**1 Timothy –1 Tim 1:12-20**

**Opening “welcome” question:**

* Have you ever heard a powerful testimony? What was it that stood out for you?...

**Worship**

* Read 1 Timothy 1:17, Ephesians 3:20 and Jude 1:24…
* Let these statements of praise lead you into your own prayers of praise and worship…

**1 Timothy:12-20**

**Main idea**

* God loves you and, in his mercy, wants you to serve him *not* despite who you are but BECAUSE OF WHO YOU ARE …

**Key verse**

* 1 Timothy 1:16 – “But **for that very reason** I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and receive eternal life.”

**Paul**

* Admits to being “the worst of sinners” (v16), but…
* In his mercy, Christ chose Paul to serve him not despite who he was, but BECAUSE OF WHO HE WAS

**Timothy Cho (see:** [**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8D\_XyIEsqY**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8D_XyIEsqY)**)**

* Has been scarred by abandonment, imprisonment and repression - circumstances no fault of his own, but…
* In his mercy, Christ has chosen Timothy to serve him not despite who he is, but BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS

**Paul and Timothy**

* Both transformed by the grace, mercy, love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.
* Both able to accept themselves and their past.

**Application questions for us (choose a few)**

* What are the key elements of Paul’s testimony in vv12-17?
* Where is Paul’s ultimate focus?
* “It is good to stay close enough to past sins and failures that we never take for granted God’s grace and mercy.” What do you think of this quotation?
* How do we strike the balance between accepting that “in Christ, the new creation has come” but also remembering our sinful nature and our continuing need for repentance and forgiveness?
* DT Niles described evangelism as “one beggar telling another beggar where he had found bread”. Is this a helpful definition?
* Discuss the idea that “Christ is our Kintsugi”? (Kintsugi is a Japanese word to describe a technique whereby broken pottery is repaired with golden seams in a way that the restored object is even more beautiful than the original one)
* Is there an aspect of your own past or current circumstances which God might want to use as a testimony to his transforming power in your life?
* What gifts/skills has God given you “for that very reason” of serving him, because of who you are?
* How can we encourage one another to accept ourselves, as we are, confident in the knowledge that, if we put our faith and trust in him, Jesus has already accepted us?
* If you feel able, share any examples of where you may still need to truly forgive someone and pray for one another about this.

**Prayer:**

* Pray for Timothy Cho and his ongoing work and witness.
* Pray for new NMBC members Stephen, Seoyoung and their daughter Ena.
* Pray for the day of Bible teaching this coming Sunday, 22nd May with Precept UK. (Do book in with Sue in the office if you haven’t done so already).
* Pray for pastoral concerns in your group and for those in the fellowship with particular needs of which you are aware.