

# A PATTERN FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE

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**1 TIMOTHY 1:16 • TV047B**

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By

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### **1 Timothy 1:16**

*“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.”*

I’m going to read a passage of Scripture from the book of **1 Timothy chapter 1:16**.

Now, if you have your Bible I’d like for you to look carefully at this passage of Scripture in which Paul says, *“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.”*

Do you know what Paul is saying here? He’s saying, the Lord in His patience and longsuffering called me, brought me to a knowledge of His Son, brought me to salvation, and my conversion is a pattern for those who should hereafter believe on Him to life everlasting.

Now most of you are familiar with Paul’s conversion. You’ve read about it or heard somebody preach about it. And you’d find it difficult, as would I, to look upon Paul’s conversion to Christ as a pattern. You know about his Damascus Road experience, the light, the revelation of God, and how he was converted.

You'd find it difficult to look upon his conversion as a pattern for you and for me. Now, we look upon his conversion as the exception, rather than the rule, rather than a pattern. But Paul tells us here in this verse that his conversion is a pattern for those who should believe on Christ.

Now let's see if we can make good on that. Let's see what the Word of God says about that. Turn with me in your Bible to the book of **Acts chapter 22**.

In the book of **Acts chapter 22** you'll read about Paul's conversion, in his own words, as the Holy Spirit speaks through him he tells us about how he came to a living, vital union, with the Son of God, how he came to saving faith.

And if you'll note carefully what Paul said you will be able to see, you who are converted will be able to see the pattern. You'll be able to see how that you too were brought to Christ in the same way.

And you who are not converted, you who know not Christ, you're going to see how God saves sinners. Paul said, "This is a pattern. This is how God saves sinners."

Now look at **Acts chapter 22**, first of all, **verse 4**. And Paul uses four words; he said; "*I persecuted this way.*" Is that not true of all natural men? Is that not true of every unconverted man whether in the church or out of the church? Are we not all by nature enemies of God, enemies of Christ, enemies of sovereign love, enemies of covenant mercy, and enemies of substitution?

Christ said so. Christ said in **John 3:19**, "*This is condemnation. Light is come into this world.*"

Who is light? He said; "*I'm the light of the world. Light has come into this world and men love darkness rather than light.*"

Men do not love Christ, God's Son. He said; "*Marvel not my brethren if the world hate you; it hated me.*" Now the world doesn't hate its God; the world hates the God of the Bible. The world doesn't hate its Jesus; it hates the Christ of the Bible. That's right!

And our Lord said in **John 5:43**; "*I am come in my Father's name and you receive me not. Let another come in his own name (preaching his own word) and him you will receive.*" He said in **John 5:40**; "*You will not come to me that you might have life.*"

Paul said, "*I persecuted this way unto death.*" Paul was religious but he didn't love Christ. Paul had a system of morality but he didn't know God. Paul went through all the ritualism and legalism and ceremonialism of religion but he didn't know God.

God's way he hated. God's way he persecuted. God's way he refused. God's way of redemption; Paul wanted nothing to do with it. He said; "*I persecuted this way unto death.*"

All right, now look at **verse 6**. You see, this is a pattern of every man's conversion. By nature, he hates God. By nature, he's religious as Paul was but by nature he hates the God of the Bible.

He hates God's way. He's got no time for it or no room for it. "*There was no room for Him in the inn*" and there's no room for Him in the hearts of men today. There's room for religion but not for Christ.

Now watch **Acts 22 verse 6**; "*I made my journey.*" Paul said, "*I hated and persecuted this way and I made my journey.*" Now get this, Paul walked his way, his own way. "*All we like sheep have gone astray. We've turned everyone to his own way.*"

Our Lord prayed in the Garden, "*Father; not my will but thy will be done.*" We don't pray that way. We want our way. We want our will. We like Paul here are walking our way. Paul said in **Romans chapter 3**; "*There is none righteous, none that understandeth, none that seek after God.*"

What do we seek for? We seek for possessions. We seek for popularity. We seek for fame. We seek for security. We seek for health and wealth. We don't seek God. "*There is a way that seemeth right unto men and the end is the way of death (destruction).*" The end is death.

Paul said, "I walked my way. I made my journey." And that's what you and I do. And we're walking our way. We're not submitting ourselves to God's way. We're not even looking for God's way. We're not asking God to reveal His way. We've got our own plans. Isn't that true of everybody? "I walk my way. I made my journey."

All right, now watch **verse 7**. But something happened; God met him, God met him. God met Paul on that road. God almighty met him, not an idol god, not a false god, not a denominational god, the living God, the God of creation, the God of authority, the God of sovereignty, the God of the Scriptures met Paul.

