

Preaching Behind the Bars



Paul Nielsen

Colorado DOC Chaplain, Denver Seminary

Three decorative, curved lines in shades of orange and light blue are positioned above the main text.

CMCA Summit
May 17-18, 2024 | Wheaton, IL

REJOICE!

"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!" - Revelation 19:6-7



CROSSROADS
PRISON MINISTRIES



About.txt

- Who are you?
 - You preach in prison, or want to
 - No formal seminary, homiletics, or hermeneutics training
- Theory / Issues / Decisions
- Ideas that works for me, or not
 - Some you'll say, "not for me."
 - You might find some useful

Conference Strategy

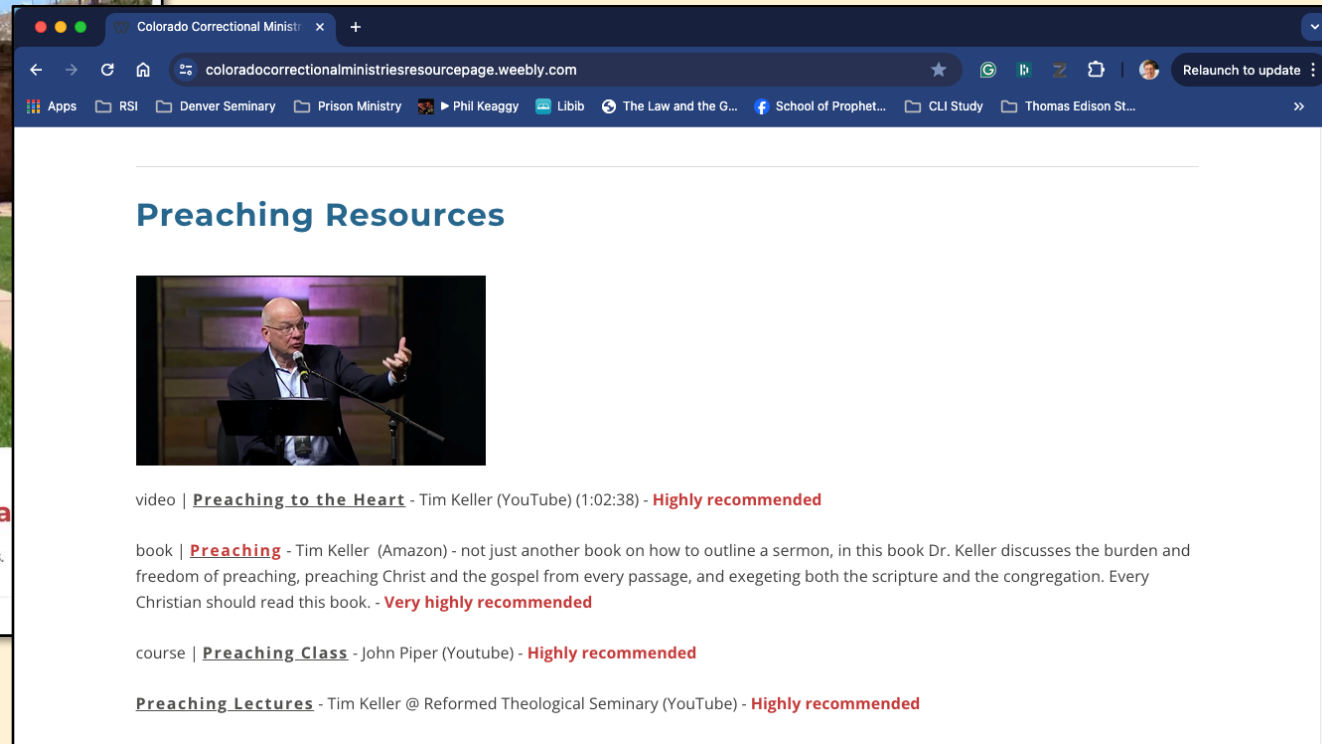
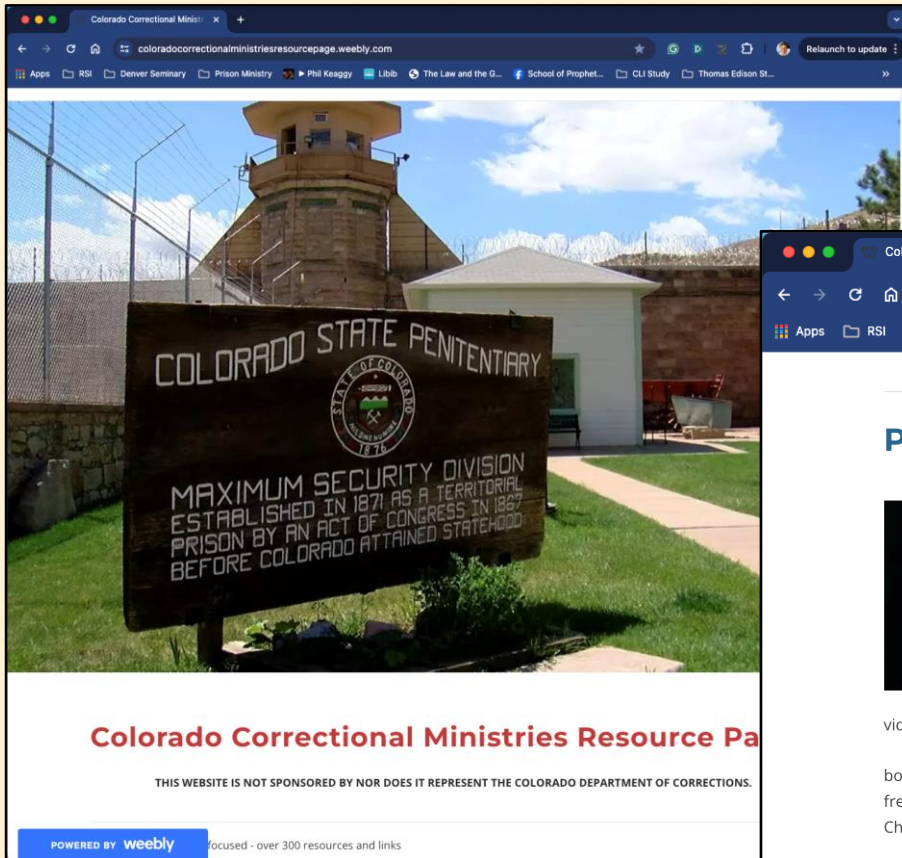


Attend the sessions - for the **energy** in the room, **dialog** w/ speaker.
Watch sessions **online later** - for the **content**.

Workshop Presenters	Friday May 17 Workshop Session 2: 3:30-5:00 PM, Billy Graham Hall	
Jerry Blassingame / Soteria	Reentry Simulation (3:15pm-5:00pm) Fourth Floor Wilson Suite	Wilson Suite
Kevin Eastway	Faithful Friendship: Fundraising from the Heart	121
Tammy Fisher, Lindsey Horvatich, Jenny Brodnax	Embracing Family Members in Recovery: Keeping your Sanity through your Loved Ones' Incarceration and Return	134
Ilinda Jackson & Dan Odean	Facilitating Multi-faith Ministry	140
Kimberly Mackall & Violet Ford	Strategic Planning for Organizational Effectiveness	138
Paul Nielsen	Preaching Behind the Bars	132

www.ColoradoCorrectionalMinistriesResourcePage.weebly.com

300+ links!



