

PREACHING THEMES

1. **Addiction** — Being enslaved to a habit, practice or substance such that withdrawal causes trauma.
2. **Adoption** — Legal transfer from one family or situation into another family, used in the NT to describe believers' relationship to God.
3. **Adultery** — Unfaithfulness to another person. It could be used of marital infidelity as well as unfaithfulness to God.
4. **Alcohol** — Intoxicating drink, such as wine or beer.
5. **Angels** — Messenger of God or supernatural being with superhuman powers.
6. **Anger** — A strong feeling of displeasure aroused by a wrong, whether real or perceived.
7. **Apostasy** — Denial of faith by those who once held it or professed to hold it.
8. **Assurance** — A sense of confidence, security or certainty, especially concerning one's salvation.
9. **Atheism** — Disbelief in God.
10. **Atonement** — Reconciliation between God and humanity, specifically through Jesus' death.
11. **Baby Dedication** — The act of dedicating a baby to God.
12. **Baptism** — The act of using water to admit a person into the Christian community, whether as an adult or infant.
13. **Beauty** — The state of being attractive or pleasing to the senses.
14. **Blasphemy** — Cursing God, or showing contempt or irreverence toward God.
15. **Blessing and Cursing** — Spiritual and material benefits given by God to be enjoyed. Cursing is the lack of those benefits.
16. **Borrowing and Lending** — Asking for or offering money or goods for temporary use.
17. **Calling** — God's summoning of people to himself as well as to particular tasks.
18. **Character** — The moral and ethical features that a person possesses.
19. **Church: Fellowship and Unity** — How the members of the church relate to one another.
20. **Church: Leadership** — Leadership as exercised in the church.
21. **Church: Nature** — What the church is; ecclesiology.
22. **Circumcision** — A physical sign of membership in the people of God.
23. **Clothing** — Anything used as a garment or piece of jewelry.
24. **Comfort** — To ease the grief or trouble of someone; console.
25. **Commitment** — Devotion or faithfulness to some cause or person.

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26. **Complaining** — To express ingratitude or discontent in an unjustified way.
27. **Compromise** — To make a concession one ought not to make, especially regarding one's morals or relationship to God.
28. **Confession** — To acknowledge one's sins, whether to God or another person.
29. **Conflict** — Division, confrontation or argument between persons.
30. **Contentment** — Acceptance, satisfaction with one's situation.
31. **Conversion** — The act of turning to God; new birth.
32. **Counseling** — Guidance in resolving personal conflicts and emotional problems.
33. **Courage** — Boldness or bravery.
34. **Courtship, Dating and Romantic Relationships** — Romantic love.
35. **Covenant** — God's commitment to his people, and formal commitments between people.
36. **Creation** — All the things God has made; the natural world and the universe.
37. **Creation: Renewal** — The new heavens and the new earth. Also, the new creation of the believer (2 Co 5:17).
38. **Creativity** — The ability to bring something new into being. Though only God can create something out of nothing, human creativity involves inventive combinations of existing material.
39. **Cults and Non-Christian Religions** — Non-Christian belief systems that deal with supra-normal forces.
40. **Death and Dying** — The end of life, or awareness of its approach.
41. **Debt** — Something that is owed, whether money or an obligation more generally.
42. **Depression** — Sense of despondency, hopelessness, loss of meaning in life.
43. **Disability** — Physical incapacities resulting from physical or spiritual causes.
44. **Discipleship** — The process of becoming a committed follower of Jesus Christ.
45. **Discipline** — Training or punishment, whether it is exercised on people by others or themselves.
46. **Discouragement** — Being deprived of confidence.
47. **Divorce** — Legally dissolving a marriage.
48. **Doubt** — Uncertainty about the truth and reality of spiritual things.
49. **Economics** — Broadly, anything to do with buying and selling.
50. **Education** — Imparting of spiritual, intellectual, moral and social instruction.
51. **Election** — God's act of choosing people for any purpose.

