

## The Preacher and Themes in John

The thematic threads of John's Gospel offer the preacher a unique opportunity to span larger sections in a sermon while bringing variety to our preaching. Taking one often-misunderstood set of themes, we will combine cultural insight with textual awareness to trace a key idea through the Gospel.

**Peter Mead** is the Director of Cor Deo, a mentored study and ministry training programme in Chippenham, England. He is also involved in the leadership of a church plant. Peter also ministers for Operation Mobilisation as a Bible teacher, and has served as a trainer with Langham Preaching. Peter studied at Multnomah Biblical Seminary before getting his Doctor of Ministry degree under Haddon Robinson at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, in the area of expository preaching. Peter is the author of BiblicalPreaching.net. He is married, with five children.

**Huw Williams** worked for 12 years as a conductor, working with orchestras, soloists, singers and ensembles across the world. He then made the transition to pastoral ministry and is currently the pastor of the International Church of Torino in Italy. He is a passionate advocate of clear and understandable Bible teaching, particularly in cross-cultural contexts. He maintains a keen interest in classical music and opera, and continues to support and encourage Christian musicians as they engage their Christian faith with their artistic environment. He is a husband to Alison and a father to Kitty.

### I. John's Themes

#### A. Key thematic terminology

1. Sign
2. Belief
3. Life/Death
4. Light/Darkness
5. Father/Son
6. Truth
7. Word
8. Etc.

#### B. Key themes combining terminology

1. Coming to belief (compare progression in chapter 2-3 and chapter 4)
2. Living water & the Spirit from Ezekiel (compare chapter 4, 7, 10, 14-16)

3. The trial of Jesus (see below - II)

4. The lifting up of Jesus (see below – III)

## II. The Trial of Jesus

A. Legal procedure in Bible times

B. The trial of Jesus in John's gospel

## III. Lifting Up of Jesus

A. With reference to the Son of Man

• *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be **lifted up**, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.” (3:14-15)*

- *“So Jesus said to them, “When you have **lifted up** the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he, and that I do nothing on my own authority, but speak just as the Father taught me.” (8:28)*

- *“And I, when I am **lifted up** from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to show by what kind of death he was going to die. So the crowd answered him, “We have heard from the Law that the Christ remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be **lifted up**? Who is this Son of Man? ”” (12:32–34 – notice also the Isaiah quotes that are used in this section!)*

B. With reference to the eyes

- *“Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, then comes the harvest’? Look, I tell you, **lift up** your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.” (4:35)*

- *“**Lifting up** his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat? ”” (6:5)*

- *“So they took away the stone. And Jesus **lifted up** his eyes and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me.” (11:41)*

- *“When Jesus had spoken these words, **he lifted up** his eyes to heaven, and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you,” (17:1)*

C. Other

- *“I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But the Scripture will be fulfilled, ‘He who ate my bread has **lifted** his heel against me.’ ” (13:18)*