And God struck him down and God revealed His glory to him. Paul said; "*A great light shown around about me and I fell to the ground.*" Here are the five words that I want you to see; "*I fell to the ground.*"

"*I was walking my way. I was making my journey. But one day I met God and I fell to the ground.*" And that's what happens to every man who meets God; he falls to the ground. He doesn't bring God down; he goes down.

Paul had never really met God. Paul had a god. Paul had a religion, but he had never met God in His holiness. He had never met God in His glory. Paul had always been religious, but he'd never seen the true light of God's holiness, the true light of God's law.

He had never seen the true law of God. He'd never met the true presence of God. I'll tell you: When a man comes in contact with a living God he is stripped; but you have to be stripped before you can be clothed.

He is broken, but you've got to be broken before you can be exalted. He is slain, but you've got to be killed before you can be raised. He is emptied, but you've got to be empty before you can

be filled. When a man meets the living God he always falls to the ground. He always falls in the dust in humility, in contrition, in conviction, in submission.

Job was a religious man, a righteous man. In fact, God said to Satan; *“Have you considered my servant Job? There’s none like him, a just and righteous man that fears God and hates evil.”* But after all the experience through which God brought Job, after a while old Job defended his righteousness and defended his integrity and defended his faithfulness.

And he was; he was a man of integrity and a man of faithfulness compared to other men. But then God revealed Himself to Job one day; read **Job chapters 40, 41, and 42**. God revealed Himself to Job and do you know what Job said?

Righteous, faithful, religious and honest Job said; *“Lord; I’ve heard of you by the hearing of the ear but now mine eyes seeth thee, wherefore I hate myself. I repent in sackcloth and ashes. Oh Lord, once have I spoken, yea twice, things too wonderful, beyond my understanding, but I’ll never open my lips again. I repent.”* Job fell to the ground.

Read **Isaiah chapter 5 and Chapter 6**. In **Chapter 5** Isaiah five or six times says; *“Woe is unto them, woe is unto them, woe is unto them that rise up in the morning and pursue evil. Woe is unto them that mix strong drink and so forth.”*

And then he said in **Chapter 6:1**; *“I saw the Lord. In the year that king Uzziah died I saw the Lord. I saw the Lord high and lifted up. His train filled the temple and the cherubims and seraphims about Him cried; Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.”*

And Isaiah said; *“Woe is me, woe is me.”* As he fell to the ground he said; *“Woe is me; I’m a man of unclean lips and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips.”*

Old Daniel saw God’s glory, Daniel the faithful man, the praying man, the courageous man; he saw God’s glory. What did he say? He said: *“When I saw the Lord, my comeliness (my beauty) melted into corruption.”*

Peter had been walking with the Saviour. Up until this time, I don’t think he ever really saw who Christ was. Oh, he had said some things, but our Lord performed that mighty miracle of the multiplying and the gathering of fish. Do you remember?

They’d fished all night and caught nothing. And then they cast their nets in and the nets broke from the force or the amount of fish they brought in. Do you know what Peter said? When he saw the power of Christ and the glory of Christ and the sovereignty of Christ he said; *“Lord, depart from me, I’m a sinful man. (You’ve got no business being in my company).”*

Now I’m telling you this, when a man meets the Lord, when a man or woman meets the living God, the God of holiness, the God of creation, and the God of sovereignty; he won’t be jumping up and clicking his heels and throwing song books and shouting and screaming and talking about how good he is and how holy he is; he will be in the dust.

Paul said, *“I fell to the ground.”* Job said, *“I hate myself.”* Isaiah said, *“Woe is me.”* Peter said, *“Lord; depart from me I’m a sinful man.”* And John on the Isle of Patmos, already exiled for the glory of Christ, already suffering for the glory of the Redeemer, when he saw the Lord he said, *“I fell at His feet as a dead man.”*

What am I saying? I’m saying that there’s not a whole lot of folks in our generation who have seen the glory of the Lord. Now they’ve got a little god they worship on Sunday. They go down and play church for a little while, sing and shake hands all around, and read a little Scripture and give a little offering and sing a benediction and go home and talk about how nice it was to be there.

But there’s not a whole lot of folks in this generation that have ever met God almighty. *“Be still and know that I’m God. The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him.”*

Where’s your God David? *“Our God is in the heavens and He hath done whatsoever He will.”* A sovereign, holy, omnipotent God; if you call Him Father, He said; *“Pass the time of your sojourn here in fear.”* Paul said, *“I fell to the ground,”*

And look at **verse 10**. And I’m telling you this; this is the way God saves sinners. Paul said, *“I’m a pattern.”* And God will bring you down sinner. He’ll bring you down like He did Naaman.

