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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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I Timothy Book Study (#18)

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Date: 9/13/15
Text: 1 Tim.1:15
File: D150913

CHIEF SINNER

“Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children; and **walk in love (AGAPE), just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us**, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.” (Eph.5:1-2)

**This lesson will study three aspects of Paul declaration,
“It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost (protos/ first, chief) of all.” (1 Tim.1:15)**

[Protos is a superlative of the preposition pro. It is reference to first in rank or preeminence.]

- 1. The Greek word for sinner is hamartolos. The hamartolos (sinner) refers to a person who missed the mark, failed to hit the target, sinned (hamartia).**

The question that should be asked is, “Who establishes the target and the sinner?” When you study the NT, you discover a sharp contrast between Pharisaical legalism and Grace Teachings of Jesus and Paul.

Salvation would change the sinner’s status.

- **Judaizer legalism taught** that the target was gospel plus circumcision **in order to be saved**.
 - (Acts 15:1) “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”
- **Paul taught** that the target was the gospel without works in order to be saved.
 - (Acts15:11) “But we believe that we are saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, in the same way as they also are.”

Gospel:

(1Cor.15:3-4) “For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures**, and **that He was buried**, and **that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.**”

Salvation:

(Rom.1:16) “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, **for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes**, to Jews first and also to the Greeks.”

(Eph.2:8-9) “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and **not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works**, so that no one may boast.”

GRACE of GOD:

(Gal.2:21) “I do not nullify the grace of God, **for if righteousness comes through the Law**, then Christ died needlessly.”

2. Pharisaical legalism declared a person a sinner who was not born a Jew or circumcised (Acts 15:1) [The Judaizers].

They taught that a Jew was holy by nature of birth and circumcision (Phil.3:5). They also taught that **everyone else** was a sinner by nature of birth and uncircumcision (Rom.9:30-33; 10:3-4, 12-13).

They taught a naturally born circumcised Jew could become a sinner by violation of Mosaic Law or the Tradition of Elders (Matt.15:1-2/ Matt.9:9-13/ Matthew; Luke 19:1-10/ Zaccheus/ tax-collectors).

Further, they taught that Jesus was a sinner for violation of the Tradition of Elders (John 9:13-16, 24-25, 31-34).

(John 9:16), “Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, ‘This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.’ But others were saying, ‘**How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?**’ And there was a division among them.” (Jn.9:24, 31)

3. This is an important doctrinal point: God does not rank sinners (first or chief).

Every member of the human race is classified a sinner because of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) (Rom.5:12-21).

Jesus Christ is the **only exception** because of virgin conception (Luke 1:31-35; 1 Pet.1:19; 2 Cor.5:21).

Paul was correct in declaring that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinner. In (1 Tim.1:15). Paul speaks about his change from a religiously lost Jew, who persecuted the church of Jesus Christ, to a Church Age Believer (CAB) who felt remorse for it; and because of this behavior declared himself a “chief sinner.”

But God does not rank the sinner. “Sinner” is 1 of 13 judicial charges of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) placed upon every member of the human race ([50 Things](#)).

(Rom.5:12) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death spread to all men, **because all have sinned.**” (Gen.2-3)

The Imputation of Adam’s Original Sin:

(Rom.5:19) “For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.”

(Rom.5:21) “So that, as sin reigned in death, even so **grace would reign** through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ.” (Gal.3:22)

Pharisaical legalism declared Zaccheus and Jesus sinners:

(Luke 19:7b) “He has gone to be the guest of a man who is a sinner.”

God declared Zaccheus’ salvation:

(Luke 19:9-10) “**Today salvation has come** to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the **Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.**”

Today can be YOUR day of salvation.

(2 Cor.6:2b) “**Behold, now** is ‘The acceptable time,’ **behold, now** is ‘The day of salvation.’”