

## Entrusted With The Faith: Receiving The Faith

(1 Timothy 1:12-14)

- Introduction:
1. Ills. of being persecuted as a Christian.
  2. The above imagined scenario mirrors the reality of Paul's persecution of the church.
    - a. (Acts 8:3).
    - b. (1 Timothy 1:12-14).
  3. Paul's change was radical.
  4. Who can make such a radical change? All of us because of the power in the gospel.
  5. Let's consider several lessons that can be learned from Paul's reception of the faith, which also should be true of our reception of the faith.

### I. Paul Was Thankful

- A. (1 Timothy 1:12).
- B. Nearly 50 times, Paul expressed thanks in his writings.
- C. (Ephesians 1:3).
  1. "Eulogeo" - eulogy - to speak well of.
  2. How would we eulogize the living God?
- D. The reception of the faith should be accompanied with overwhelming thanksgiving.

### II. Paul Was Humble

- A. There is no place for pride in the presence of Jesus.
- B. Paul had much of which to boast (Phil. 3:4-6; Gal. 1:14), but he acknowledged that he was what he was only by God's grace (1 Cor. 15:10).
- C. (1 Timothy 1:12-13).
  1. Paul was enabled.
  2. Paul was counted as faithful.
  3. Paul was put in the ministry.
- D. Warning against pride (Proverbs 6:16-19).

### III. Paul's Past Was Surmountable

- A. (1 Timothy 1:13).
- B. Paul's conversion accounts (Acts 9:1-22; 22:1-21; 26:9-18).
- C. Prior to Paul's conversion:
  1. He assisted in murdering Stephen (Acts 7:54-8:1).
  2. He made havoc of the church (Acts 8:4).
  3. He made murderous threats
  4. He carried through with those murderous threats (Acts 26:10).
- D. Insolent means "one who is uplifted with pride, and either heaps insulting language upon others or does them some shameful act or wrong."

- E. Paul “compelled” Christians to blaspheme (Acts 26:11).
  - 1. What must that have looked like?
  - 2. What would it take to cause a Christian to blaspheme the Lord?
- F. No wonder Paul called himself:
  - 1. Least of all the saints (Ephesians 3:8).
  - 2. Chief of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

#### **IV. God’s Grace Was Exceedingly Abundant**

- A. (1 Timothy 1:14).
- B. God’s grace doesn’t “barely save us” but is abundant (Rom. 5:20; 2 Pet. 1:11; John 1:16).
- C. “Abundant” - “huper” i.e. “exceedingly abundant.”

- Conclusion:
- 1. What should we conclude from Paul’s conversion?
  - 2. We should be more grateful to the Lord.
  - 3. We should bask in the reach of God’s grace, and live out an acute awareness of the magnitude of the good news we possess, being unable to contain it.