That’s right; He’ll strip you, He’ll humble you. *“Pride goeth before destruction, a haughty spirit before the fall. God resisteth the proud. He’ll give grace to the humble.”*

Yes sir, He’ll take the starch out of you. He’ll take the wind out of your sail; He will. He will take the pride out of your heart. He’ll bring you to the back door of mercy as a beggar. And He’ll save you by grace. And then Paul said in **verse 10**; *“I cried Lord what will you have me do?”*

Now you better hear me. The Bible doesn’t know anything about a “Doormat named Jesus.” That’s right; this Bible doesn’t know anything about a “Doormat named Jesus.” This Bible knows something about the Lord Jesus Christ.

He said, *“I am Lord. You call me Lord and you say well, for so I am. He’s the Lord of the dead and the living.”* That’s what the Scripture says. Jesus Christ will not be your Saviour if He’s not your Lord.

Now everybody in this world is going down the aisle, shaking the preacher hand and accepting Jesus as their personal Saviour. But I’m telling you this; somebody is your Lord, somebody is your Lord.

And Thomas one day fell at His feet and looked into the face of the crucified, risen, Redeemer, and said; *“My Lord and my God.”* Now if He’s not your Lord and your God He’s not your Saviour.

The Bible says in **Romans 10:9 and 10**: *“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord, (not to be a, “Doormat named Jesus,” not to be an insurance policy for you to look up when you start to die, not a fire escape to keep you out of hell,) “But if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus to be Lord and believe in thine heart God has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”*

You can't divide Christ Jesus up. He's Prophet, Priest, and King. He's not just Prophet to reveal God and Priest to put away sin; He's King to reign. And where He doesn't reign He doesn't save.

Every kingdom has got to have a king. And the Scripture says that, *“The Father hath made Him Lord (King) and exalted Him and given Him a name above every name that at the name of Jesus Christ every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess He's Lord.”*

I want you to listen to Him describe His name. Let's let the Lord Jesus step up and speak for Himself. Let's let Jesus of Nazareth speak for Himself. He says; *“All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”* That's what He said, *“All authority.”*

In **John 17:1-2** just before He went to the cross He lifted His eyes to heaven and He said; *“Father glorify thy Son that thy Son may glorify thee. As thou hast given Him, (thy Son, authority), power over all flesh, that I should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given me.”*

*“Father; glorify me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”* Who is the Lord? Who has all authority? Who has all power? That doesn't sound like this little silly superstar they are talking about who didn't know where he came from or why he came or where he was going or what he did.

Christ knew where He came from. He said; *“I and my Father are one.”* He knew why He came. He said; *“I'm come to seek and to save the lost.”* He knew where He was going. He told His disciples; *“I go back to my Father.”* And He knew He was coming again. He said; *“If I go away I'll come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you may be also.”*

Listen to Him, *“If any man come to me and hate not his mother and father, and brother and sister, and husband and wife, even his own life also; he can't be my disciple.”* Does that sound like a little silly Jesus, a little silly reformer, a little frustrated, defeated, Saviour, who can't do what He wants to do? No sir! That's the King talking; that's the King of kings.

Now I'll tell you this; He's not a doormat, He's not a fire escape, He's not an insurance policy, He's not a rope to grab hold of just before you perish in the depths of hell; He's the King, He's the King.

That's what Paul said on the road to Damascus there; he said; *“I fell down and I said Lord, what will ye have me do?”* Thomas found out who He was; He said: *“My Lord and my God.”* The leper found out who He was and he came trembling and fell at His feet and said *“Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.”*

The thief who was dying on the cross knew who He was; He said, *“I’m getting what I deserve but this man hath done nothing amiss.”* And he turned to Christ and he said; *“Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”*

And here is Paul the pattern and Paul said; *“Lord what will ye have me do? (you’re my Lord and I’m your bond-slave) what will you have me do?”*

And then look at **verse 11**; *“And I could not see for the glory of that light.”* Now I might upset you a little bit and I want you to listen to me, will you? A natural man can hear and can mentally understand the facts of the Gospel. That’s right!

A natural man can see and hear and understand the facts of the Gospel. That’s right! He can understand that there’s sin in this world. He knows that. *“There’s a light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world.”* They’re aware of sin.

He can understand the fact that a man called Jesus Christ one day walked on this earth. Your calendar tells you that, so many years B.C. before Christ, so many years A. D. (the year of our Lord).

He lived, Josephus the historian who wrote just a few years after Christ died; it tells you all about it. You don’t need to read the Bible to find out that Jesus Christ lived and died on a cross; it’s in the history books. Josephus wrote about it.

A natural man can understand and he can mentally accept the facts of the Gospel but he can’t see the glory of it, and the glory of God’s covenant mercies, the glory of God’s eternal grace, the glory of Christ’s incarnation.

The disciples said; *“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. He came unto His own. He who made the world was in the world and the world didn’t know Him.”* He who made the world, the ancient of days became an infant of days and they didn’t know Him.

