

1 Timothy 1:12-17

12 And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry,

1 Cor 15: 9 11 ⁹For **I am the least of the apostles**, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰But **by the grace of God I am what I am**, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God *which was* with me. ¹¹Therefore, whether *it was* I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Ephesians 3: 7-12 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.

8 To me, **who am less than the least of all the saints**, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,⁹ and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*,¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord,¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.

13 although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

Galatians 5: 19 -21 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who **practice** such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Practice:

prasso { pras'-so }

AV - do 28, commit 5, exact 1, require 1, deed 1, keep 1, use arts 1; 38

GK - 407 { ajnapravssw } & 4556 { pravssw }

1) to exercise, practise, to be busy with, carry on

1a) to undertake, to do

2) to accomplish, perform

2a) to commit, perpetrate¹

Hebrews 6: 4-6 For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit,⁵ and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come,⁶ if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put *Him* to an open shame.

¹Enhanced Strong's Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

Hebrews 10: 26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,²⁷ but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.

2 Peter 2: 20-22 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known *it*, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: “A dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire.”

14 And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus.

“exceedingly abundant” - huperpleonazo { hoop-er-pleh-on-ad'-zo }

AV - to be exceeding abundant 1; 1

GK - 5670 { uJperpleonavzw }

- 1) to be exceedingly abundant
- 2) to overflow
- 3) to possess in excess 2

- The verb *hyperepleonasen*, used only here in the NT, means “to be present in great or superabundance.” 3
- God’s rich Grace, Mercy and Peace was more than able to keep pace with Paul’s sinfulness.
- So also with all of us that continue to repent and confess.
- To those that refuse to repent, and, in fact, continue to sin, even perfecting their sinfulness, are willfully refusing God’s grace, mercy, and peace and therefore have also willfully exchanged their love for the truth for “the lie.”

15 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.

- Somehow we have this idea that the great men of God were perfect in all their ways. Not so:

James 5: 16-18 Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months.¹⁸ And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

16 However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.

²Enhanced Strong’s Lexicon, (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.) 1995.

³Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.

- All who follow can look back at Paul as a prototype or pattern (“example,” cf. 2 Tim. 1:13). The ultimate sinner became the ultimate saint; God’s greatest enemy became His finest servant. Somewhere between these extremes fall all the rest. In studying Paul’s pattern, Christians can therefore learn about themselves.⁴

17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

⁴Walvoord, John F., and Zuck, Roy B., *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, (Wheaton, Illinois: Scripture Press Publications, Inc.) 1983, 1985.