

Title: It's Down To Them – 1 Timothy 1 12-20

Read:

¹²⁻¹⁴I'm so grateful to Christ Jesus for making me adequate to do this work. He went out on a limb, you know, in trusting me with this ministry. The only credentials I brought to it were invective and witch hunts and arrogance. But I was treated mercifully because I didn't know what I was doing—didn't know Who I was doing it against! Grace mixed with faith and love poured over me and into me. And all because of Jesus. ¹⁵⁻¹⁹Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One—of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever. Deep honour and bright glory to the King of All Time— One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes! I'm passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself. After all, this is a fight we're in. ¹⁹⁻²⁰There are some, you know, who by relaxing their grip and thinking anything goes have made a thorough mess of their faith. Hymenaeus and Alexander are two of them. I let them wander off to Satan to be taught a lesson or two about not blaspheming.

Think:

Do you have friends that claim to be Christians and yet don't act that way at college or school? Maybe you know people who grew up with you in your church and yet recently they have said that God is a lie? I bet this never happens to other people, I bet no-one else has friends that walk away from Jesus, I bet no one else has friends that say they are Christians and yet drink too much and sleep around. Well if you really bet that, then I'll take that bet. Oops, maybe I shouldn't encourage gambling, but you get the gist of what I am saying. Here we have Paul, the ultimate guy who walked around building churches and telling people about Jesus and yet even he had friends who turned away from God. He says it right at the very end. He says "Jesus came for all of us but not everyone sticks around, even my two mates have given up on God." Now if it happens to the great Paul, we can be sure it will happen to us. So if it has happened to you, it's not your fault. You are not responsible for other people's actions, your responsibility is to pray for them and then leave it to God. Because, when it comes down to it, Jesus came for all of us, but it is up to each person to make their own choice.

Pray:

Lord thank you for my friends. Father please help me guide them to you, but accept that the final step is down to them. Amen.

Action:

Well if it is down to them to make the final decision, it's down to us to pray for our friends. Take five minutes now to pray for five separate friends who don't yet know Jesus. Bye.