**Gratitude for Grace**

(Pastor John Mulligan)

**1 Timothy 1:12-17 (HCSB)**

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry — 13 one who was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an arrogant man. But I received mercy because I acted out of ignorance in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord overflowed, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" — and I am the worst of them. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate His extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life. 17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

1. **The Sole Source of Grace (verse 12)**

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, appointing me to the ministry

1. **The Inward Need for Grace (verse 13a)**

one who was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an arrogant man

1. **The Unstoppable Power of Grace (verse 13b)**

But I received mercy because I acted out of ignorance in unbelief.

**Numbers 15:22-31**

"When you sin unintentionally and do not obey all these commands that the Lord spoke to Moses — 23 all that the Lord has commanded you through Moses, from the day the Lord issued the commands and onward throughout your generations — 24 and if it was done unintentionally without the community's awareness, the entire community is to prepare one young bull for a burnt offering as a pleasing aroma to the Lord, with its grain offering and drink offering according to the regulation, and one male goat as a sin offering. 25 The priest must then make atonement for the entire Israelite community so that they may be forgiven, for the sin was unintentional. They are to bring their offering, one made by fire to the Lord, and their sin offering before the Lord for their unintentional sin. 26 The entire Israelite community and the foreigner who resides among them will be forgiven, since it happened to all the people unintentionally.

27 "If one person sins unintentionally, he is to present a year- old female goat as a sin offering. 28 The priest must then make atonement before the Lord on behalf of the person who acts in error sinning unintentionally, and when he makes atonement for him, he will be forgiven. 29 You are to have the same law for the person who acts in error, whether he is an Israelite or a foreigner who lives among you.

30 "But the person who acts defiantly, whether native or foreign resident, blasphemes the Lord. That person is to be cut off from his people. 31 He will certainly be cut off, because he has despised the Lord's word and broken His command; his guilt remains on him."

1. **The Full Measure of Grace (verse 14)**

And the grace of our Lord overflowed, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

1. **The Outward Purpose of Grace (verse 15-16)**

This saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance:"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners" — and I am the worst of them. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate His extraordinary patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life

1. **The Personal Response of Grace (Vs 12a-17**

I give thanks to Christ Jesus our Lord who has strengthened me

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen