

## 1 Timothy Lesson 2 Articles

You have been preparing yourself for weeks and now the big day has finally arrived; you have the interview for the job you have always dreamed of.

You sit in a room nervously skimming through a magazine and then get talking to another one of the candidates. The conversation is not exactly encouraging as you discover that he is better qualified for the job than you are. Nevertheless, when you meet the interview panel you give it your best effort. A few days later a letter from the company drops on to your doormat offering you the job and, after a few moments of ecstasy, you ask yourself, ‘Why did they choose me?’

God had appointed Paul to be an apostle and had entrusted him with the good news so that he would pass it on to other people, plant new churches and help Christians grow in their faith. But when he thinks about this, he asks, ‘Why me?’ There was nothing about his old way of life that would have moved God to choose him; it could only be attributed to God’s mercy.

It is likely that Paul had come under a lot of criticism from the people who had brought new ideas into the church at Ephesus and this would have been designed to undermine his teaching. So it is important for Paul to reassert his authority as an apostle in order to convince the church to return to the truth he first brought them.<sup>1</sup>

**T**imothy, born half Greek and half Jew, probably accepted Christ in his hometown, Lystra, during Paul’s first missionary journey. Paul learned of Timothy’s growth in his walk with Christ and made the young man his aide during his second missionary journey.

The name Timothy means “one who honors God,” and Paul entrusted him with the toughest of assignments in Ephesus, Corinth, Macedonia, and Thessalonica. In an ultimate show of commitment, Timothy as an adult submitted to the painful procedure of circumcision to accommodate Paul’s preaching to Jews (Acts 16:3). The writer of Hebrews reports that at some point Timothy also was imprisoned (Heb. 13:23).

Scripture reveals Timothy as a sometimes timid man who, early in life, devoted himself to the Lord, and then spent his young adult years traversing the world to share the gospel. He continues to inspire us toward courage and boldness, even when we feel we naturally lack those qualities.<sup>2</sup>

A. **What God did** (1:12, 14–15)

1. *He saved Paul (1:14–15).*
2. *He selected Paul (1:12).*

B. **When God did it** (1:13): At the time, the apostle was a blasphemer and violent persecutor of Christians.

C. **Why God did it (1:16–17): To demonstrate his amazing grace to even the worst of sinners.**<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Robinson, S. J. (2004). *Opening up 1 Timothy* (pp. 25–26). Leominster: Day One Publications.

<sup>2</sup> Stanley, C. F. (2005). *The Charles F. Stanley life principles Bible: New King James Version* (1 Ti 1:2–18). Nashville, TN: Nelson Bibles.

<sup>3</sup> Willmington, H. L. (1999). *The Outline Bible* (1 Ti 1:12–17). Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.