

‘Right Mouse Click’ on the word **audio** (below) and select ‘Open Link in New Tab’
to listen to audio while viewing Study Notes

Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
PT: Ron Adema
I Timothy Book Study (#12)

www.doctrinalstudies.com
[audio](#)

Date: 8/26/15
Text: 1 Tim.1:12-17
File: D150826

GOD’S MERCY IN SALVATION (02)

After our last Bible study, I was asked about the Greek text of Paul’s declaration “I am foremost of all.” This reexamination has led to the first point of tonight’s lesson.

1. We will explain the phrase, “among whom I am foremost” (1 Tim.1:15)

- **among whom** (hos) (relative pronoun/ gplm) [of whom]
- **I** (ego) (nsm)
- **Am** (eimi) (**p.a.ind.1ps**)
- **Foremost** (protos) (nsm/ pred.nom)

It is part of the **Trustworthy Statements** found in Pastoral Epistles (1 Tim.1:15; 3:1; 4:9; 2 Tim.2:11; and Titus 3:8). This Trustworthy Statement is declared by “**that**” (**hoti**) a conjunction used to declare the Trustworthy Statement (pistos ho logos/ nsm). “**That** Jesus Christ came (erchomai/ a.m.ind.3ps) into the world to save (sozo/ a.a.infin) (The Directive Will of God) sinners (hamartolos/ aplm), among whom I am foremost.” (1 Tim.1:15)

What bothered this individual was how “**I am**” was written in the Greek. He asked “If in the **present tense**, as it appears in the English, how do we justify that Paul considered himself to be a foremost sinner, **after** salvation? YET IT IS IN THE PRESENT TENSE IN (1 Tim.1:15) (**p.a.ind.1ps**).

- **First**, Paul’s declaration emphasized his gratitude for God’s mercy as stated in (1 Tim.1:16):
 - “Yet for this reason I found mercy so that in me as foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience (ten makrothumia) (2 Pet.3:9) as an example for those who would believe (pisteuo/ **p.a.infin**) in Him for eternal life.”
- **Second**, Paul’s use of the Greek word protos **foremost** [chief, leading, first] emphasizes **ranking**.
 - The City of Philippi was **ranked** as the chief or leading city of Macedonia (Acts 16:12)
 - ESPN **ranked Bo Jackson** as the greatest (foremost) athlete to the present time.
- **Third**, Paul ranked himself as the foremost of Jewish sinners to this present time.
 - However, Herod Agrippa 1, grandson of Herod the Great, may have challenged Paul’s ranking after killing the Apostle James in Acts 12.
 - This was the way Paul felt about his formal life apart from God’s mercy. But it does not reflect how God viewed him, or us, in Christ (**2 Cor.5:17, 21**).

2. The Pastoral Epistles mention Mercy more than any other writings of Paul (1 Tim.1:2, 13, 16; 2 Tim.1:2, 16, 18; and Titus 3:5).

The Pastoral Epistles were written for the doctrinal instructions to the grace churches.

In 1st and 2nd Timothy salutations, Paul mentioned grace, mercy, and peace (1 Tim.1:2; 2 Tim.1:2).

In each of these salutations of the Pastoral Epistles, Paul always listed grace before mercy.

NOTE: Therefore we learn that God’s grace and mercy goes before God’s judgment (2 Pet.3:9).

- God’s Mercy always triumphs over His Judgment.” (James 2:13b)
- The Cross comes before the Great White Throne Judgment (Rev.20:11-15; Luke 18:9-14)