

Recap of 7/5/26 message by Steve Plank

(“Grace... Abundant, Lavish, Sufficient, Ample, Overflowing”) 1 Timothy 1:12-20

- In this passage, Paul gives us reason to be joyful and thankful. No matter what we've done, God's grace is more than abundant enough to cover our past. Jesus died on the cross in our place to satisfy God's just punishment for our sin. He saved us through His death and resurrection. Paul tells us that we are saved by Jesus for service and we are strengthened for that service by Him. Additionally, our salvation and changed lives are examples to unbelievers of the greatness of God's mercy and grace. We should not feel guilty about our forgiven sin, but neither should we hide it. Paul proclaims the mistakes of his former life so that those who hear may know that God can and will forgive them too. We should never give the impression that we must be righteous to be worthy of God's salvation. People do not clean up their lives and then come to Christ. They come to Christ covered in muck (sin) and He cleanses them as He cleaned us.

- Paul also exhorts Timothy (and us) to fight the good fight by keeping the faith and a good conscience. Keeping the faith includes staying true to God's truth; not being led astray by false teaching. It also includes living for God; i.e. living in light of eternity. Our immediate circumstances might seem dire or wonderful, but either way, our love for God and the knowledge that we get to spend eternity with him should give us a deep desire to follow His commands. When we see a brother or sister in Christ living disobediently, we should lovingly point out his or her error, even to the point of disfellowshipping them if they insist on living contrary to God's truth. This is always done to restore them to fellowship with God and His church. It is not legalistic to call others to follow God. As Christians, we must also be open to admonishment and restoration when we go astray. Finally, having a good conscience means living according to what we say we believe.