



Outward Group Discussion Guide

May 10, 2026 (Salem)

SUMMARY

This sermon from 1 Timothy 1:8-17 challenges listeners to examine their true identity apart from self-righteousness and acknowledge their brokenness before God. The pastor shares his personal testimony of living 35 years believing he was "good enough" without Jesus, relying on moral achievements and career success. Through Paul's letter to Timothy, the message emphasizes that God's law exists not to help us save ourselves, but to reveal our desperate need for a Savior. The sermon confronts the false doctrine of self-sufficiency and cultural slogans like "love is love" that contradict biblical truth. Paul's transformation from persecutor to apostle demonstrates God's overwhelming grace available to even the worst of sinners. The core message is that Jesus came specifically to save sinners, and recognizing ourselves as broken is essential to receiving His mercy. The sermon calls believers to reject pride, admit their inadequacy, and embrace the gospel truth that salvation comes entirely through Christ's finished work on the cross.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Paul describes himself as the 'foremost' of sinners. How does embracing this same posture of humility about our own brokenness change the way we relate to God and others?
2. The sermon contrasts using the law to justify ourselves versus using it to reveal our need for a Savior. In what areas of your life might you be using moral rules as a measuring stick rather than letting them point you to Christ?
3. Kevin shares how he spent 35 years thinking he was his own savior. What cultural messages or personal achievements tempt you to believe you don't need God's grace?
4. The world often promotes slogans like 'love is love' that contradict biblical teaching. How can we speak truth about God's design while still showing Christ-like compassion to those who disagree?
5. Paul thanks God for judging him because it revealed his need for mercy. Why is God's judgment actually an act of grace, and how does this differ from how the world views judgment?

6. The sermon mentions that Jesus promises tribulation, not an easy life. How does this reality challenge popular Christian messaging that focuses only on blessing and encouragement?
7. Kevin describes grace as overflowing like a fire hose into a five-gallon bucket. How should this image of uncontainable grace affect our worship, our gratitude, and our daily lives?
8. Many people say they need to 'clean themselves up' before coming to church. Why is this impossible, and how can we better communicate that church is exactly where broken people belong?
9. The billboard mentioned in the sermon left off 'of whom I am the foremost' from 1 Timothy 1:15. Why is admitting we are the worst of sinners essential to truly understanding the gospel?
10. Paul's life got harder after encountering Jesus, yet he praised God for appointing him to service. How does this challenge our expectations of what following Christ should look like?