



## Something You Can Count On

*By Johnny Caruso on August 16, 2021*

TODAY'S READING: 1 Timothy 1

A few years ago, I took some of our High School Leadership Team on a trip to London and France through Student Leadership University. In London, we visited the Metropolitan Tabernacle, the church where Charles Hadden Spurgeon was pastor for 38 years.

While at the church, we heard the story of how Spurgeon, at the completion of the church, went in to test the acoustics of the building to make sure his voice could be heard in every area of the building. Spurgeon quoted 1 Timothy 1:15 several times to test the sound. Satisfied with the acoustics, he left the building. Unaware to him, and the people with him, one of the poor workmen who had worked on the building was crouching behind one of the statues praying. The man was suffering with depression. Suddenly a voice came booming into the room, *"The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost."* The man accepted Christ.

At the beginning of church history, the Lord deliberately transformed the angriest anti-Christian zealot on earth, Saul of Tarsus, as proof of His power to save anyone and everyone. *"But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life"* (1 Timothy 1:16).

Trish and I have an older daughter who is not a Christ follower. We pray God will show His mercy and grace toward her as He has to the rest of our family. If you have given up on yourself or your loved one, don't! Jesus came to save the chief of sinners -- the worst of the worst, and as Paul said that is a statement deserving all acceptance. Chief of sinners, though we may be, Jesus shed His blood for us. He died that I might live on high. He died that I might never die.

**PRAYER:** Father, we lift up those we know who do not know You as personal Lord and Savior. We pray that You show mercy, grace and forgiveness to them. We pray that the Holy Spirit will draw them to You, and that Satan will lose the grip on their hearts.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** 1 Timothy 2

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