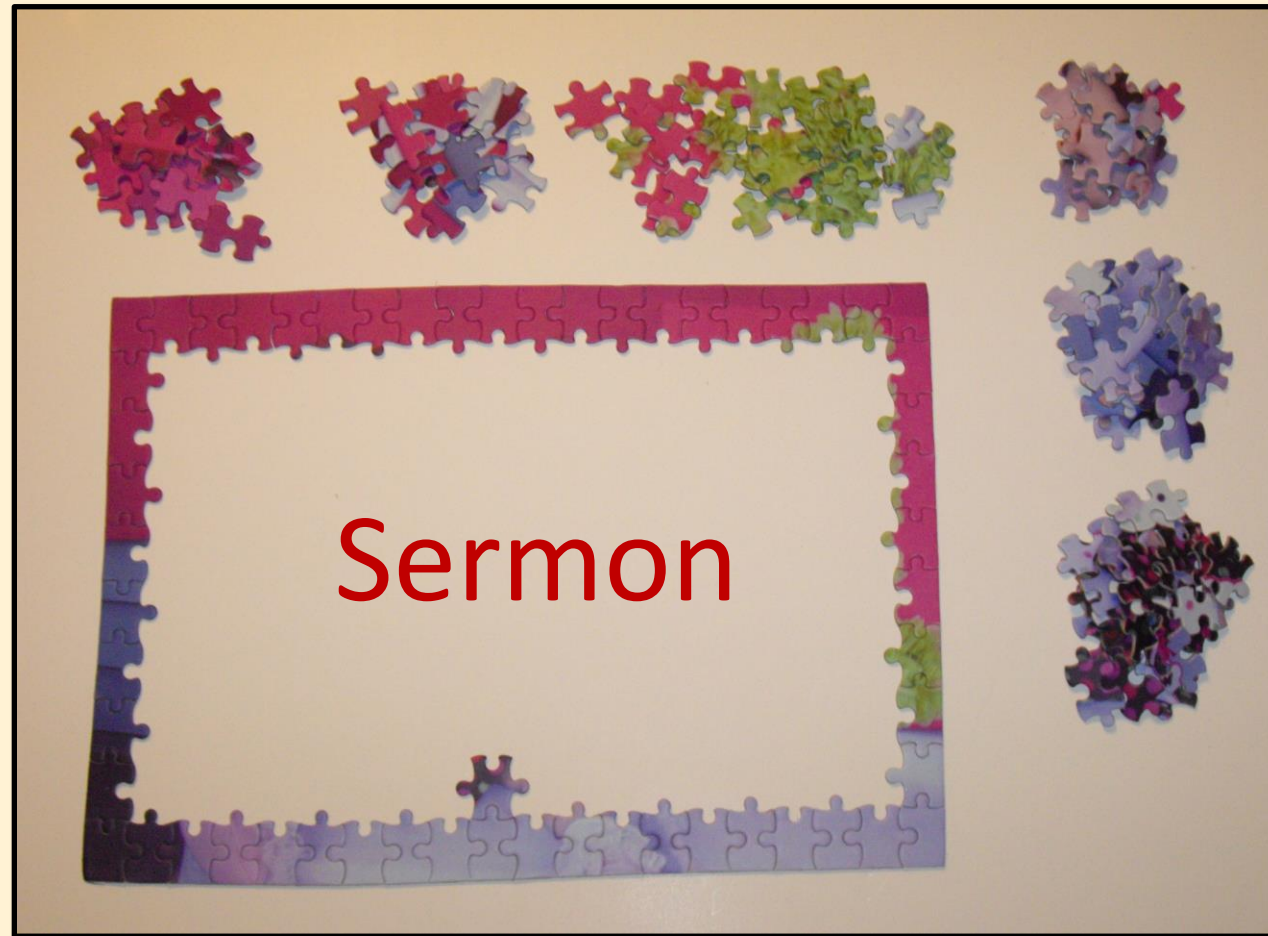
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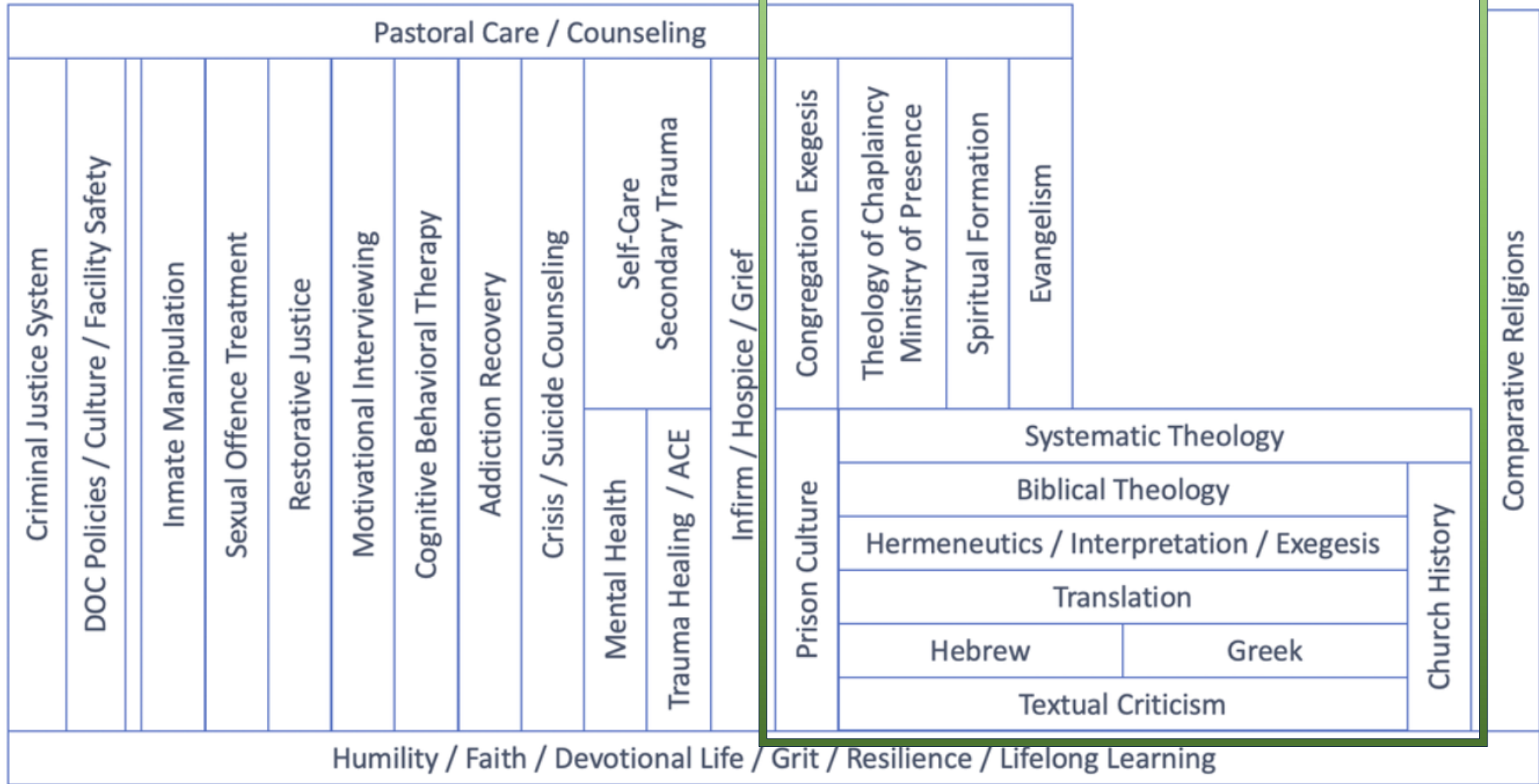


Reframing



Reframing





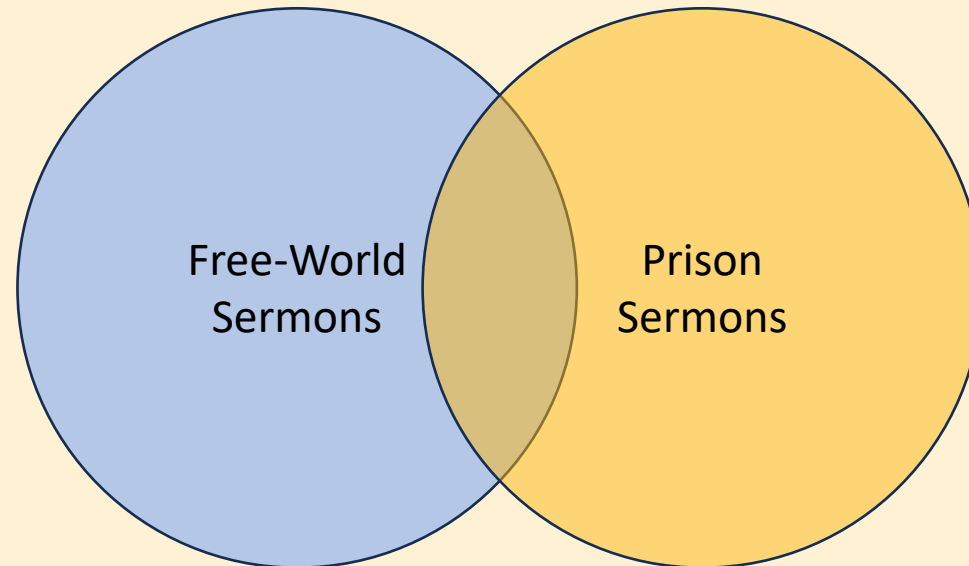
Block Diagram of Correctional Chaplaincy Knowledge

Jail / Prison

Evangelism / Equip & Encourage

The Problem

- Many free-world sermons don't work inside
- Different
 - Culture
 - Lexicon
 - Concerns
 - Idols



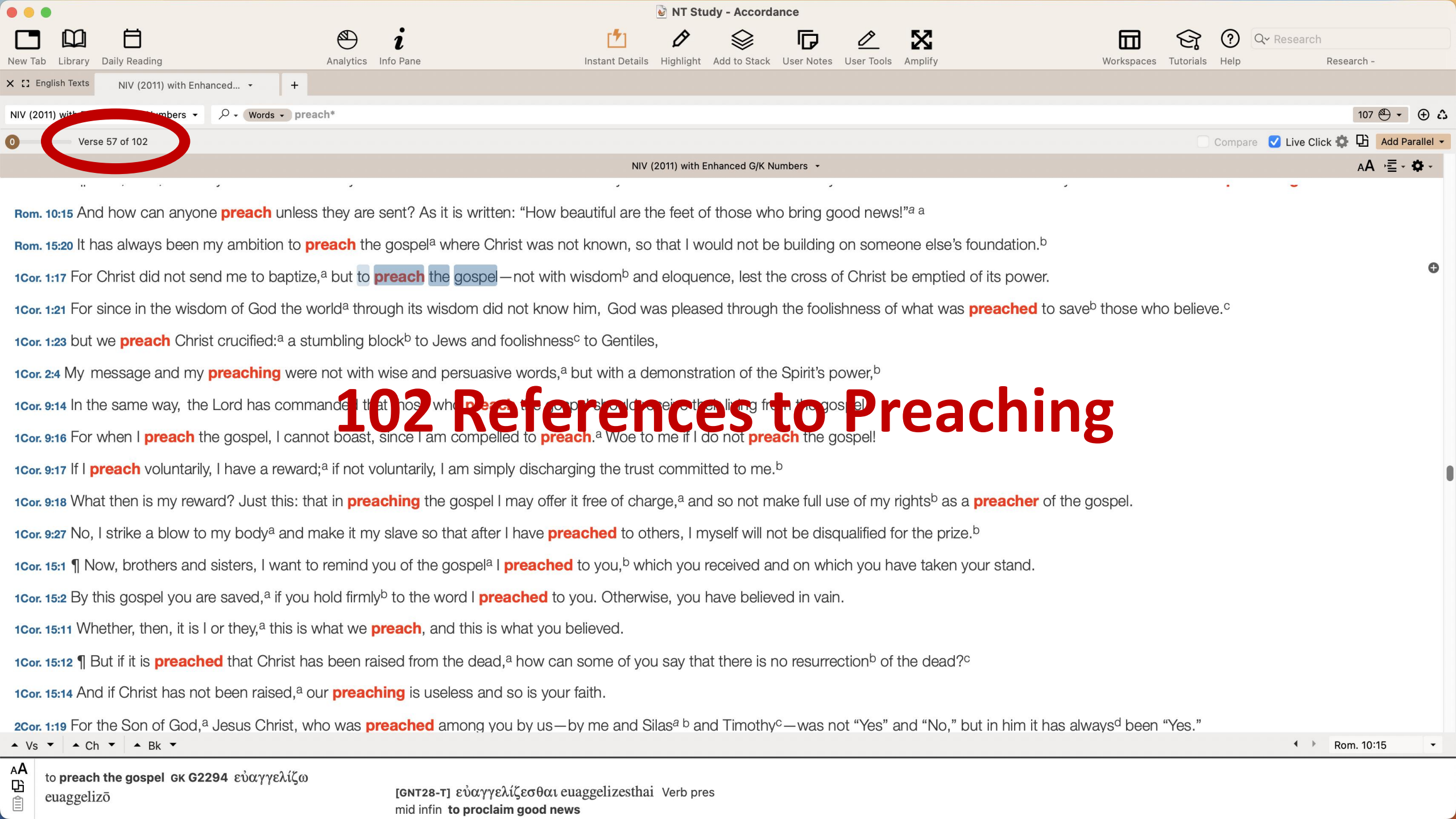
The Problem

Wide range of:

