



Outward Group Discussion Guide

October 18, 2026

SUMMARY

Drawing from 2 Timothy 2:14-26, this sermon addresses the dangers of divisive speech, theological drift, and self-centered living within the church. The pastor calls believers to present themselves to God as approved workers who handle the word of truth faithfully and without compromise, cutting a straight path through cultural pressure rather than bending to the contours of popular opinion. The sermon confronts the real spiritual damage caused by gossip, quarreling, and ungodly chatter within the body of Christ, likening its spread to gangrene. It also challenges believers to examine whether they are living for self or for Christ, calling for genuine repentance and progressive sanctification as marks of true discipleship.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon draws a distinction between seeking God's approval versus man's approval, as reflected in Galatians 1:10 -- in what practical areas of your life do you find yourself most tempted to prioritize the approval of others over faithfulness to God?
2. The pastor uses the image of a railroad versus a hiking trail to describe rightly handling the word of truth --

what are some ways that cultural pressure causes Christians to follow the contours of the landscape rather than cutting a straight path through difficult biblical teachings?

3. Paul describes godless chatter and irreverent babble as spreading like gangrene through the body of Christ -- can you identify ways that careless or divisive words have damaged faith in communities you have been part of, and what could have been done differently?
4. The sermon connects the story of Korah's rebellion in Numbers 16 to the situation in Timothy's church -- what does this Old Testament parallel reveal about how God views rebellion against faithful, God-appointed leadership?
5. The passage calls believers to cleanse themselves from dishonorable use so they can be vessels set apart for the master's purposes -- what specific habits, conversations, or patterns in your life might be keeping you from being fully useful to God?
6. The pastor describes discipleship as inherently involving conflict between God's word and our sin nature -- how does understanding this conflict as normal and necessary change the way you approach uncomfortable or convicting passages of Scripture?
7. Hymenaeus and Philetus are described as having swerved only slightly from the truth, yet the

consequences were devastating to the faith of others -- how should this warn us about treating small theological compromises as insignificant?

8. The sermon argues that living for self within the church community is a contradiction of the gospel described in 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 -- in what ways does consumerism or a preference-driven approach to church life reflect a failure to grasp what Christ's death demands of us?
9. Paul instructs Timothy to correct opponents with gentleness, trusting that God may grant them repentance -- how do you balance holding firm to truth while maintaining the kind of patient, gentle spirit that leaves room for God to work in someone who is in error?
10. The sermon closes with a call to repentance for those caught in the snare of divisive speech and self-centered living -- what does genuine, community-restoring repentance actually look like in practice, and what makes it so difficult to pursue??