

## 1. Lessons from Timothy: Reason for Doxology

*The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost.* 1 Timothy 1.15

The Parables of the Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin \_\_\_\_\_ the heart of God.

These are simple parables that speak profound truth: God \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, God is tireless in His search, and God is filled with joy when even one sinner repents.

Equally, His heart is grieved as we cling to \_\_\_\_\_, and keep doors of our hearts closed to the scrutiny of His Word and Spirit. Even so, God continues to seek us relentlessly, and is filled with joy when we are found, but God never forces His love, goodness, and grace upon us. Freely grace is given, but just as freely it must be received.

He was not saying that he was the vilest person who ever lived, but that he had \_\_\_\_\_ the vilest of all things; persecuted the Church, and in so doing, persecuted Christ Himself.

Through his encounter with the crucified and risen Christ, Paul \_\_\_\_\_ to himself and saw a vile character saved by grace through faith. The triad vices of blasphemy, persecutor, and insolence were obliterated by the triad gifts of grace, faith and love.

We can take great \_\_\_\_\_ in Paul's story, for no matter how my soul may be entangled in sin and the web of Satan's deceit, the grace of God in Jesus Christ is greater still.

There is a huge obstacle that must be overcome, for it \_\_\_\_\_ us to ourselves; it is the belief that "I am a good person!"

Even for those of us who accept this truth, it is often more a mere "comprehending" with the mind, not a "knowing" in the \_\_\_\_\_; it hasn't quite gotten down to the level of our souls and truly woken us up to ourselves. For that is where the real spiritual battle takes place -in our souls.

[We] all share the same story, the story of Jesus Who calls us to pick up our crosses and follow Him. Then again, \_\_\_\_\_ would anyone choose to pick up a cross and follow Jesus? For one reason, and one reason only, the hope of the resurrection, not just in the life to come, but in this life, now.

For having told his story to encourage young Timothy in his work for Christ, Paul broke out into doxology:

*To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.*

For his life was a doxology unto Him Who saved Paul from himself. There's the question! Does doxology \_\_\_\_\_ my life? Yours? The answer is in Christ!

