

# Giving Thanks For Service

I Timothy 1:12-17

## #1 - Giving Thanks For Service, vs. 12

Paul's gratitude stemmed from the fact that God in His grace had provided Paul all necessary enablement (cf. Phil. 4:13) and, considering him trustworthy, had pressed him into a privileged place of service.

## #2 - A Tainted Resume, vs. 13a

Paul mentioned three liabilities God could have held against him in considering his call to service:

- As a “blasphemer” Paul had denied Christ by word and deed and attempted to force others to do the same (Acts 26:11).
- As a persecutor Paul hunted down Christians like wild animals (Acts 22:4, 7).
- As a “violent man” Paul acted like a “bully.”

## #3 - A Redeemed Resume, vs. 13b-15

God in His mercy did not give Paul what he did deserve; instead God in His grace gave Paul what he did not deserve. Grace and mercy are God's love in action, God's love paying a price to save lost sinners. It is not God's love alone that saves us, for God loves the whole world (John 3:16). It is by grace that we are saved (Eph. 2:8–9) because God is rich in mercy (Eph. 2:4) and grace (Eph. 2:7).

## #4 - An Exemplified Resume, vs. 16

In fact it was just for this purpose—that is, to demonstrate God's plan to save sinners—that Paul himself was saved. As the worst of sinners, Paul represents the extreme example. If God was patient and gracious enough to save Paul, He is patient and gracious enough to save anyone.

## #5 - A Doxology Of Divine Praise, vs. 17