

CHRIST CAME TO SAVE SINNERS

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When was the last time you intentionally memorized scripture? What was the passage? Can you still recall it from memory?
- If you had to explain the Christian faith to someone in one sentence, what would you say?
- How would you define the worst of sinners?
- How do you determine if words can be trusted?

It's part of our human nature to wish for exceptions to the rule; usually we're seeking something to benefit ourselves. So when we hear the gospel message, that Christ came to save sinners, we might be humbled, relieved, and grateful. But at different times, it's likely we've also thought things like, "God knows what I've done, there's no way he means me" or "God couldn't possibly have meant that individual...they live in sin!" But Paul tells Timothy that the easily memorized saying "Christ came to save sinners" can be trusted and he gives no exceptions. Paul's affirmation of this scriptural truth is both an encouragement and a challenge to us as we live into and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- In segment 2, host Dave Bast says that Paul's claim to be "the worst of sinners" is due to the fact that Paul's sin was spiritual and directly against Jesus Christ himself. What do you think of Dave's assessment?
- Why do you think we as humans struggle to accept that Christ saves individuals we consider to be the worst sinners?
- Think about all those times and situations in which you've thought "what is this world coming to?" In light of the brokenness and evil you see in the world around you, how are you encouraged by the faithful saying "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."
- Are there situations in which you find it difficult to talk about sin and sinners? What makes it difficult? How do we balance truth with forgiveness and compassion? Can you think of examples from scripture where Jesus modeled this balance?

Related Passages

- **Romans 1:16-17**
- **Romans 3:21-26**
- **2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

Conclusion

Is there someone - or maybe a group of people - you think cannot be saved, someone that is so far into sin or seems so uninterested in God that you have a difficult time imagining God would save them? As you offer prayers of thanksgiving for Jesus Christ and God's gift of salvation in your own life, challenge yourself to regularly pray for the salvation of this person, or group of people, and for God to remove any judgement in your heart toward them.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/christ-came-to-save-sinners>

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