

Why Guard the Gospel?

2 Tim. 2:14-26

The Book of 2 Timothy

Theme: The elders' prime directive is to handle the truth of the gospel unashamedly and accurately to safeguard the flock and silence all opposition.

Introduction:

BIG PICTURE:

- The Principle – Paul's emphasis on keeping the gospel central (chapter 1)
- The Picture – Paul utilizes several visual aids to help the elders know what it would look like to guard the gospel in the church and entrust it to others (chapter 2)
- The Process – Paul reminds Timothy/elders not only what it looks like to guard the gospel, but why it's so crucial (chapters 2 and 3)

Outline:

- I. **Shepherds safeguard the flock from error (2:14-19)**
- II. **Shepherds silence the opponents of the gospel (2:14-19, 22-26)**
 - a. Issue
 - b. Impact
 - c. Imperative
- III. **Shepherds serve the flock with the gospel (2:20-26)**
 - a. Illustration/Example (v.20-21)
 - b. Impact of the Gospel (v.25-26)

Shepherding the Sheep:

To the Believing: The highest priority of the elders is to rightly handle the Scripture, and specifically the gospel. If you are an elder of Waukesha Bible Church, it is your privilege and responsibility to shepherd the flock well in how you handle the Word. If you do not find yourself serving as an elder, which is the majority present, please be in prayer for our elders. Pray specifically that we would handle the text well, that we would keep the gospel central, that we would deal decisively and graciously with anyone opposing the gospel, and that we would serve this fellowship well as elders.

To the Unbelieving: within every gathering or church, there are both believers and unbelievers side by side, and it is often hard to distinguish between the two. However, today's text reminds us that there is hope for those who do not believe, even those who may be opposing the truth of the gospel. Repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth is available, if you would like to know more about the gospel please contact one of the elders. We would love to share with you how you can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.