Day 54

> *I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 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. 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. 1Tim 1:12-16 (ESV)*

What is "sin"? Before trying to answer that question, it is important to understand that there are two general categories of "sin" – intentional and unintentional (see Num 15:22-31). Paul clearly states that he received mercy because his sins were unintentional. We may receive great comfort knowing that we don't have to remember and repent of every sin we ever committed unintentionally, even serious ones like Paul's; for one thing, there just isn't time. But what if we have consciously rebelled and sinned intentionally? Confess and repent, quickly! Trust that God, in His great love for you, will bring anything He requires you to deal with to your attention. As for the future, join in David's prayer: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." [Ps 139:23-4] Write out a similar prayer in your own words, and add a statement of commitment that you will do your best to follow Him as He leads you.