

# His Mercy for Us

**“This saying is trustworthy and deserves full acceptance: ‘Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners’ – and I am the worst of them! But here is why I was treated with mercy: so that in me as the worst, Christ Jesus could demonstrate his utmost patience, as an example for those who are going to believe in him for eternal life.”**

**--1 Timothy 1:15-16**

It is a marvelous thing we see in the above passage. Wonderful to think how great is His mercy for us. When God wanted to model for us the essence of what He would be to us, He chose to highlight His mercy, patience, longsuffering, and undeserved kindness for us. He did it by saving a man so wicked that he would be able to truthfully in the Word of God identify himself as the “chief” of sinners.

If you're like me, there have been times for you when you drifted from God or withdrew from Him. And upon coming to your senses, you felt like you must be the Master's most unreliable servant. You know that feeling of having a hole in yourself, laden with sorrow for your failure to do and be all that He wants.

That's the time when it helps to just gaze at the mercy of Christ. Paul said there was a result God wanted to bring about in your life and mine when He showed mercy to Paul. That result would be that we would see how He is patient to the utmost and abundant in grace and mercy. We who believe in Him for eternal life can look to Him, knowing that if He showed mercy to the one who could with God as his witness declare himself the worst of us, then we could fully accept and trust the fact that Christ Jesus came to save us, too. Then rest in His mercy as He draws you back to Himself with open arms. He knew you would need His mercy again, and He stands ready to give it, seeing the end from the beginning. And in Him, you will continue to grow as you were before.

We can then join with the one who said, “I am not what I *want* to be. I am not what I *ought* to be. I am not what I *will* be. But I am not what I *was*. And by the grace of God, I am what I am.”