- Educational levels
- World views / theologies
- Faith backgrounds
- Institutionalization
- Jailhouse religion

Free-world congregations self-sort

Less so in prison



Verse 57 of 102

102 References to Preaching

- Rom. 10:15 And how can anyone **preach** unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"^{a a}
- Rom. 15:20 It has always been my ambition to **preach** the gospel^a where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation.^b
- 1Cor. 1:17 For Christ did not send me to baptize,^a but to **preach** the gospel—not with wisdom^b and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.
- 1Cor. 1:21 For since in the wisdom of God the world^a through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was **preached** to save^b those who believe.^c
- 1Cor. 1:23 but we **preach** Christ crucified:^a a stumbling block^b to Jews and foolishness^c to Gentiles,
- 1Cor. 2:4 My message and my **preaching** were not with wise and persuasive words,^a but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power,^b
- 1Cor. 9:14 In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who **preach** the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.
- 1Cor. 9:16 For when I **preach** the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to **preach**.^a Woe to me if I do not **preach** the gospel!
- 1Cor. 9:17 If I **preach** voluntarily, I have a reward;^a if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me.^b
- 1Cor. 9:18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in **preaching** the gospel I may offer it free of charge,^a and so not make full use of my rights^b as a **preacher** of the gospel.
- 1Cor. 9:27 No, I strike a blow to my body^a and make it my slave so that after I have **preached** to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.^b
- 1Cor. 15:1 ¶ Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel^a I **preached** to you,^b which you received and on which you have taken your stand.
- 1Cor. 15:2 By this gospel you are saved,^a if you hold firmly^b to the word I **preached** to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.
- 1Cor. 15:11 Whether, then, it is I or they,^a this is what we **preach**, and this is what you believed.
- 1Cor. 15:12 ¶ But if it is **preached** that Christ has been raised from the dead,^a how can some of you say that there is no resurrection^b of the dead?^c
- 1Cor. 15:14 And if Christ has not been raised,^a our **preaching** is useless and so is your faith.
- 2Cor. 1:19 For the Son of God,^a Jesus Christ, who was **preached** among you by us—by me and Silas^{a b} and Timothy^c—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always^d been "Yes."

to preach the gospel GK G2294 εὐαγγελίζω euaggelizō

[GNT28-T] εὐαγγελίζεσθαι euaggelizesthai Verb pres mid infin to proclaim good news

God Centered

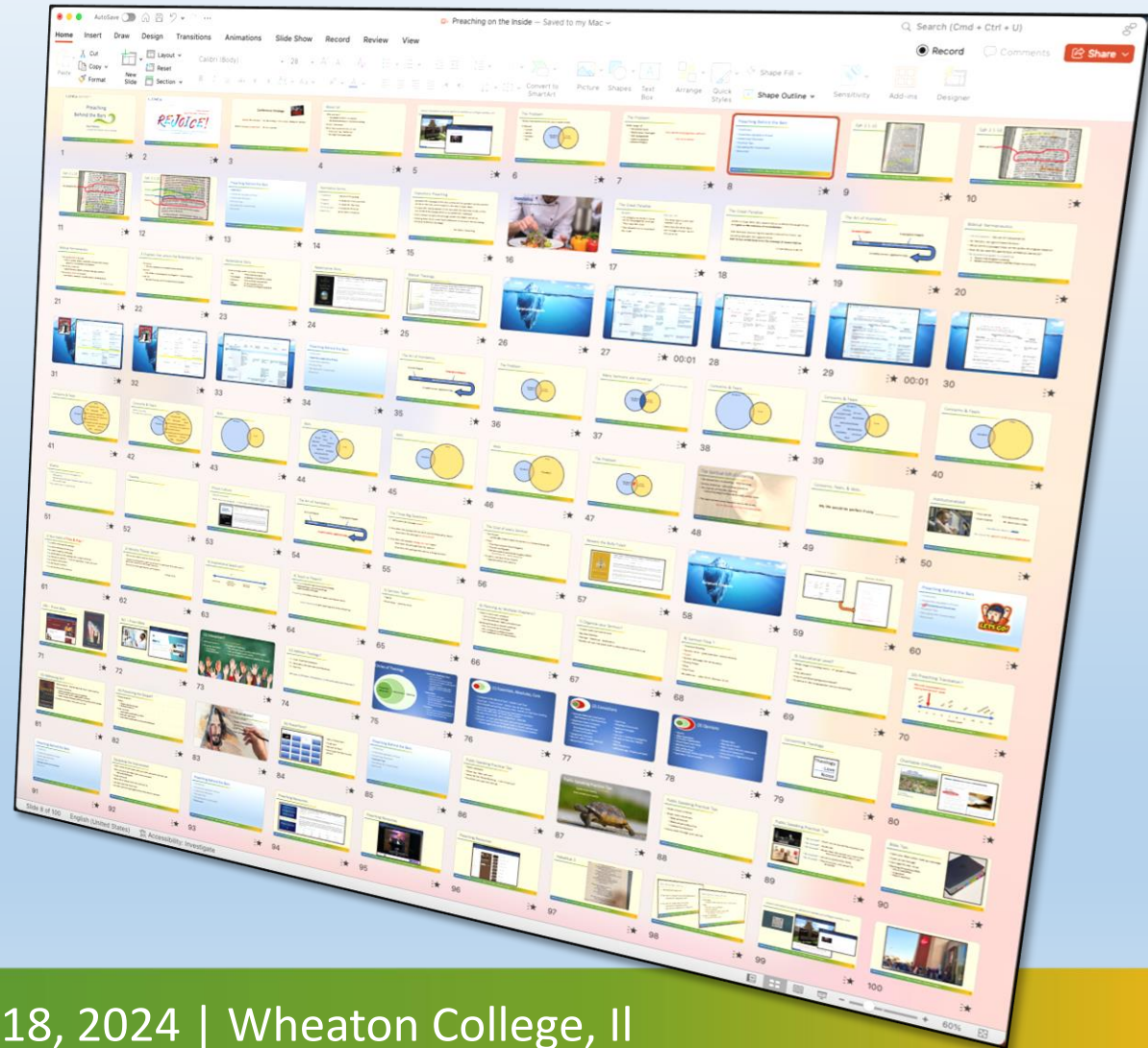
And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with ~~eloquence~~ or ~~human wisdom~~ as I proclaimed to you the testimony **about God**.

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except **Jesus Christ and him crucified**.