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52. **Encouragement** — Giving someone confidence or boldness to do something.
53. **Envy** — Desire to possess another person's gifts, possessions, position or achievements.
54. **Eschatology** — Doctrines that have to do with the last days of the world.
55. **Eschatology: Antichrist** — A person who opposes Christ. Can refer to a particular person who appears as Christ's principal antagonist.
56. **Eschatology: Last Judgment** — The final judgment which occurs after Jesus' return.
57. **Eschatology: Millennium** — The thousand years mentioned in Revelation 20.
58. **Eschatology: Resurrection** — The act of rising from the dead.
59. **Eschatology: Second Coming** — The return of Jesus to the earth.
60. **Eternity** — Infinite time.
61. **Evangelism** — The act of preaching the gospel.
62. **Evil** — Corruption, malevolence or depravity in the world.
63. **Faith** — A constant outlook of trust and dependence toward God.
64. **False Teaching** — Heresy and false teaching within the church.
65. **Family** — People who are linked by marriage or physical descent. Not limited to nuclear family.
66. **Family: Children** — Sons or daughters; includes teenagers and adult children.
67. **Family: Fathers** — Men who have children.
68. **Family: Husbands** — Married men.
69. **Family: Mothers** — Women who have children.
70. **Family: Parents** — Collective term for a father and mother.
71. **Family: Wives** — Married women.
72. **Fasting and Abstinence** — Abstaining from something, usually food, because of religious commitment or as an expression of repentance.
73. **Fear** — An unpleasant emotion caused by the awareness of danger.
74. **Foolishness** — Lack of wisdom or discretion.
75. **Forgiveness** — Freeing a person from guilt and its consequences.
76. **Freedom** — The state of liberty that results from not being oppressed or in bondage.
77. **Friendship** — Feeling of affection or personal regard for someone.
78. **Giving** — To make a present of something or to behave generously and unselfishly.
79. **Glory** — Greatness, splendor, majesty.

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80. **Gluttony** — Excessive desire for food and drink.
81. **God: Faithfulness** — God's faithfulness to his people, including his actions on their behalf.
82. **God: Father** — God represented as a father.
83. **God: Grace** — Unmerited favor from God.
84. **God: Knowledge** — The knowledge that God possesses.
85. **God: Love** — The love that God shows.
86. **God: Mercy** — God's compassion on people.
87. **God: Power** — The power that God possesses, and displays of that power.
88. **God: Presence** — God's presence with people as well as his omnipresence.
89. **God: Providence** — God's activity of providing his creatures with what they need. It is a function of God's sovereignty.
90. **God: Sovereignty** — The fact that God is free and able to do what he wants.
91. **God: Trinity** — God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
92. **God: Wrath** — God's anger.
93. **Good Works** — Good deeds, sometimes connected or contrasted with faith.
94. **Gospel** — The message of Christ, the kingdom of God and salvation.
95. **Government, Politics and National Identity** — The political exertion of authority, as well as the concept of national identity.
96. **Graduation** — The announcement of the successful completion of a course of study.
97. **Greed** — Excessive desire for more of something, especially wealth or possessions.
98. **Grief** — Sadness or sorrow.
99. **Guidance** — The act of seeking God's purposes and plans for people.
100. **Guilt** — Remorse over having committed some offense.
101. **Happiness** — Glad, pleased with one's circumstances.
102. **Health and Healing** — Physical or emotional well-being and recovery from illness.
103. **Heaven** — God's realm.
104. **Hell** — Final dwelling place of the wicked.
105. **Holidays** — Any day set aside for a particular celebration.
106. **Holidays: Father's Day** — A day set aside to honor fathers.
107. **Holidays: Memorial Day** — Any day set aside to honor veterans or the military.
108. **Holidays: Mother's Day** — A day set aside to honor mothers.

