

## THE BIGGEST SINNER

1 Timothy 1:15

(Not entirely original with me)

**Introduction:** No doubt one of the most spiritual men in the Bible is Paul. He is a wonderful example in many areas of Christian living. Paul towers above all others in compassion, love for the Lord and love for others, in wanting to spread the gospel, in starting churches, in just about every aspect of being a Christian. Yet Paul never thought of himself as being all that good, for he called himself the "chief of sinners." Paul did perhaps exceed others in crime as he arrested, imprisoned and persecuted Christians before becoming a Christian, himself. What he had done with his life prior to becoming a Christian made him ashamed of himself and his sense of guilt made him consider himself to be the chief of sinners, although there have been countless even greater than he ever was. Who, today might be considered the biggest of all sinners?

### I. THE BIGGEST OF ALL SINNERS

1. Those who openly, directly oppose themselves to God and the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Paul, known as Saul before becoming a Christian, directly attacked those who were believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Those who blaspheme, those who are vocally against the things of the Lord.
    - Those whose mouths are full of oaths, cursings against the Lord Jesus.
  - The infidels, those who refuse to believe that God is.
    - Those who argue and try to convert others to their refusal to believe that God is real.
  - Those who say that Jesus Christ is not God.
    - That Jesus was only a prophet, just a man like any other man.
      - The Jesus who walked on waters, calmed storms, cast out evil spirits, who raised the dead, healed the sick was but a mere man.
  - Those who attack Christians, the Lord's people and who try to misguide them to another way.
    - Officials tried to get Paul to "curse Christ," to deny Him.
    - Husbands who persecute their wives because their wives are Christians.
    - Fathers who order their children to stay away from Churches.
    - Any person who tries to prevent another from being a part of the Lord's Church.
2. Those who willfully violate the natural instincts of morality and decency.
  - The prostitute and those who go to prostitutes.
  - Those who are attracted to those of their own kind, such as men to men and women to women.
    - "Gay" people.
3. Those who try to lead others into the ways of evil.
  - Those who have learned to sin openly, freely, who bring others into their sinful way of life.
    - Tempting the innocent until they sin and then bringing them into their own sinful, wicked way.
4. Those who have had much Christian teaching, who know the way of truth, yet have turned away from it.
  - Those who have been raised in a Christian home, shown by example the way of life the Lord wants people to live.
  - Those who have even participated in Sunday School, Christian retreats, camps, had their own Bibles, sang in the choir, etc.
  - Those whose consciences were convicted by their need of the Lord Jesus but who refused, who walked away.
  - Those who attend worship and hear God's Word preached, yet go on in their sinful ways.

5. Those who have always had a "tender" conscience.
  - Some seem to have been born without a conscience as they could not tell the difference between good and evil.
  - Some have a quick understanding, a sensitiveness, a perception of right and wrong, a strong conscience who never actually sin without knowing exactly what they are doing and their consciences keep them awake at night, yet they keep on deliberately sinning against their consciences.
6. WHO IN THIS ROOM is not a member of the body of the BIGGEST SINNERS? Who among us is not like Paul, a CHIEF OF SINNERS?
  - Although we may have never done the exact things as did Paul, have not all of us (YOU) done equally as sinful things as did Paul?
  - Whoever among us has sinned against the Lord Jesus and God the Father are sinners and may be forgiven IF he/she (we) will confess those sins and sincere honesty and repentance.

## II. THOSE WHO ARE OF THE BIGGEST SINNERS CAN STILL BE SAVED

1. The chief of sinners, the biggest sinner can be saved because of God's divine sovereignty.
  - *"...I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion..."* says God.
  - God will save the prostitute, the murderer, the thief, any and all who come to Him in sincere repentance.
  - If God can save the chief of all sinners, the biggest of all sinners, then God can certainly save those who sin less.
2. The chief of sinners, the biggest sinner can be saved because in doing so, God shows His great power.
  - Satan is an enemy of God and he seeks to keep every human being from becoming a believer in God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - Whenever a person believes in the Lord Jesus, Satan is angered.
  - People of the worst kind can be saved because God is all powerful.
3. By saving chief of sinners and the biggest of sinners, God shows His grace.
  - None who sin deserve to be saved, yet God loves them and extends saving grace to all.
  - Only by God's grace can anyone ever be restored to fellowship with God.
  - Nothing a person can do can cause him/her to be saved.
4. God saves the chief of sinners, the biggest sinners and in doing so, attracts others to His Grace.
  - "If God can save "so and so" who is the biggest sinner I know, then He can certainly save me"
  - God saves people through their faith, not by their works and whenever a person places his/her faith/trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, that person is saved, no matter how big a sinner he/she has been.
  - When a openly wicked, sinful person is saved, it causes others to begin to question their own situation and begin to think that if that person needed to be saved, then perhaps they do too.
5. When a chief sinner, a big sinner is saved, usually that person becomes a very active witness for the Lord Jesus and openly begin to be against the very sins they were so guilty of committing.
  - They become excited about the change in their lives, they leave their old habits, their old ways of life, their old comrades, friends but tell them about the wonderful change that has taken place in their lives.

## CONCLUSION:

1. No doubt every Christian thinks him/herself as among the chief of sinners, among those who are the biggest sinners and in doing so shows that he/she has a conscience and is aware that sin of any kind is not what God wants.
2. There are those who openly disbelieve that there is no God.
3. There are those who believe that Jesus Christ is not God but merely a man as any other man.
4. There are those who try to bring others into a false religion based on wrong views and concepts of God
5. There are those who try to keep their family members away from Church activities.
6. There are those who have been raised in a Christian home, exposed to Godly ways and teachings but who have refused to become believers in the Lord Jesus Christ.
7. There are those who are active in some Church, attend Sunday School, serve on committees, sing in the choir, etc., but have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.
8. There are those who live lives in open violation of God's Word, gays, prostitutes, adulterers, drunkards, druggies, immoral behavior of all sort.
9. No matter how big a sinner a person is, God's Grace can save that person IF that person will come to the Lord Jesus Christ sincerely repenting of his/her sinful way of life and believing in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 10 ARE YOU A SINNER? Have you experienced God's Grace in being forgiven of your sins? If so, are you telling others about the wonderful Grace of God and the saving power of the Lord Jesus?