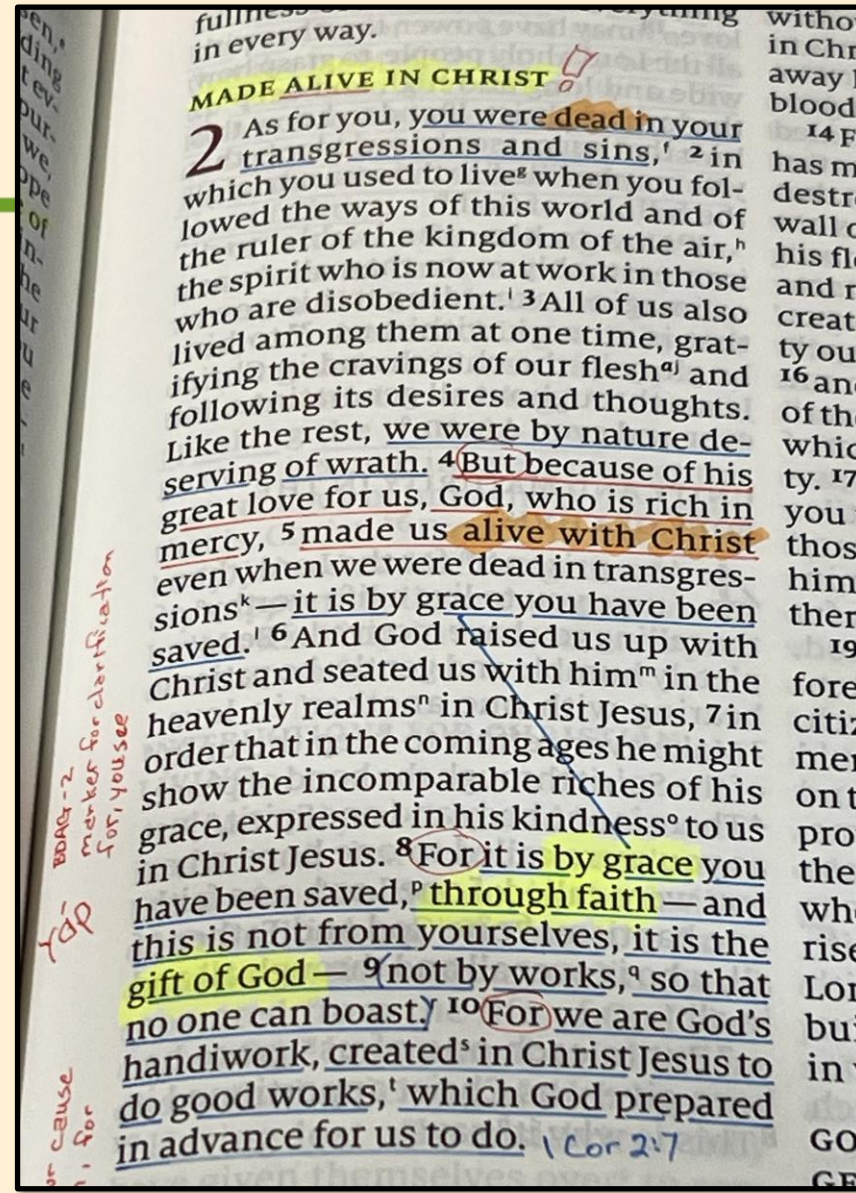
- 1 Corinthians 2:1-2

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

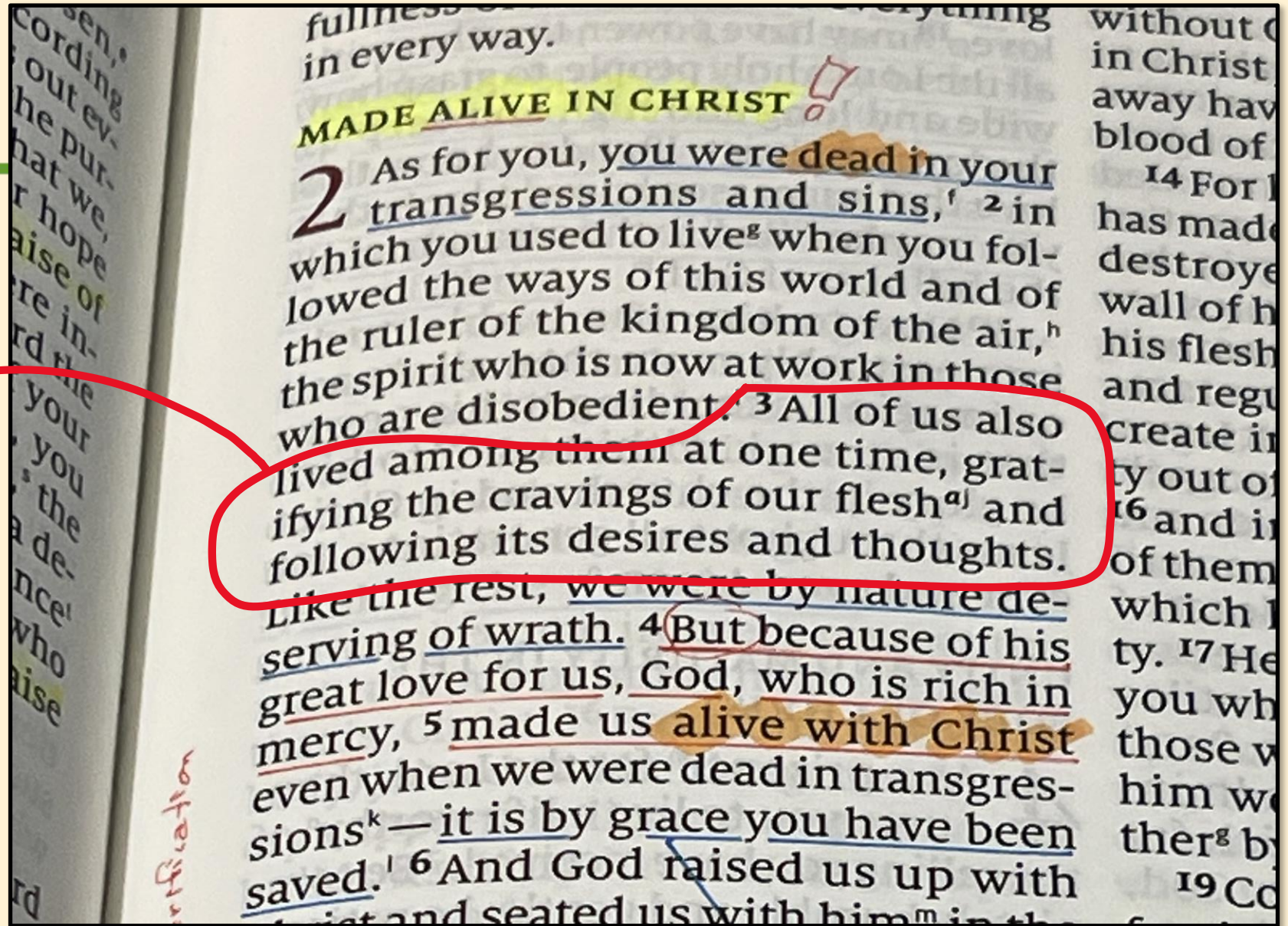


Eph 2:1-10



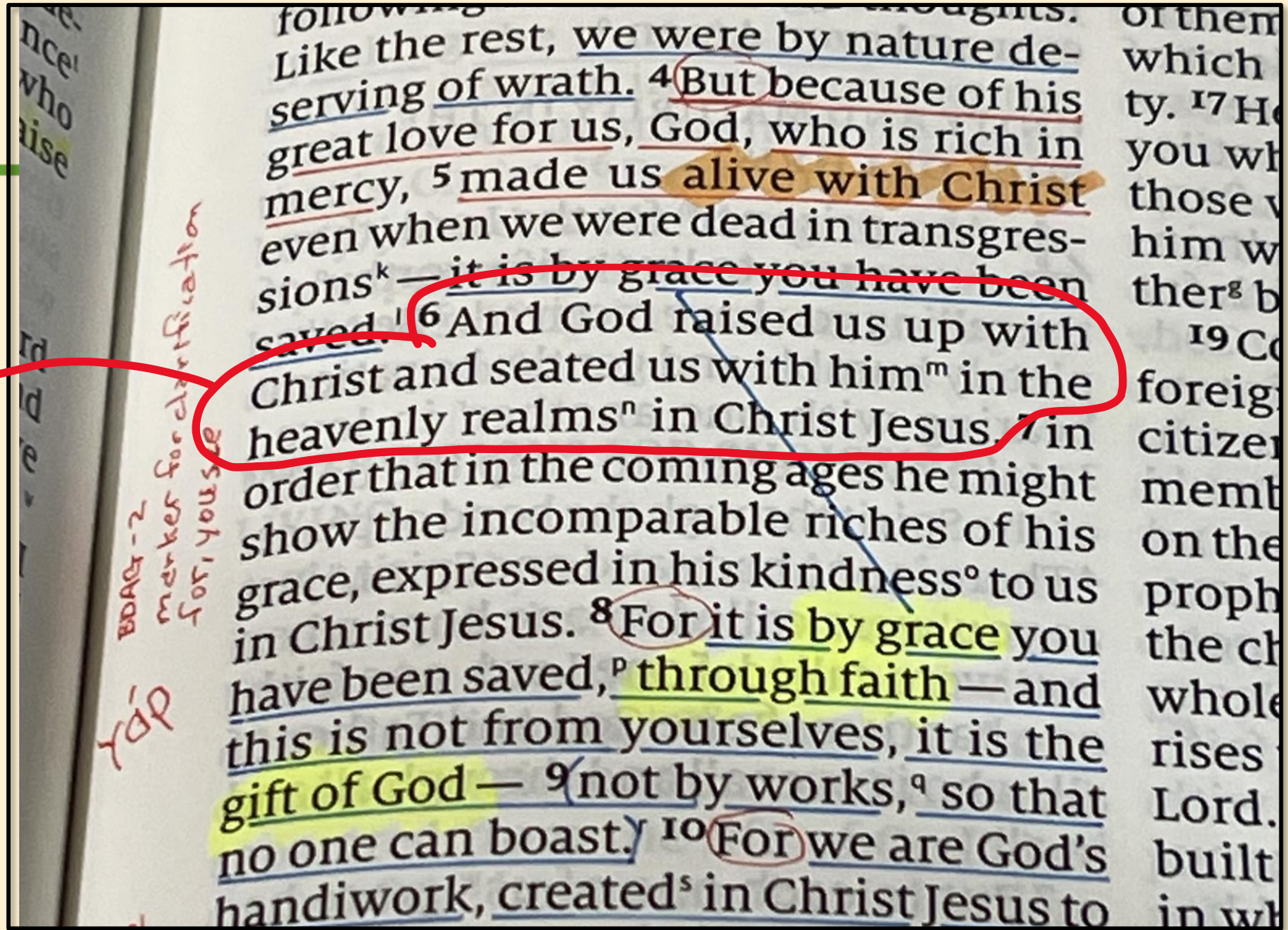
Eph 2:1-10

Battle w/sin



Eph 2:1-10

Like waiting for bed



Eph 2:1-10

marker for
for, houses

order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness^o to us in Christ Jesus. 8 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. 9 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. 1 Cor 2:7

JEW AND GENTILE RECONCILED THROUGH CHRIST

II Therefore, remember that for-
-ly you who are Gentiles

Because

Masterpiece

Prepared

Preaching Behind the Bars

- **Homiletics**
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

Homiletics

Taste and see that the LORD is good.



Homiletics terms

- Homiletics - the art of Preaching
- Exegesis - to draw out truth out from...
- Eisegesis - to insert an idea into...
- Hermeneutics - to properly interpret
- Expository - grounded in Scripture

Expository Preaching -

- grounds the message **in the text** so that all the sermon's points are the points in the text, and it majors in the text's major ideas.
- It aligns the interpretation of the text with the **doctrinal truths** of the rest of the Bible (being sensitive to systematic theology).
- And it always situates the passage within the **Bible's narrative**,
- showing how **Christ is the final fulfillment** of the text's theme (being sensitive to biblical theology).

- Tim Keller, Preaching

The Great Paradox

Weighty

- It's **weighty** to stand in front of the congregation and say, *"thus says the Lord."*
- They depend on us to preach the **truth**.

And yet, ~~Weighty~~

- The **Holy Spirit** is the real teacher, ~~us~~.
- Only God the Holy Spirit can **change a heart**.
- So, it's ~~up to us~~.

The Great Paradox

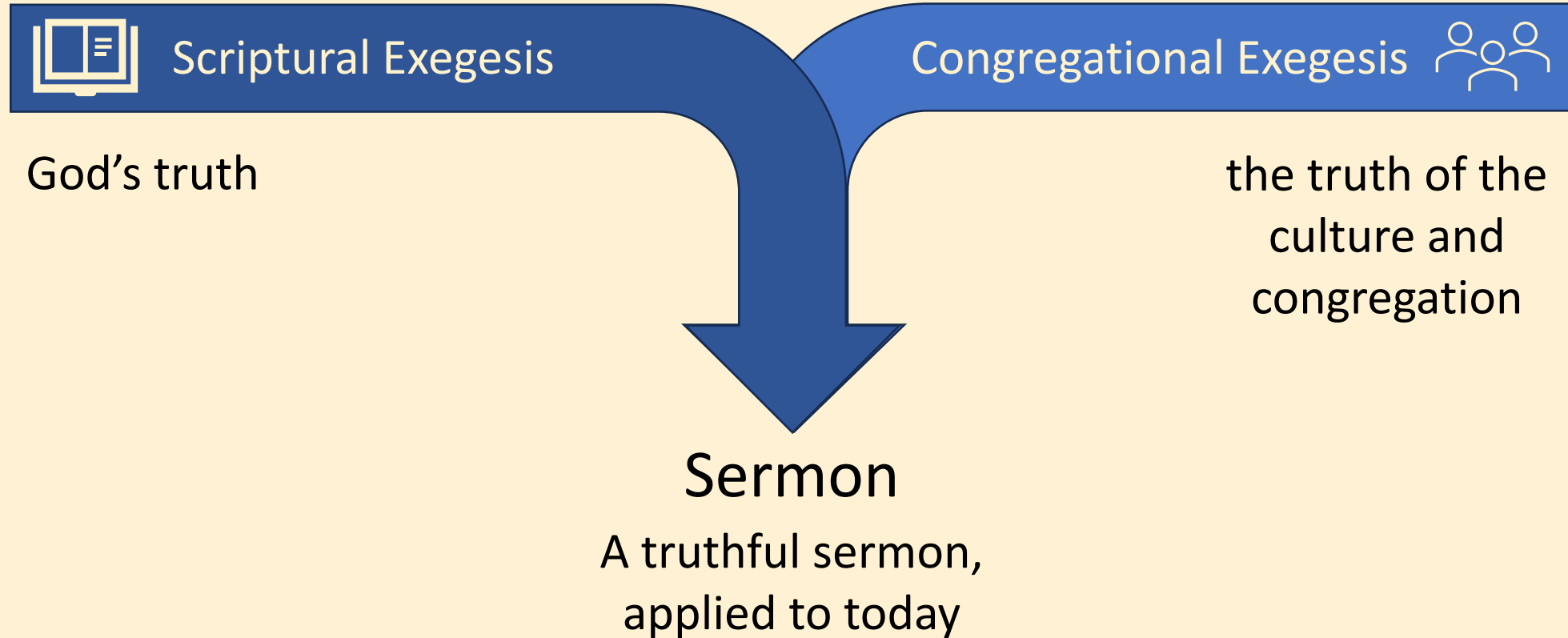
All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and **gave us the ministry of reconciliation:**

that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them.

