

## 1 Timothy 1.12-20

Paul: Gold Medal Winner-- Sinning

### **Who is a sinner?**

How do you view yourself?

- Religious --> "Hebrew of Hebrews. Pharisee. Blameless [phil 3.5-6]
- Rebellious --> Blasphemer. persecutor. violent [1.13]

Having a Realistic Perspective

- Paul as the foremost (Gold Medalist)
- Not was but am "the foremost" [Acts 9.5- Persecutor of JC]

### **What is Grace?**

God has given what we need not what we deserve

- Grace- God's goodness towards those who deserve only punishment - Grudem
- He knows what is best for you

The Longer we live... the More Grace we use

- "I acted ignorantly in unbelief" before Christianity Grace is not only extended to those coming in... but is consumed even greater by those already in (the Kingdom)
- Good news: "There is more grace in Christ than Sin in YOU." -Richard Sibbs

### **Who Wins?**

World's Best Sinner is Saved

- Turn from Persecutor to Proclaimed [where ENEMY now SON]

Jesus Gets the Glory

- He is able to display his perfect patience [not I am bad... but He is good]

### **Small Group Questions:**

1. What is your favorite (funny or serious) athletic moment?
2. Paul talks about his rebellious life here, but in Philippians (3.5-6) he talks about his religious life. Which life are you more comfortable talking about with people?
3. Timothy is like a son to Paul (mentor/mentee), It is important to have a mentor and be a mentor. Who are yours?
4. How does a proper understanding of your gold medal (in sinning) help you understand God's Grace? Look at Ephesians 2.1-10 to further this discussion.
5. Discuss how God is shown glorious through his redemption of the foremost of sinners? How can we use this concept to embrace the world around us?