

## A TITLE OR A TESTIMONY

A friend from past years was once known as a nurse but later was called a multi-skilled practitioner. She said that was a way of saying she could clean out bed pans too. Many secretaries are now administrative assistants, and our wives are no longer housewives, but domestic engineers. Preachers are still just preachers, but I am thinking about changing my title to a professional marketer of celestial futures.

To be honest with you, I don't want a title, nor do I want my name highlighted on an outside bulletin board or anywhere else as being the minister of a church family when that title applies to every single believer. Paul said he could have had a title. He said that he could have been called a blasphemer, a persecutor and a violent man. He was entitled to call himself a Pharisee of Pharisees, or a defender of the Jewish faith, but things were different once He became a Christian. He didn't want a title, but he certainly wanted a testimony to share with others.

Paul said in 1 Timothy 1:15-16, "Here is a trustworthy saying 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."

Paul was saying, "I have a testimony to share about how Jesus changed my life. Others need to know about what Jesus did for me." He wasn't going to be content with just sitting around and hanging the title "Christian" around his neck. To him there was more to it than what people called him. He wanted to be known as a man who had a true faith. He wanted people to say that he was "Real."

In order for Paul to share his testimony he had to have a vision of what his testimony could accomplish. He needed to envision others whose lives would be changed just like his. I hope and pray that you will have a vision of reaching the lost for Jesus Christ with your testimony of faith, and that you would want others to know that your faith is real.

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