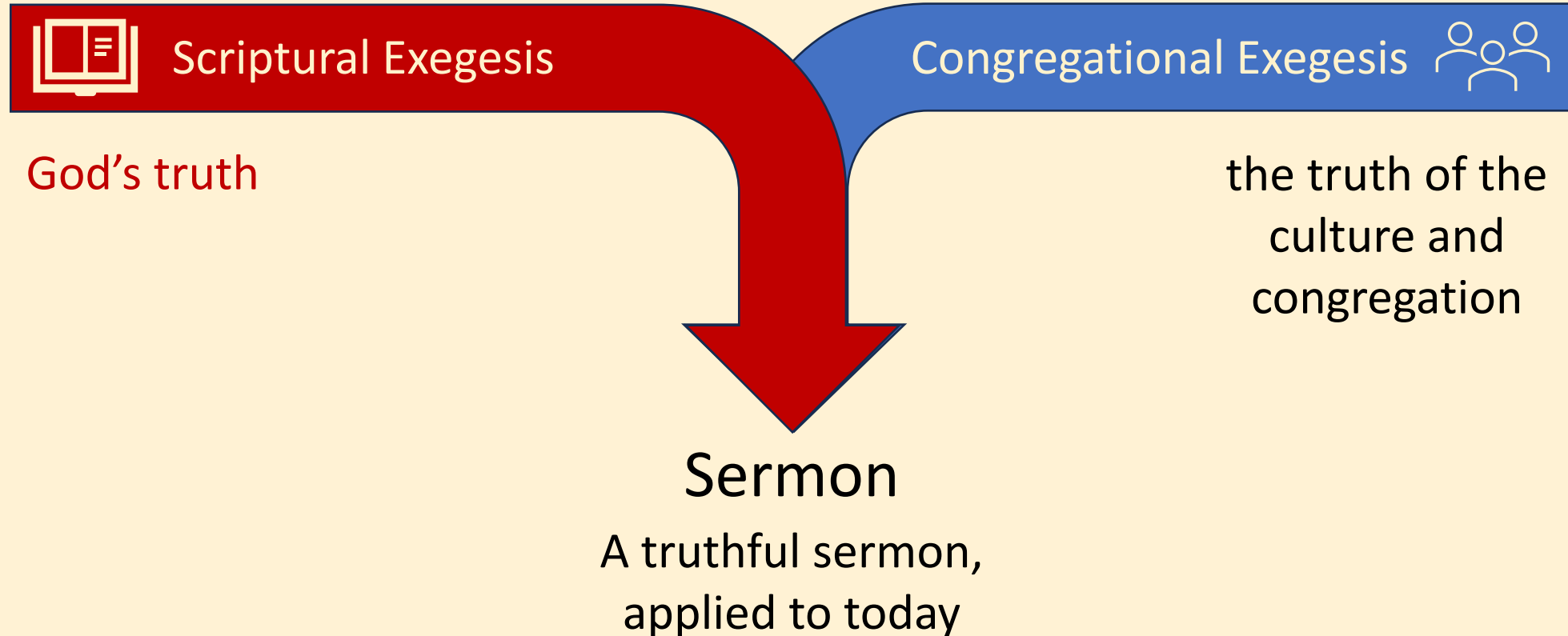
And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

The Art of Homiletics



The Art of Homiletics



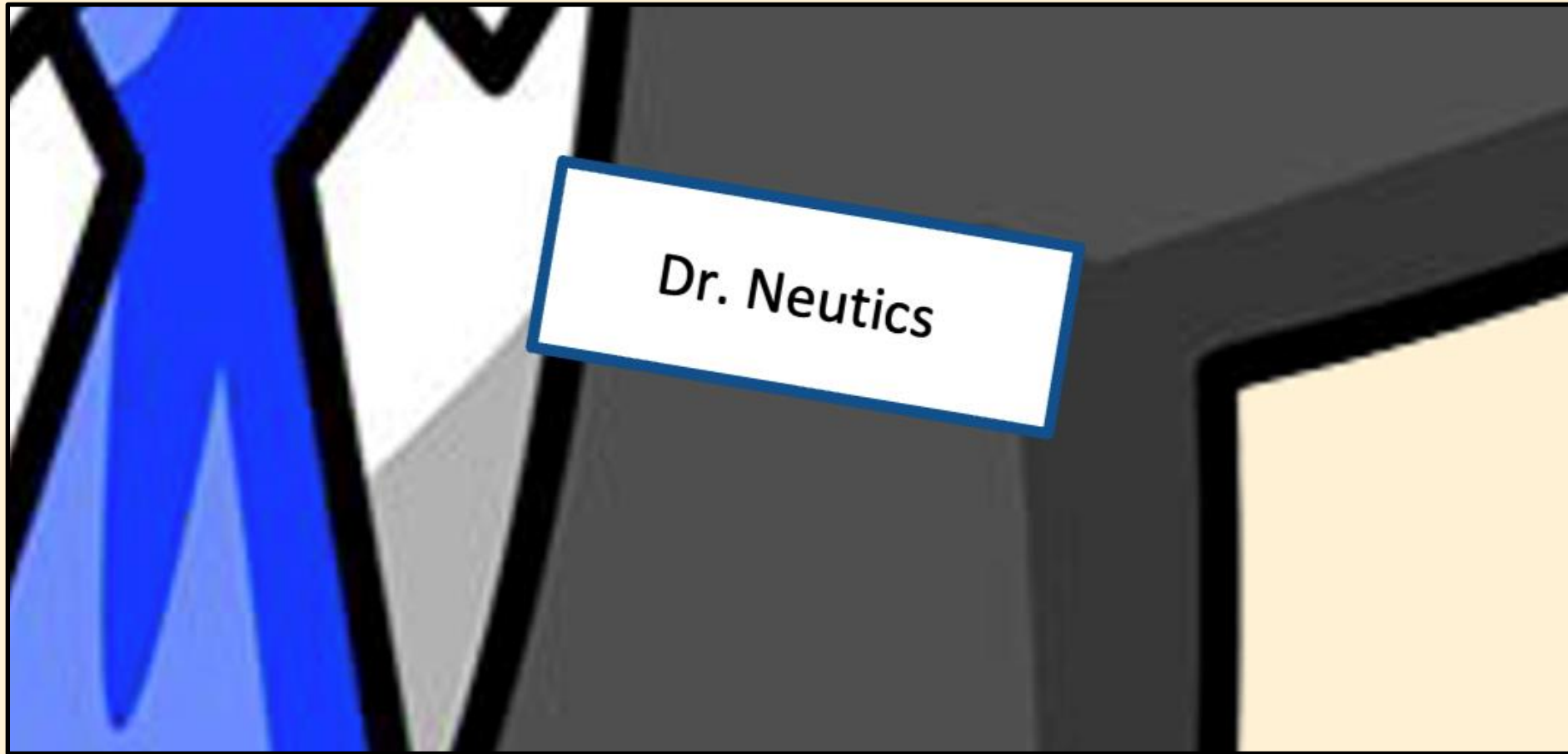
Biblical Hermeneutics



Meet Dr. Neutics

our good friend Herman

Biblical Hermeneutics



Biblical Hermeneutics

the Art and Science of Interpretation

Biblical Hermeneutics

- What did this passage mean to the author & original readers?
- How do we read this genre/type of biblical literature?
- Hermeneutical **goals in preaching**:
 1. Present the Scripture **correctly**
 2. **Model and teach** how to read the Scriptures correctly

Biblical Hermeneutics

- The world **behind** the text
 - Culture, politics, religion, family life, economy, land, seasons, agriculture, Ancient Near East influence
- The world **of** the text
 - Type of literature, idioms, allusions, language, polemics
- The world **in front** of the text
 - Our modern, American, scientific, western-thinking biases

- Dr. Nijay Gupta

Biblical Hermeneutics

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Seminary Now website. The URL is seminarynow.com/programs/basic-nt-interpretation?cid=1083320&permalink=gupta-trailer_v3mp4-10eab3. The page features a navigation bar with the Seminary Now logo and links for Home, About, Streaming Courses, For Organizations, Earn Credit, Resources, My Profile, and Sign Out. Below the navigation bar, there is a section titled "COLLECTION Basic New Testament Interpretation" with a "Visit collection homepage" button. The main content area contains a video player showing a person reading a book, with a large red play button overlay. To the right of the video player is a list of 12 videos, including a trailer and five numbered lessons.

