

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Second Timothy
Sept 1, 2024 | “Stop the Gangrene” | **2 Timothy 2:14–19**

Five Identifying Markers for Healthy Teaching:

- 1) It keeps reminding the church about the _____
(2:14a)
- 2) It resists getting bogged down in meaningless _____
(2:14b)
- 3) It handles God’s Word with _____
(2:15)
- 4) It avoids gangrenous _____
(2:16-18)
- 5) It exhorts believers to forsake _____
(2:19)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Read 2 Timothy 2:14–19. Why is good teaching so important to the health of the church? Is your church committed to healthy Bible teaching? In what ways is that the case? Are you personally committed to healthy teaching? In what ways are the “Five Identifying Markers” above demonstrated in your church?

What are “the things” that Paul wants Timothy to remind the church about (2 Tim 2:14)? Why do we need these reminders? What happens when churches get away from gospel truths? What happens to Christians when they forget or abandon the gospel?

Why does God want his Word of Truth handled with great care? How does a pastor/teacher “cut it straight” (2:15)?

GET PERSONAL

What are some meaningless quarrels that take place in the church? Why does Paul tell Timothy to charge them “before God” to avoid these kinds of quarrels? How do they ruin the hearers? What’s the difference between a spirited discussion or debate and a meaningless quarrel (literally, “word-war”)?

In what ways does false teaching spread like gangrene? How are elders supposed to respond to this kind of teaching and these kinds of teachers? How do church members battle gangrenous teaching in their church?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What does Paul mean when he says “avoid irreverent babble” in verse 16? Is that different from those who “quarrel about words” in verse 14? What does good discussion and debate look like in the Christian life? How do you work through theological and practical disagreements in a healthy way with other believers? How do you prevent that from turning into something unhealthy and unproductive?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Consider the following seven forms of gangrenous false teaching: 1) The Jehovah’s Witnesses who deny Christ’s deity, 2) The Unitarians and “Oneness Pentecostals” that deny the Trinity, 3) The anti-supernaturalists that deny the miracles of the Bible, 4) The liberal theologians who deny the authority of God’s Word, the atonement of Christ, and the existence of hell, 5) The social gospel advocates that try to moralize the gospel into a bunch of do-goodism, 6) The “Jesus plus” advocates who say faith has to be combined with deeds for salvation, 7) The “health, wealth, and prosperity gospel” advocates. How do each of these examples of false teaching spread unhealth in the church?