

2 Timothy 2:23-26  
*Correcting Our Opponents with Gentleness*  
November 20, 2011  
Sermon Outline

Notes:

**I. Introduction**

- A. We believe that God Has Clearly Revealed Himself to be Speaking in the Bible
- B. Watch Out for those who Trust their Own Opinion (Their Heart is revealed by Their Fruit)

**Last Week's Key Idea**

*Beware of anyone who trusts their own opinions more than God's perfect Word.*

**This Week's Key Idea**

*How should we speak to those who trust their own opinions more than God's perfect Word.*

- C. Three Kinds of "Insiders" (Professing Christians)
  - 1. **Christians** who do not yet think like Christians (Not Wolves; Disciples)
  - 2. Unbelievers who think they are Christians
  - 3. Unbelievers with hearts full of malice

**II. The Lord's Servant**

**2 Timothy 2:23–24a**

<sup>23</sup> Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And **the Lord's servant** must not be quarrelsome but *kind to everyone*...

- A. Not Quarrelsome... but Kind
  - 1. Not becoming "like" the "fool" (Prov. 26:5)
  - 2. "Kind to **everyone**"
- B. Correcting Opponents (Prov. 26:6)

1. “Patiently enduring evil”

**2 Timothy 2:24b–25a**

...able to teach, *patiently enduring evil*,<sup>25</sup> correcting his opponents with *gentleness*. ...

2. “God may perhaps grant them repentance”

**2 Timothy 2:25b–26**

...God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth,<sup>26</sup> and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

- a. Humility (Ephesians 2:1–5)
- b. Pity “the snare of the devil”
- c. Hope: “God may perhaps grant them repentance”

**III. By their Fruit... You will recognize them**

A. By Our Fruit!

**Matthew 7:17–27**

<sup>17</sup> So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. <sup>18</sup> A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.

<sup>19</sup> Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. <sup>20</sup> Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

<sup>21</sup> “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who *does the will of my Father who is in heaven*. <sup>22</sup> On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ <sup>23</sup>

And then will I declare to them, ‘**I never knew you**; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’ <sup>24</sup>

“Everyone then who **hears these words of mine** and *does them* will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did

not fall, because it had been founded on the rock.<sup>26</sup> And everyone who **hears these words of mine** and **does not do them** will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand.<sup>27</sup> And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.”

B. How Should We Approach those who do not Obey the Truth

1. False Teachers

- a. Beware (Matt. 7:15–20; 2 Peter 2:1)
- b. Cling to the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:12–17)
- c. What about church discipline?  
(Matthew 18; Matthew 7:6 – pearls & Pigs)

2. Approach Doubtful Christians as “Brothers” (Cf. 1 Corinthians 5:9–13)

- a. Joel Osteen
- b. Roman Catholics
- c. Someone who does not understand the gospel... or it’s implications
- d. What about church discipline?

4. Call All People to Worship in Jesus:  
Anyone with a question might become a brother!

**Acts 26:28–29**

<sup>28</sup> And Agrippa said to Paul, “In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?” <sup>29</sup> And Paul said, “Whether short or long, ***I would to God that not only you but also all who hear me this day might become such as I am***—except for these chains.”