

17 January 2023

"God mercy to me, a pattern to others"

If you're in Christ this evening, God SAVED YOU and CALLED YOU to be a pattern and an example to unbelievers..to lead them to Christ.

TO WHOM? To those who knew you when you were lost... who still know you NOW that you are saved...to those that never knew you...

To those that know you, it should be abundantly clear TO THEM, that you are no longer the same person that you once were. To those that never knew you, it should be obvious that you are "abnormally different" and "peculiar" in the world. The following passage should describe you...

Ephesians 2:2: Wherein time past ye walked according to the course... Ephesians 2:3: Among whom also WE ALL had our conversation in times past..if you were anything, you were a bad example for anyone to follow!

In 1 Timothy 1:12-16: The apostle Paul testified to young Timothy about how terribly he had sinned against God; I was a blasphemer, a hunter and persecutor of Christians..I was filled with rage against the Lord Jesus Christ, and His church...Galatians 1:13-14

We all know that story of Paul's conversion! Acts 9:1-6. If anyone didn't deserve mercy it was Saul! That's how we think... but I am so glad it's NOT how God THINKS! Did you and I deserve mercy?

God DETERMINED to do something in Saul's life that NONE OF US would have done... after all that Saul was in hatred and wickedness and sin against God, and against God's people... God showed mercy to him... EVEN AFTER he stood by and watched godly Stephen die, Saul CONSENTED... that he should be stoned, AND STILL... Christ revealed Himself to Saul in mercy! Acts 22:19-20.

Saul was Great Sinner, but Jesus IS a Great Saviour! When considering who and what Paul was, you come to understand how he could write...

1 Timothy 1:15: "This is a faithful saying, (this is a trustworthy Word, the best saying that could ever come into a sinner's ear) and IT IS worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief"

What was God's design in saving such a one as Saul of Tarsus, whom we know as Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ?

There are many reasons, but I would like to consider just one tonight...1 Timothy 1:16.

God didn't just save Paul from his sins and from the wrath of God, AND GIFT HIM with everlasting life; the Lord Jesus saved him and called him to be a preacher, teacher, evangelist, apostle, but also TO BE A PATTERN, an EXAMPLE,

and a MODEL for other infamous and terrible sinners TO SEE, that they might also believe on Christ! 1 Timothy 1:15
AGAIN!!!

Christ saved Saul of Tarsus to be a PATTERN to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting! What great hope Paul's salvation gives to the worst of sinners!

I don't know of ANY OTHER sinner that was saved in the Word... that gave his testimony more than Paul!

What is a PATTERN? A sketch, a type, a model, or an example for others to imitate, emulate, and follow! 1 Corinthians 11:1

If you're in Christ, God has delivered you from the power of darkness, and translated or conveyed you into the Kingdom of God's Dear Son...He has forgiven you for all of your sins against God...and given you a righteousness NOT YOUR OWN...TO LIVE in this world, and to be a pattern and example to unbelievers...to lead them to Christ.

God was patient and longsuffering with you when He SAVED YOU from your sins & from the wrath of God, that He might SHOW His patience and longsuffering, and mercy to OTHER SINNERS who see Christ in you!

God saved you to "SHOW OFF" His great salvation to lost sinners in your life IN YOUR little piece of this world..

A life supernaturally changed by Christ is a powerful testimony and witness and PATTERN for ALL TO SEE and FOLLOW!

Matthew 5:13-16

Beloved, God saved you to USE YOU, to show forth Christ from your life "to both saints and sinners"; HERE IN OUR TEXT, SPECIFICALLY that you would be a pattern and an example to unbelievers!

TODAY in the world, there are so many who profess faith in Christ, but "The Pattern and Example" of Christ is missing from their lives...

God didn't save you to do nothing, God didn't call you to Himself TO LIVE FOR YOURSELF and for your own self-interests, God saved you to be a pattern and example to others that they might believe on Christ!

YOU are the ONLY Bible, the ONLY Christ that MANY in the world will ever read! It's so important for us to be right examples and patterns of genuine believers in Christ, that others would SEE Christ IN YOU!

1 Timothy 4:12, Titus 2:1-9, Ephesians 4:31-5:2, 1 John 2:6

Was my life TODAY a PATTERN and EXAMPLE TO THOSE who are not saved? To my family, my children, my grandchildren, my coworkers?

2 Corinthians 4:7: "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us"

