

The Model Leader

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: I Timothy 1:12-17.

B. Among Timothy's tasks at Ephesus was to guard the gospel and to instruct people in the way of the gospel.

II. God supplies believers with actual physical strength for the tasks they are given.

A. Sometimes, the supply is mental or emotional.

B. This power is for every deed so that God is given glory in everything.

III. Those called to be Christians are called to stand up and acknowledge Jesus' Lordship.

IV. Paul was divinely forgiven and changed by God's mercies.

A. Paul was blinded.

B. The Lord's prayer on the cross reveals that we often do not know of our sin.

C. We are deceived into thinking that we do the right thing when we really do wrong.

D. Those that walk away from God in full knowledge of Christ cannot be renewed. (Hebrews 6)

E. The believer is given two things.

1. Faith to see reality as it is.

2. Love—a desire to reach out to others.

F. Paul calls himself the chief of sinners.

1. Paul has been redeemed and made righteous. (Galatians 2:20, II Corinthians 5:7)

2. This is more than a humble expression—Paul is thinking of himself as a total man living in a world of evil with active flesh despite redemption.

G. Paul considered himself the proudest man of all. The Lord worked patiently with Paul.

Application questions:

1. When have you found your own power insufficient for ministry? What did you learn about depending upon God?

2. How is Paul's transformation encouraging for a believer struggling with sin?

3. What process did Paul take God through in order to open his eyes? Explain.
