Can We

Be

Too Bad

To

Be Saved?

Can we be too bad to be saved? We know that many people believe they are so good that they do not need the salvation of God. Usually, most people we talk to think they are too good. But some people believe the opposite. They think they are too bad to be saved. These people say, "*You do not know what I have done. You do not know what I have been. God would not want me!*"

Maybe you are one of these people? The Bible tells you a story especially for people who believe they are too bad to be saved. Again, not many people think this way, but some do. And then, of course, other people will make any excuse. The excuse-makers say, "*Well, I am too good or maybe I am too bad.*" They make any excuse -- as long as they do not have to be bothered about getting right with God. But, if you are genuinely worried about being too bad, I want to bring you some help.

The Bible shows us that nobody is too bad to be saved. You may be too careless. You may be too indifferent. You may be too proud. But you cannot be too bad – God can forgive your sins! Now, if you feel you are too bad, God did something very special for you. Listen carefully.

This story gives the worst people encouragement to come to God through Jesus Christ. Let me read you some words from First Timothy chapter 1 verse 12 where Paul says:

> "*I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has given me strength that He considered me faithful -- appointing me to His service -- even though I was once a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and a violent man. I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly -- along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.*"

And then consider this . . .

> "*Here is a trustworthy statement that deserves full acceptance -- Christ Jesus came into the World to save sinners of whom I am the worst . . . But for that very reason, I was shown mercy so that in me -- the worst of sinners -- Christ*

Jesus might display His unlimited patience as an example for those who would believe on Him and receive eternal life."

Do you understand this message? This is amazing! The Apostle Paul here says, "*I am the chief of sinners; I am the worst sinner.*" And he says, "*What I did was -- I blasphemed, I persecuted, I was a violent man.*"

Now, Paul's violence showed itself in one particular way. He persecuted Christians. He killed Christians. Paul's focus in life was to kill Christians. He did not just get drunk and murder someone. He did not just stab someone -- but not really mean to do it. He *deliberately* killed Christians!

He admits what he did and he marvels at this: *I was the worst sinner, but God showed me mercy.* God shows mercy to the worst -- to me! Jesus shows His unlimited patience to me, as an example for those who would believe on Him --- maybe that is you today . . .

Paul is saying, "*Look, I was the very worst sinner -- look at the things that I did. If Jesus Christ saves me, if He pardons me for my sins, He will pardon you. If I can receive mercy, you can receive mercy. Nobody is too bad to be saved.*"

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. He died upon the cross to pay the price that we owed. He bore the judgment that was due to us. Do you feel bad? Do you feel that you are perhaps too bad to be saved? Do you feel too bad to know God? Today, I am here with the authority of God to tell you that you are not too bad -- that is the Devil's lie. You can be like Paul. Just bring all your sins to God in Jesus Christ and you can find mercy.

Charles Wesley wrote these words: *'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for oh, my God, it found out me . . .* I found mercy, I found mercy, what a sinner I am. I can testify to that. What a sinner I am! But, oh, how I rejoice to tell you, God saved me and God will save you if you come to Him in the name of Jesus. Come today! Come now!