

Perspective: Gospel
2 Timothy 1:13-14 Discussion Questions

1. When you think of gospel ministry, do you tend to think more of the offensive or defensive aspect?
2. In verse 13, Paul tells Timothy to follow the pattern of sound words that he has heard. Explain why using words is necessary for gospel ministry.
3. St. Francis of Assisi is often misquoted as saying, "Preach the gospel at all times. Use words if necessary." Why do you think there is a movement among Christians that seems to deemphasize the importance of words?
4. Why do you think there is a movement among Christians that seems to emphasize the idea of hearing a "new word" from God instead of focusing on the revealed words of God? Have you dealt with this issue? How would you explain to someone the importance of emphasizing the pattern of sound words already given to us?
5. Paul gave Timothy a pattern of sound words. He didn't tell him verbatim what to say, but he did give him a pattern to follow. What are some of the key aspects of the gospel message that we must speak if we are going to be faithful to the pattern?
6. What are some key verses in the Bible that helpfully and succinctly articulate the gospel message?
7. Paul tells Timothy to follow the pattern of sound words in/with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus (v.13). Why is it essential that our lives reflect the grace and love of the gospel?
8. What are the consequences if we are speaking about the gospel of God's grace but we are not living out the gospel of God's grace or we are not sharing the gospel in a gracious way?
9. Have you ever had an experience where you lived your life in such a way that other people wanted to hear the reason for the hope that is in you? If yes, please explain. If not, why not?
10. We are also called to guard the gospel. In v.12, Paul said God guards the gospel, but in v.14 Paul calls Timothy to guard the gospel. How should we make sense of this?
11. One of the key aspects of guarding the gospel is being willing to say what the gospel is not. Can you think of any examples (biblical, historical, or modern) of God's people having to explicitly state what the gospel is not?
12. We live in a day when people are easily offended when we begin to say what the gospel is not. Why are people today especially offended by this? How should we respond to this unique challenge of our day?
13. We said one of the keys for guarding the gospel is to determine the seriousness of the issue. What are some issues that we should consider gospel issues and be willing to fight for and give our lives for? What are some examples of issues we should agree to disagree about with other Christians? Can you think of a time when you have done this well/poorly?
14. We said guarding and advancing the gospel doesn't begin out in the world. It begins in our church, our home, and in our own hearts. What are some specific ways you have had to guard the gospel from yourself or advance the gospel against your own heart?