Video Title	Duration
Basic New Testament Interpretation (Trailer)	01:15
1 - Introduction to Interpretation	09:34
2 - Three Worlds Approach	10:09
3 - The World Behind the Text: The Basics	14:30
4 - The World Behind the Text: Examples and...	07:51
5 - The World of the Text The Basics	12:44

Dr. Gupta
Seminary Now

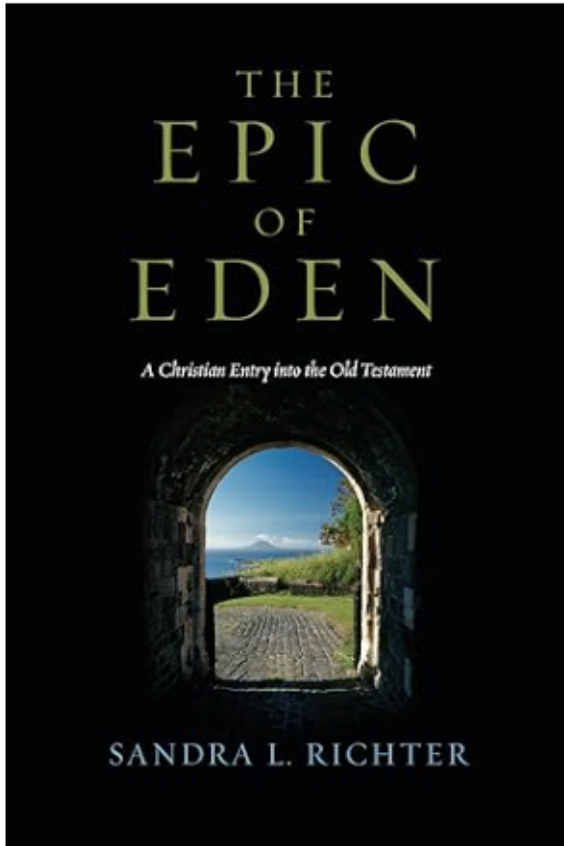
the Redemptive Story


- Genesis 3
 - The **Fall**, everyone and the whole world is broken
- Daniel 7
 - Cloud Rider
 - **Son of Man**, Jesus being bold, the Kingdom – Trial w/ Caiaphas
- Luke 24
 - 2x The Law, Prophets, and the Psalms **all point to Jesus**

The Redemptive Story

- Every passage points to Christ, somehow
 - Sin → our need for a savior
 - Genealogies → Waiting on the Lord for a Savior
 - Covenants → God's design and provision
 - Law → the character of God
 - Parables → Illustrate the Kingdom and grace


The Redemptive Story



The Epic of Eden: A Christian Entry into the Old Testament 

Paperback – Illustrated, October 20, 2008


by [Sandra L. Richter](#) (Author)

4.8 ★★★★★  1,079 ratings 4.5 on Goodreads 1,881 ratings [See all formats and editions](#)

Does your knowledge of the Old Testament feel like a grab bag of people, books, events and ideas? How many times have you resolved to really understand the OT? To finally make sense of it?

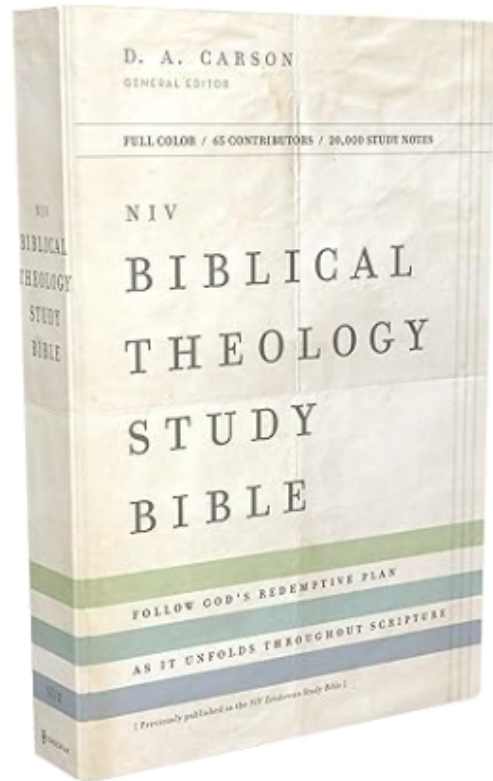
Perhaps you are suffering from what Sandra Richter calls the "dysfunctional closet syndrome." If so, she has a solution. Like a home-organizing expert, she comes in and helps you straighten up your cluttered closet. Gives you hangers for facts. A timeline to put them on. And handy containers for the clutter on the floor. Plus she fills out your wardrobe of knowledge with exciting new facts and new perspectives.

The whole thing is put in usable order--a history of God's redeeming grace. A story that runs from the Eden of the Garden to the garden of the New Jerusalem. Whether you are a frustrated do-it-yourselfer or a beginning student enrolled in a course, this book will organize your understanding of the Old Testament and renew your enthusiasm for studying the Bible as a whole.

 [Report an issue with this product or seller](#)

Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions
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Biblical Theology



NIV, Biblical Theology Study Bible (Trace the Themes of Scripture), Hardcover, Comfort Print: Follow God's Redemptive Plan as It Unfolds throughout Scripture Hardcover – September 4, 2018



by [Zondervan](#) (Author), [D. A. Carson](#) (Editor), [T. Desmond Alexander](#) (Co-editor), [Richard Hess](#) (Co-editor), & [2 more](#)

4.6 ★★★★★ [445 ratings](#) 4.7 on Goodreads [818 ratings](#)

[See all formats and editions](#)

Marvel at the big story and savor each detail

Biblical Theology allows you to ponder the individual stories and themes of Scripture while observing how they all fit together in God's grand biblical narrative. It answers the question, How has God revealed his word historically and organically? Biblical Theology studies the theology of individual biblical books and select collections within the Bible and then traces out themes as they develop across time within the canon.

With three articles introducing Biblical theology and 25 articles unpacking key themes of Scripture, the *NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible* equips you to follow the progressive unfolding of God's story. Helpful introductions to books and sections of the Bible combined with 20,000 verse-by-verse study notes will guide you to a clearer understanding of every portion of Scripture.

The NIV Biblical Theology Study Bible is printed in exclusive Zondervan NIV Comfort Print® typeface. Expertly designed specifically to be used for the New International Version (NIV) text, Comfort Print offers an easier reading experience that

Commentaries

- Scripture Exegesis
 - **Scholarly** – NICOT, NICNT, Bakers, Word
 - If Mardell's sells it, it's not scholarly
- ~~Congregation Exegesis / Application / Sermon~~

Commentaries

Recommended **Commentaries**

Best Commentaries - The Gospel Coalition

Old Testament Bibliography - Denver Seminary

New Testament Bibliography - Denver Seminary

Best Commentaries - Extensive ratings of commentaries and theology books - **Highly recommended**

A large iceberg floats in a clear blue ocean under a bright sky with scattered white clouds. The visible tip of the iceberg is a jagged, snow-capped mountain peak. The submerged portion of the iceberg is much larger and more complex, with many smaller peaks and valleys, illustrating the concept of hidden depths. The text "Scripture Exegesis" is overlaid in white on the submerged part of the iceberg.

Scripture Exegesis



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Verse	Text	Meaning	Cross Ref	Illustration	Redemption	Application
2		Intro			Swimming/Diving		
3	c	start with the problem He drew me out from the deep waters	water can mean purification, but here water means: evil, treachery, extreme danger, destruction - Tremper Longman	Daniel 7:2 - Four winds of heaven churning up a great sea Jonah - when Jonah fled God he went to the sea.	a tiny you, swimming in a sink, and someone turns on the garbage disposal. that's what David felt like.		God is willing to go with you into your personal dark places. When you get lost in the dark night of your soul. You are not alone.
4	16 a	He reached down from on high	Transcendent, wholly other, incomprehensible, on high, powerful, the Creator	Psalm 145:3 - His greatness no one can fathom	God is watching from a distance Julie Gold 1985 Bette Midler 1990 Study on modern American Beliefs - God is distant		Be careful that we don't limit God ----- become so comfortable with theology that we forget how amazing God is. ----- When you talk about God, talk of how powerful and majestic He is.
5		He reached down from on high		Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.		God takes the initiative to save us	
6	b	and took hold of me	Imminence, engaged, right here, right now, able to save	Psalm 139:7-10 - If I go up to the heavens, you are there... Isaiah 57:15 - I live in a high and holy place, but		God saves individual people, you.	God is both powerful and right here in this yard

Limon Easter - Christ is Your King ☆ 📄 ☁

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F12 ✎

	A	B	C	D
1		Limon Easter 2024 - Christ is Your King - Chaplain Paul		Eclilpse
2		<i>Myth: being goody-two-shoes, rules, weak, hoping for heaven, faith = wish</i>		Eric Concert
3		<i>Reality: Christianity is about who Jesus is: He is our King, our risen King.</i>		Fridays
4		Pray		
5		What kind of King is he? - Matthew, and backstory		
6		Point	Scripture	Application
7	1	Christ's anointing Theocratic Offices - Prophet, Priest, King - Deut 17,18	Deut 17,18	Like Israel, we need a Prophet, Priest, and King
8		Anointing means Set aside or Blessed for a specific purpose, status, or calling. Israel King: Line of David, validated by a prophet, anointed with oil When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom.	2 Samuel 7:12	Jesus is indeed our prophet, Priest and King - the true mediator
9		Christ's anointing - Baptism - both King and Suffering Servant	Matthew 3:13-16 Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 41:1	Christ is both your king and Savior - Can't separate
10	2	Temptation - What kind of King (Messiah) are you going to be?	Matt 4:1-13	Christ will do the hard work in your life.
11	3	Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force , withdrew again to a mountain by himself	John 6:15	You can't manipulate Jesus. He is in charge.
12	4	Jesus talks about the Kingdom - a lot (Paul also)	Acts 28:31	Study Jesus' words in the gospels
13	5	Parable of the Weeds or Wheat and the Tares - "Already but not yet"	Matthew 13: 24-30	persevere today, and hope for the New heaven and new earth



Psalm 103 Sermon ☆ 📁 ☁

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Menus 100% 123 Default... 10 B I A

