# Outward Group Discussion Guide

November 8, 2026

## SUMMARY

Drawing from 2 Timothy 4, Pastor Matt Porter presents the dying words of the Apostle Paul to his spiritual son Timothy as a charge that applies to every believer. With Paul writing from a Roman prison while awaiting execution under Nero, the sermon centers on the sobering reality that Jesus Christ is not merely a gentle, comforting figure but the righteous judge who will return in power and glory. Every Christian carries a responsibility to preach the word of God in season and out of season, to correct and encourage with patience, to endure hardship, and to do the work of an evangelist. The sermon warns against the growing cultural tendency to seek teachers who confirm personal desires rather than speak biblical truth, and calls believers to sober-mindedness in the face of political distraction and cultural drift. Ultimately, the message anchors in the grace available through Christ's death and resurrection, which shields those who know him from the full weight of his coming judgment

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon describes Jesus not only as Savior but as the righteous judge who is returning on a white horse -- how does holding both of those realities together change the way you approach your daily life and decisions?
2. Paul writes his final charge to Timothy from a prison cell while awaiting execution -- what does it reveal about Paul's priorities that even in those circumstances his concern was for Timothy's faithfulness to the word, and how does that challenge your own sense of what matters most?
3. The sermon draws a distinction between preaching the word and simply telling good stories or offering personal opinions -- where in your own conversations and relationships do you find yourself substituting good advice or personal experience for the truth of Scripture?
4. Paul instructs Timothy to preach in season and out of season, regardless of whether the message is culturally welcome -- in what areas of your life are you most

tempted to stay silent about biblical truth because it feels inconvenient or unpopular?

5. The sermon describes the concept of itching ears, where people seek out teachers who confirm their existing desires rather than challenge them -- what are the specific desires or assumptions in your own life that you tend to protect from the scrutiny of Scripture?
6. The pastor draws a connection between knowing Jesus deeply and naturally wanting to share him with others -- if you find yourself reluctant to share your faith, what does that reluctance reveal about the state of your relationship with Christ?
7. John Calvin initially wanted to retreat into private study, and it took a sharp rebuke from William Farel to move him into public ministry -- what is the difference between healthy spiritual formation through studying the word and using that study as an excuse to avoid costly engagement with others?
8. The sermon emphasizes that reproof, rebuke, and exhortation are essential acts of love within the church, yet our culture often labels correction as harmful or abusive -- how do you personally discern the difference between correction that is genuinely loving and correction that is harmful, and how do you receive hard words directed at you?
9. The pastor warns against getting consumed by political fear, conspiracy theories, and partisan identity, urging believers to remember that Christ's kingdom will outlast every political party -- in what practical ways can a Christian stay engaged with civic life without allowing political identity to eclipse their identity in Christ?

10. The sermon closes with the reminder that the wages of sin is death but that the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ -- considering that Jesus the righteous judge is also the one who chose to be crucified in your place, how does that tension between his justice and his grace shape the way you live and the message you carry to others?