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109. **Holidays: New Year's Day** — A day set aside to celebrate the coming of a new year.
110. **Holidays: Thanksgiving** — A day set aside to show thankfulness.
111. **Holiness** — Separation from what is unclean; sanctified or consecrated.
112. **Holy Spirit** — The third person of the Trinity.
113. **Holy Spirit: Fruit** — The fruit that the Holy Spirit produces in a believer's life.
114. **Holy Spirit: Gifts** — The gifts that the Holy Spirit gives to believers.
115. **Homosexuality** — Erotic activity with someone of the same sex.
116. **Honesty and Dishonesty** — Telling the truth; sincerity.
117. **Honor and Shame** — Having a good name or public esteem.
118. **Hope** — An expectation of the fulfillment of something desired or promised.
119. **Hospitality** — Showing generosity or a welcoming attitude toward guests.
120. **Humility** — Absence of pride or arrogance.
121. **Hypocrisy** — Pretending to be what one is not, particularly regarding false virtue or nominal religion.
122. **Idolatry** — Trusting, serving or giving worship to something that is not God.
123. **Image of God** — Having God's likeness.
124. **Injustice** — Lack of justice.
125. **Jealousy** — A strong feeling of possessiveness; intolerance of rivals.
126. **Jesus: Birth** — Anything that has to do with Jesus's birth, whether its theological meaning as the Incarnation or its celebration at Christmas.
127. **Jesus: Death** — Anything that has to do with Jesus's crucifixion on the cross.
128. **Jesus: Divinity** — Anything that refers to Jesus's divinity.
129. **Jesus: Epiphany** — Anything that refers to Jesus's manifestation of himself to the world, especially regarding the holiday celebrated in January.
130. **Jesus: Humanity** — Anything that refers to Jesus's humanity.
131. **Jesus: Miracles** — Miracles performed by Jesus.
132. **Jesus: Passion** — This theme includes events from Holy Week from Palm Sunday through the Last Supper up to the crucifixion.
133. **Jesus: Resurrection and Ascension** — Anything to do with Jesus's resurrection from the dead and its celebration on Easter.
134. **Joy** — An attitude of pleasure and well-being.
135. **Judgment** — The particular acts of bringing about justice.

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136. **Justice** — What is morally right.
137. **Justification** — God’s act of declaring people righteous.
138. **Killing** — Any death of one person at the hands of another.
139. **Kingdom of God** — The kingly rule of God in the lives of people and nations.
140. **Law** — Instruction; rules of conduct.
141. **Law: Ten Commandments** — The particular laws known as the Ten Commandments or Decalogue.
142. **Laziness and Apathy** — Idle; apathetic; slothful.
143. **Leadership** — The capacity to guide, mentor or lead others.
144. **Legalism** — Having a strict outward conformity to moral and religious practices and an expectation that others have the same.
145. **Loneliness** — Feeling alone and not wanting to be.
146. **Lord’s Supper** — An act that commemorates Jesus’s last supper with his disciples and his death on the cross; eucharist.
147. **Love** — Strong affection for another.
148. **Lust** — Passionate, inordinate desire for something, usually sexual in nature.
149. **Marriage** — The state of being united to another person as husband or wife.
150. **Men** — Male human beings.
151. **Mercy and Compassion** — Human pity or kindness.
152. **Miracles** — An unusual event that manifests God’s direct intervention on the world.
153. **Mission** — The continuation of Jesus’ mission through his followers. This normally includes evangelism as well as humanitarian service.
154. **Money** — Something accepted as a medium of exchange.
155. **Music** — Ordering tones or sounds in succession, whether with an instrument or singing.
156. **Neighbors** — Anyone encountered in life.
157. **Obedience and Disobedience** — Compliance with the demands of another.
158. **Parables** — A story that is intended to illustrate an attitude or principle.
159. **Patience** — The ability to wait without becoming hasty or impetuous.
160. **Peace** — A state of tranquility or wholeness; shalom.
161. **Persecution** — To be singled out for harrassment, including violence and martyrdom.
162. **Perseverance** — Persisting or enduring in spite of opposition.

