

## "On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

## I TIMOTHY 2

### *I Timothy 2*

Let's look at the context of I Timothy 2. The Apostle Paul in chapter one addresses his faithful son in the faith and ministry to remind him of why he was left in Ephesus where the Apostle Paul had worked so diligently to establish that great work as the epicenter of ministry in the province of Asia Minor, present day western Turkey. Timothy was young in age to be left in charge of such a great work, but Paul had confidence that He was able if he trusted the Lord and did not allow people to intimidate him. The apostle reminded Timothy in vv. 12-17 that he, Paul, was the most unlikely of all to be doing what he did in the name of Jesus. He brought to Timothy's remembrance the wonder of God's redeeming grace.

***And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry, although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.*** (I Timothy 1:12-13)

God's grace and enabling power is what put Paul in the ministry. He had not taken this on as a choice from within his own desires, but rather the good hand of God. We get a glimpse into the heart of the apostle as to how he viewed himself, he said,

***This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all long suffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.*** (I Timothy 1:15-16)

Let me say a word about these verses, often I will hear someone, well-meaning say, "I am a saint, not a sinner" and that is said because of who we are in Christ Jesus and our union and oneness in Him. The balanced, scriptural approach is to realize that we are **in Christ** and our position in Him is one of state of being "declared righteous" that does not mean in our practice we are without sin. Paul said this in the present tense, not in the past, but rather present tense. That means the Apostle Paul says, "**I am chief.**" This does not mean he is the leader in practicing sin, but he does recognize that in the flesh dwells no good thing. He knows something of the wickedness of his own heart apart from God's divine grace and enablement. There should be a willingness in our lives to embrace both parallel truths and not accept one and shun the other. Paul ends the chapter with a charge to Timothy to stay true to his calling and guard his trained conscious that he does not go astray. Tomorrow we will cover chapter two and the hot topic of men and women's positions in the church of Jesus.

### **Prayer and Action Steps**

***Thank you, Lord Jesus, that you can take even the vilest among us and redeem us and save us from the penalty and power of sin in our lives. Thank you that you can take us from where we are to the place of usefulness in ministry, serving you and others. Please help me to cultivate my love and faithfulness to you. Amen***