

## **Our Merciful Savior > 1 Timothy 1:12-20**

**1:12-14** Remembering what Christ has done: Paul thanks the Lord for saving him and making him useful in the Lord's plans. He writes about Christ's mercy given to him so that Timothy and the Ephesian church would see how Christ's goodness is for everyone who calls on the Lord.

**1:15-17** Celebrating Christ's mercy: we often speak of Christ's perfect life and His sacrificial death (and we should!), but we frequently overlook His mercy given to us. Paul sums up the mission of Christ when he states that "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." That mission brought eternal benefit to Paul, just as it will to all who trust in Christ.

**1:18-20** Hold to sound doctrine: if we make a point to remember what Christ has done and to celebrate His mercy given to us, we cannot but help to go one step farther. We are to respond to Christ's work by believing and doing all that He has said. This is what it means to hold to sound doctrine.

**Context:** Earlier, Paul wrote of those in the Ephesian church who didn't hold to sound doctrine. Here, he is demonstrating how rightly understanding Christ's work (i.e. holding to sound doctrine) is the heart of the Christian faith.

**Aim:** Sound doctrine is never less than focusing on Jesus and upon His mercy extended to sinful people.

**Gospel:** Paul's own personal example shows that sinful people can be united to Christ through His mercy.

**Applications:** Do you have Christ's mercy? Do you show and extend that mercy to others?

**Here is how I will apply these truths:** \_\_\_\_\_

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