A	B	C	D	E	F
	Verse	Text	Meaning	Cross References	Application
	1	Bless the LORD, O my soul:	<p>Bless-Praise, Exhault</p> <p>Bless 3x - highest form of praise</p> <p>Soul = Heart = Innermost being <i>Hebrew culture: My Whole Being</i></p> <p>The rest of this Psalm is what David is telling his Soul</p> <p>A public exhortation to his private soul</p>		<p>Speak to your soul focus on God, not yourself</p> <p>How does your soul, your life, Bless and praise God</p> <p>Why? - to Gloify God</p> <p>Mission -> As you encourage your own soul, it encourages others</p>
Personal - Me		and all that is within me, bless his holy name.	<p>God's name is Holy, set apart, Pure, Without blemish</p> <p>name revealed to Moses (v. 7)</p> <p>God wants to reclaim the world for his Holiness</p>		<p>If we're all in we seek purity, holiness We want to please God</p> <p>All IN - "His Heart isn't in it."</p>
4	2	Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:	<p>"to Forget" is the opposite of "to Praise"</p> <p>Count your blessings Gemul - typically means paying wrath that id due</p>		<p>All his Benefits - eternal life, and every breath today</p> <p>forgetting God's Benefits is to forget his covenant, to forget his sovereignty. be all in</p>
5	Who Is God? - Personal benefits				
6	3	who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,	<p>removes Sin - both consequences and the sin itself</p> <p>Overall sense of "wholeness"</p>	<p>Ps 32:1 - sins are covered</p> <p>Ps 51 - blot out, wash away, clense</p> <p>Romans 8:1</p> <p>desease: 1 - Physical Desease 2 - Spiritual Desease 3 - Metephor for the mess our sin has caused</p> <p>All 3 - Now but not Yet</p>	<p>Ask God to cleanse you from you sin, clean up your life, make a radical transformation</p> <p>We will be healed - restored</p>
7	4	who redeems your life from the pit	Salvation - Eternal Life	<p>Ps 30:3 - You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.</p> <p>Psa. 16:10 because you will</p>	<p>If our life has been redeemed then live for him. Be completely sold out for God.</p>



G7

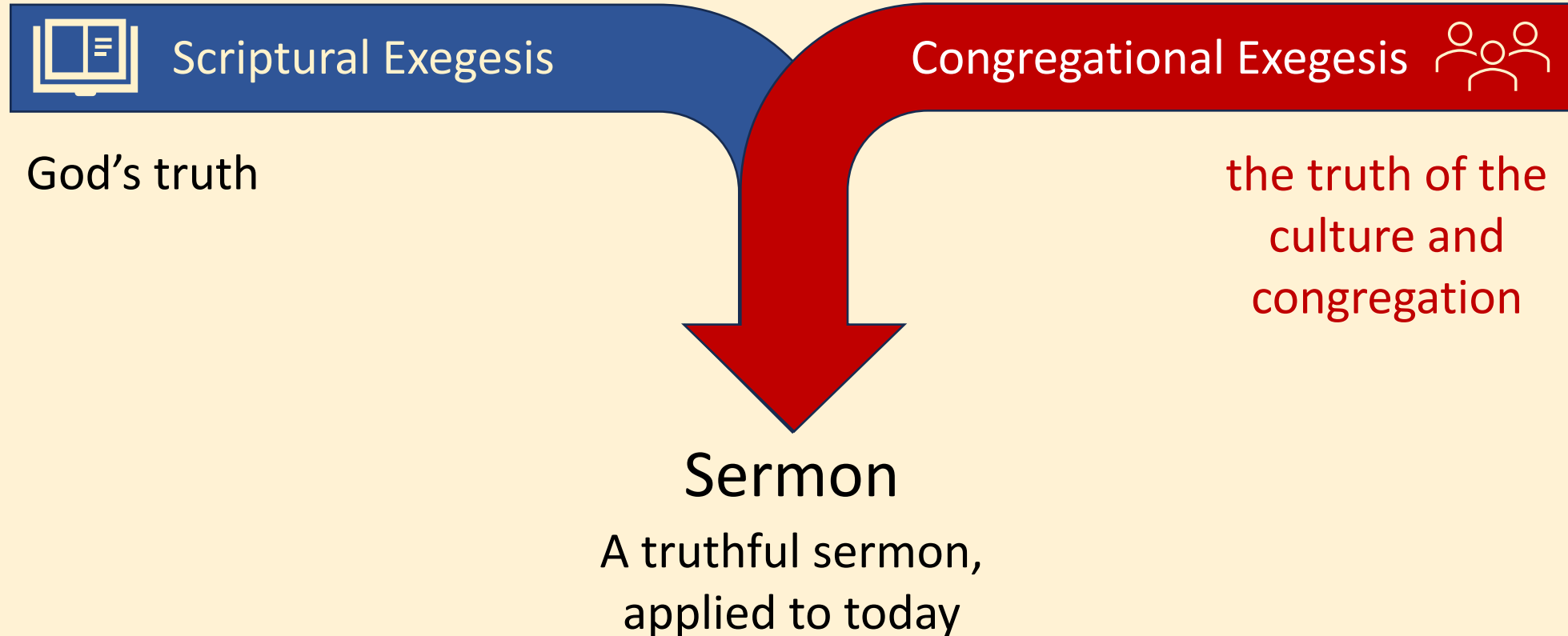
fx

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Verse	Text	Critical Exegesis	Cross Ref	Theological Meaning	Redemption	Illustration	Application
		through the law we become conscious of our sin.						
11		Salvation - Saved by grace through faith						
12		But now	v21 - v26 - 1 Greek sentence contrast with 3:20 - no one - neither Jew nor Gentile - is declared righteous with God based on the law.		The law only points out our sin and failure	We are desperately in need of righteousness.	the girl said, You're a great guy. I like you, but...	We're toast - both in this life and the next - until God says But
13	3:21	apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known				sola fide, sola gracia - reformers saw this in the lens of anti-Roman Catholic. They cast the Catholics as the new legalistic Jews.		What are we leaning on for being right with God? Bible study? devotions? our Christian reputation?
14		to which the Law and the Prophets testify		Luke 24	this is not a new plan 74.4% of Bible is OT	The revealing of God's plan of redemption	Oceans 11	God's always been there in our lives too. Ask God to show you how he's cared for you in your past.
					Christ's faith saves		Often wondered	

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- **Homiletics Applied to Prison**
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

