEME: Chief Of Sinners, Saved By Jesus.

*“I thank **Christ Jesus our Lord, Who has given me strength**, that He considered me faithful, appointing me to His service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was **poured** out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, **Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience** as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.” AMEN.*

At the time that Pastor Frederick Schmid was Pastor in the Ann Arbor area, serving The Lord Jesus, there was a pastor by the name of Eberhard who became ill and was not able to serve for a period of time.

The several congregations which Pastor Eberhard established suffered a great deal, in part from sectarianism (Divisions) and in part from the “unchurchliness” of those who seek to destroy the splendid work.

Therefore Pastor Frederick Schmid wrote to the Basel Mission Society in Germany requesting two pastors if possible, but at least one pastor to come and help.

Turmoil within the church.

Before the Apostle Paul was Paul, he was SAUL of Tarsus. – He brought turmoil to the church of God!
Acts 22:4 – I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering to prison both men and women, (RSV)
Acts 8:3; 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison. (RSV)
Acts 26:9 - "I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things in opposing the name of Jesus of Nazareth. (RSV)
Vs. 13 – Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief.

Paul who was once known as Saul, knew that He did not deserve God’s Love or God’s Salvation. Yet God pulled Paul up out of the dregs and brought him to faith.

Jesus / God saved Paul from hell.
God demonstrated his Unlimited Patience and Love.

Do you think that there were any times in Paul’s life when he regretted his past, when he had bouts with grief and guilt? Where did he then go to find strength?

Vs. 15 – Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners – of whom I am the worst.

Vs. 16 – But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life.

Paul did not deserve God’s Mercy or The Salvation that Jesus won for him, yet God Saved Paul any way!
Do you deserve God’s Unlimited patience and love in Christ Jesus?
Regardless, God has given you His LOVE and Salvation in Christ Jesus alone.
Do you have any times in your life when you regret the past or have bouts with grief and guilt?
Go to the CROSS of Christ Jesus and remember that you have Salvation in Christ Jesus as a Free Gift.
Our Salvation cost Jesus / God His blood, but it is a free gift. Christ’s Patience and Love for you is Unlimited.
AMEN