Made New: Life With Christ

1 Timothy 1:12-16

1. Appreciation: A life of thanks, 12
   1. He gives me inner strength, 12
   2. He considers me faithful
   3. He appointed me to His service
2. Recognition: An honest appraisal of life without Christ, 13a
   1. I was a blasphemer: slandering God, 13
   2. I was a persecutor
   3. I was an insolent opponent

“Til sin be bitter, Christ will not be sweet” -Thomas Watson

1. Conversion: A dependence upon Christ alone, 13b-15
   1. Christ’s Initiative
      1. I received mercy, 13b
         1. I had acted ignorantly in unbelief
      2. The grace of our Lord poured out…14
         1. Faith in Christ Jesus
         2. Love for Christ Jesus
         3. Like Spurgeon’s Conversion (Isaiah 45:22)
   2. Christ’s Incarnation
      1. The saying is trustworthy, 15
      2. Will you accept it?
      3. Christ Jesus came into the world
      4. He came to save sinners
      5. I am the first and foremost sinner
   3. Chief of Sinners: How does this work relationally?
      1. In humility, suspect yourself first
      2. In integrity, inspect yourself
      3. Admit that circumstances/pressure only reveal existing sin (e.g. toothpaste)

\*Dave Harvey, “When Sinners Say ‘I Do’”

1. Evangelism: A desire to display Christ’s glory to others, 16
   1. I was “bemercied”, 16
   2. I am a display of Christ’s perfect patience
   3. I am an example to others, not yet saved
      1. Forgiveness from God, not self
      2. Focus on the Grace-Giver, not self-effort
      3. Pleasing Christ, not reformation of manners
      4. Celebrate small changes. Progress is progress

Discussion Questions:

* What role does gratitude have in your life? Does this thanksgiving focus on gifts or the Giver?
* Describe your life without Christ. Are you tempted towards either glamorization of your sinful lifestyle or unreleased guilt? Prov 28:13
* What does it mean that *you* are the chief of sinners?
* In what way do you display the patience of Christ (i.e. salvation) to others? Does this flow from joy and thanks in your speech?