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163. **Philosophy** — An understanding of reality; worldview.
164. **Poverty** — Lack of money or resources.
165. **Power** — Authority and influence, as well as strength or ability.
166. **Prayer** — Addressing God directly.
167. **Prayer: Intercession** — Prayer on behalf of another person or group of people.
168. **Prayer: Petition** — Prayer that makes a request of God.
169. **Prejudice** — Preconceived judgment or opinion, whether positive (favoritism) or negative (discrimination).
170. **Pride** — Inordinate self-esteem; arrogance.
171. **Profanity** — Foul language. Biblically, the concept is very close to blasphemy. In the modern world, they are separate.
172. **Promises** — A declaration that one will do something.
173. **Prophecy** — Communication of a divine message through a human. Used, for example, when a person says, “Thus says the LORD.”
174. **Prophecy: Fulfillment** — Prophecies that have been fulfilled in the biblical text.
175. **Prophecy: Jesus** — Prophecies about Jesus - his coming and events in his life.
176. **Purity** — Having the characteristic of being spotless; clean; innocent.
177. **Reconciliation** — Restoration of friendship; resolution of conflict.
178. **Redemption** — To buy back; release from bondage.
179. **Repentance** — A change of mind leading to a change of action.
180. **Responsibility** — Liable to be called to account for one’s actions.
181. **Restoration** — Returning something or someone to its original state.
182. **Revelation** — God’s act of revealing something to humans.
183. **Revenge** — Retaliation for some injury, whether real or perceived.
184. **Reverence** — To show awe or respect.
185. **Revival** — Making something alive again; renew.
186. **Righteousness** — What is right and pleasing to God.
187. **Sabbath and Rest** — Day of rest laid down for God’s people.
188. **Sacrifice** — An offering of something to God.
189. **Salvation** — Deliverance from the power and effects of sin.
190. **Sanctity of Life** — The inherent worth of human beings; includes references to abortion and euthanasia.

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191. **Satan** — The one who opposes God and accuses his people; the devil.
192. **Scripture** — The writings collected in the Bible.
193. **Service** — Helping or assisting others.
194. **Sex** — Sexual intercourse.
195. **Sexual Immorality** — Sexual activity contrary to biblical commands; fornication.
196. **Sickness** — Poor health; disease.
197. **Sin** — Transgression of God's will, either by doing what he forbids or failing to do what he requires.
198. **Singleness** — Not being married.
199. **Slander** — Idle talk or rumor about others.
200. **Slavery** — The state in which one person legally owns another or one person is excessively dependent on another person or thing.
201. **Speech** — The communication of thoughts using spoken words.
202. **Spiritual Warfare** — The struggle against forces of evil, including personal forces like demons.
203. **Stealing** — Wrongfully taking the property of another; theft.
204. **Stewardship** — Responsible use of wealth, land or possessions.
205. **Stress** — Feeling physical or mental pressure; worry.
206. **Submission** — An attitude of yielding or surrender.
207. **Substitution** — Putting one person or thing in place of another; replacement.
208. **Suffering** — The endurance of pain or affliction.
209. **Suicide** — Killing oneself.
210. **Superstition** — A belief or practice that results from belief in magic or chance; a false understanding of causation.
211. **Tabernacle** — A physical space that serves as God's dwelling place; refers to both the tabernacle and the temple.
212. **Temptation** — To test or to entice to do wrong.
213. **Thankfulness** — Conscious of benefit received; gratitude.
214. **Tongues** — A spiritual gift that involves ecstatic utterances.
215. **Truth** — Something which is in accordance with fact or reality.
216. **Union With Christ** — The state of believers being "in Christ."
217. **Victory and Defeat** — The overcoming of an enemy; success.

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- 218. **Violence** — A use of physical force so as to injure or abuse.
- 219. **Vision** — A visual form of revelation through which God communicates.
- 220. **War** — Armed hostile conflict between groups of people.
- 221. **Watchfulness** — Being carefully observant, attentive or aware.
- 222. **Weakness** — Lack of strength.
- 223. **Wealth** — Abundance of material possessions; prosperity.
- 224. **Wisdom** — Insight, knowledge and good judgment.
- 225. **Women** — Female human beings.
- 226. **Work** — Labor or occupation, whether it is a person's primary means of livelihood or not.
- 227. **Worship** — Praise, adoration and reverence of God, both in public and in private.