But John wrote and said, *“We beheld His glory.”* And Peter said; *“We know who you are; you are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* The demons knew Him, yes sir they did. They said, *“We know who you are; you are the holy one of God.”*

And the natural man can see and hear and mentally understand to a degree the facts of the Gospel but he can’t see the glory of it. Paul called the Gospel, *“the Gospel of God’s glory.”*

If you’ll read **Ephesians chapter 1** begin with **verse 3**. It talks about the work of the Father. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ according as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world. And predestinated us and accepted us.”* Look at **verses 6 and 7**: *“To the praise of His glory.”*

And then it talks about the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. *“He redeemed us with His blood. He enlightened us. He enriched us with an inheritance to the praise of His glory,”* it says in **verse 12**.

And then it talks about the Holy Spirit, *“the Holy Spirit in whom you trusted after we heard the Word (by the Holy Spirit’s teaching and how we were not only illuminated by the Holy Spirit) and were sealed by the Holy Spirit (the Holy Spirit became our token, our pledge, our earnest) (look at **verse 14**) to the praise of His glory.”*

And then over there in **Ephesians 2:7** it says; *“In the ages to come that He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His abundant mercy toward us in Christ Jesus.”* That’s what it’s all about, God’s glory.

And Paul said, “I went my way. Yes sir, I went my way. I took my journey but then I saw the Lord and I fell down. I was broken. God stripped me, God broke me, God humbled me, and I cried; Lord, what will you have me do?”

“For I couldn’t see anything else; I couldn’t see possessions anymore. I couldn’t see fame anymore. I couldn’t see self anymore. All I could see was that glory. I couldn’t see for the glory of that light. The glory of that light made everything else fade into nothing, insignificance.” That’s right!

If you ever see Him in His glory, the glory of His incarnation, I’ll tell you; that’s all you’ll want. You’ll be like David; *“I’ll be satisfied when I stand in His likeness”* because everything else has lost interest for me.

I couldn’t see for the glory, for the glory of that light, the glory of His incarnation and the glory of His death, and the glory of His resurrection, the glory of His intercessory work, and the glory of His second coming.

Look at **verses 12 and 13**; now watch this: *“And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt there, came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him.”*

Paul was broken, stripped, humbled, *“One Ananias came to me.”* Ananias was one of God’s preachers and was sent to him.

Listen to me; if God is pleased to save you He’ll send you a preacher or He’ll send you to one. You may not recognize Him. You may not even like Him. But if God’s pleased to do something for you in grace He’ll cause your path to cross the path of one of His servants, one of His witnesses, one of His people.

*“It pleased the Lord by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* That’s the reason our Lord said; *“You go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.”* Because He’s got some sheep out there and He said; *“My sheep will hear my voice.”*



Now they're not going to hear God speak from heaven; they are going to hear Him speak through His Word and through His servant. And Ananias came to Paul, came to Saul of Tarsus, and preached the Gospel to him.

And look at **Romans chapter 10:13**; *“Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. But how shall they call on Him in whom they've not believed and how shall they believe in Him of whom they've not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”*

So here this broken, humbled, contrite sinner; a preacher comes to him and preaches him a sermon. And that sermon had six points and I'll give them to you in two minutes. Now listen to them; here they are:

Beginning with **verses 14-16** you have the Gospel message that Ananias preached to Saul of Tarsus:

**First of all:** He said: *“Saul, Saul, the God of our fathers hath chosen you.”*

Now brethren, everybody whom God saves; let every son of Adam know that God didn't have to save you; He could have passed you by. *“The angels that kept not their first estate;”* God passed them by.

The old world was destroyed by the flood and *“Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”* One thief died cursing, the other thief God saved. That is Biblical truth. *“It pleased God to make you His people.”*

That's what Ananias is saying to Saul here. *“God chose you.”*

**Secondly:** *“That you should hear His voice.”*

Now, our Lord Jesus Christ came down here that His people should hear His voice and the message of the gospel. And that message was His blood, His sacrifice, His substitutionary work.

**Thirdly:** And Ananias said, *“That you should see the Just One”*

Who is the Just One? Well, the Lord Jesus Christ. What did He do to enable Him to be the just one? He made it possible that God should be *“just and justify the ungodly.”* He's the obedient One. He's the perfect One and He's the Just One. He's the One that met the law and kept it, took our sins and went to the cross and died. He's the Just One.

**Fourthly:** And then He said, *“That you should hear His voice and that you should be His witness.”* You know, somebody said, “Well, you ought to witness for the Lord.” If you ever meet Him you'll witness for Him. You'll be like the disciples who said; *“We can't help but tell what we've seen and what we've heard.”*

And then in the last place Ananias said; *“God chose you that you should know His will, see the Just One, hear His voice and be His witness.”*

**A PATTERN FOR THE WHO BELIEVE  
1 TIMOTHY 1:16 • HENRY T. MAHAN**

Now Saul; what are you waiting for? *“Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sin in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Confess the Lord, obey Him!