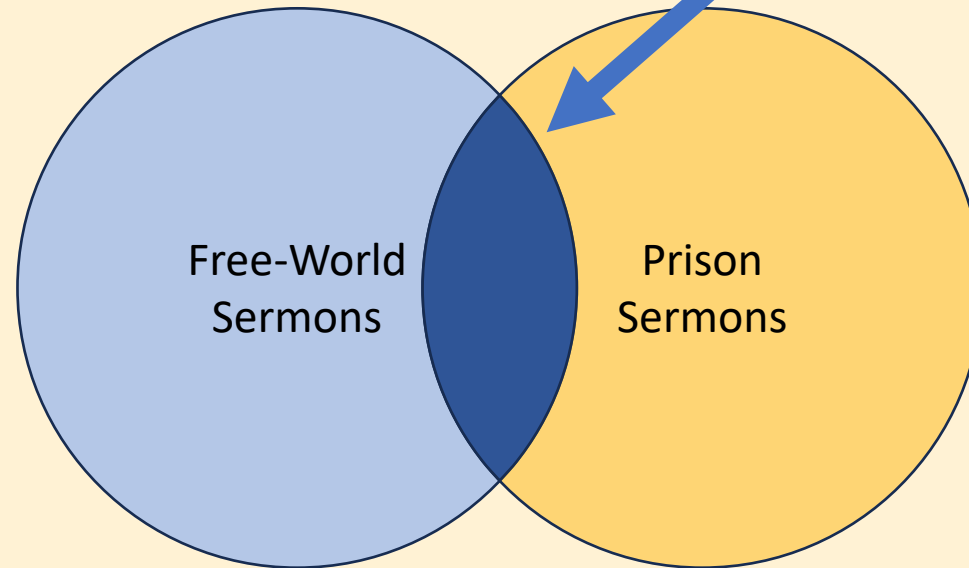
The Art of Homiletics



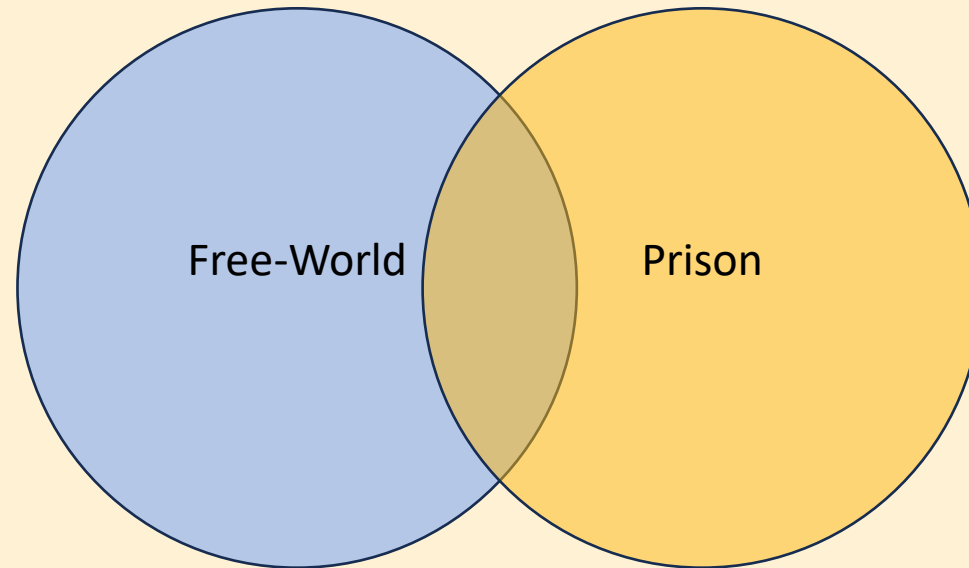
Many Sermons are Universal

DVDs of church sermons

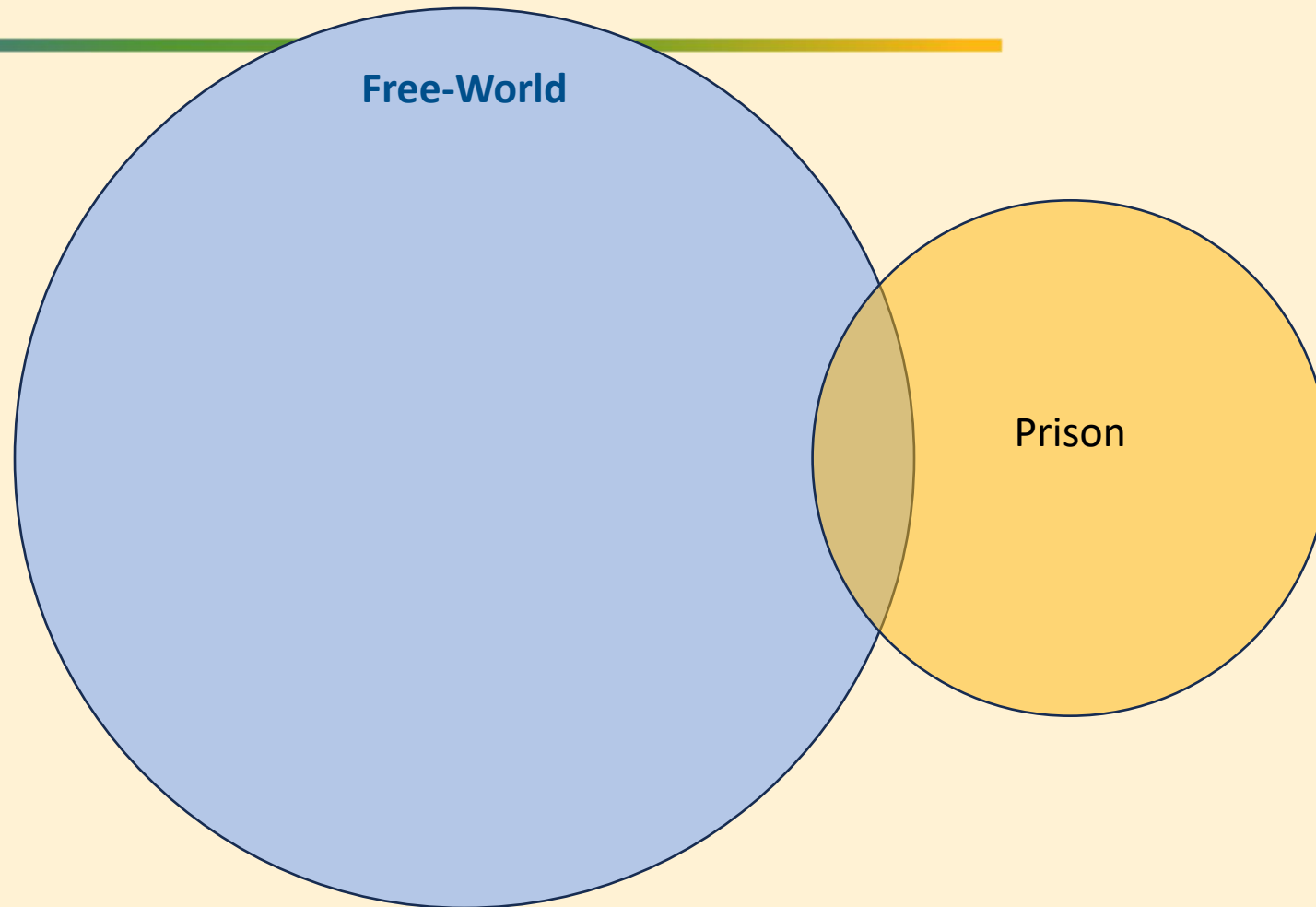
- Add **prison application**



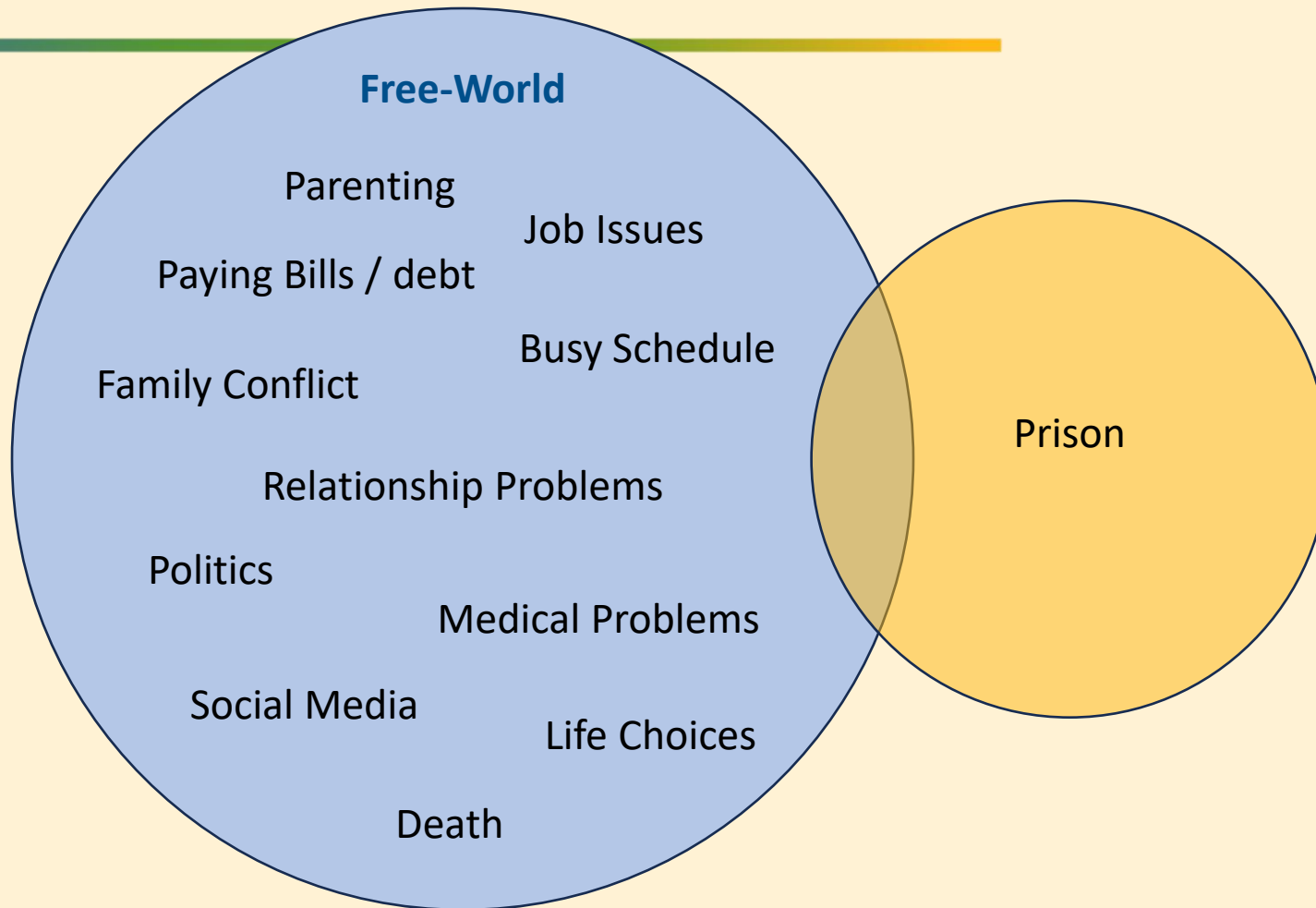
The Problem



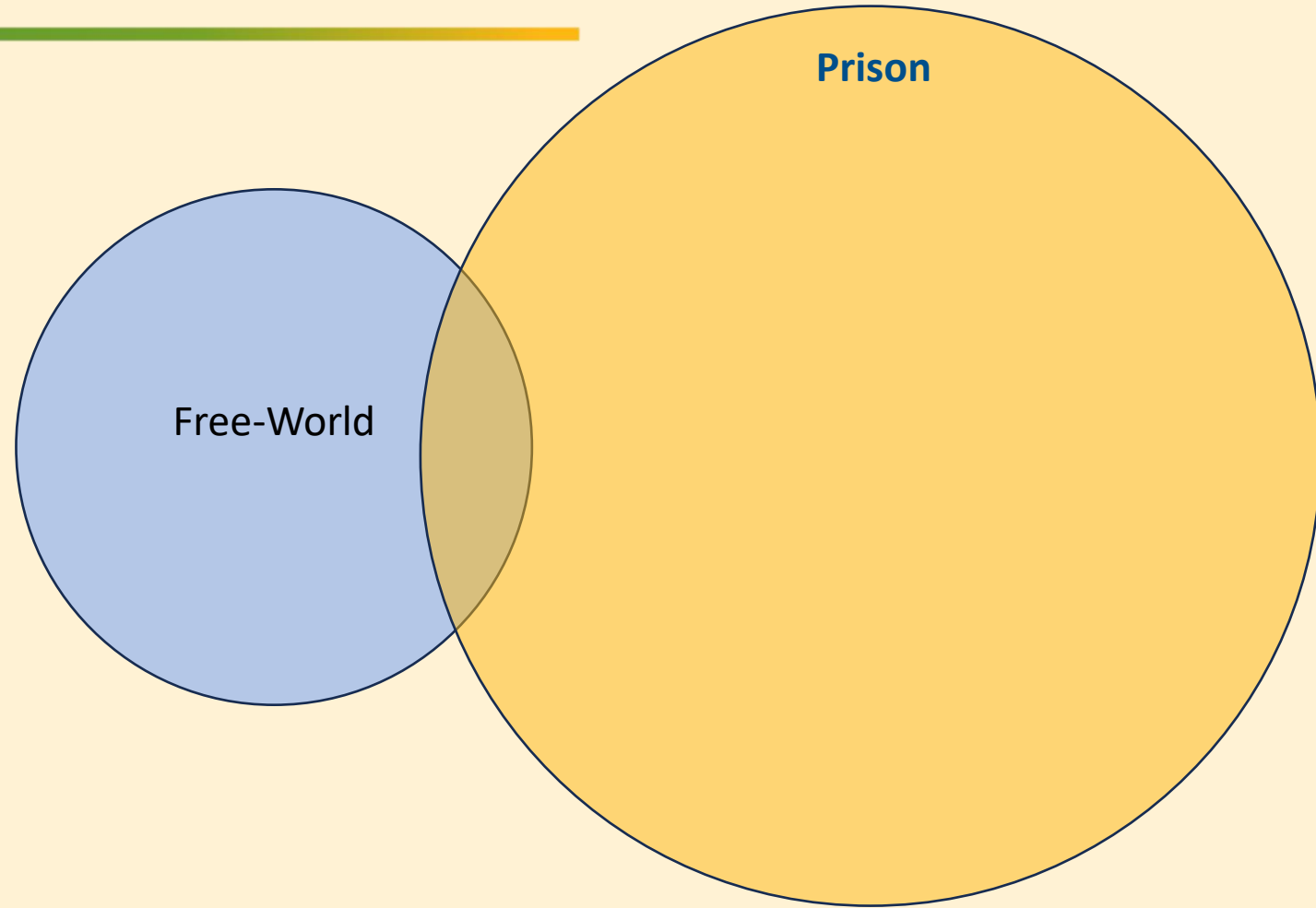
Concerns & Fears



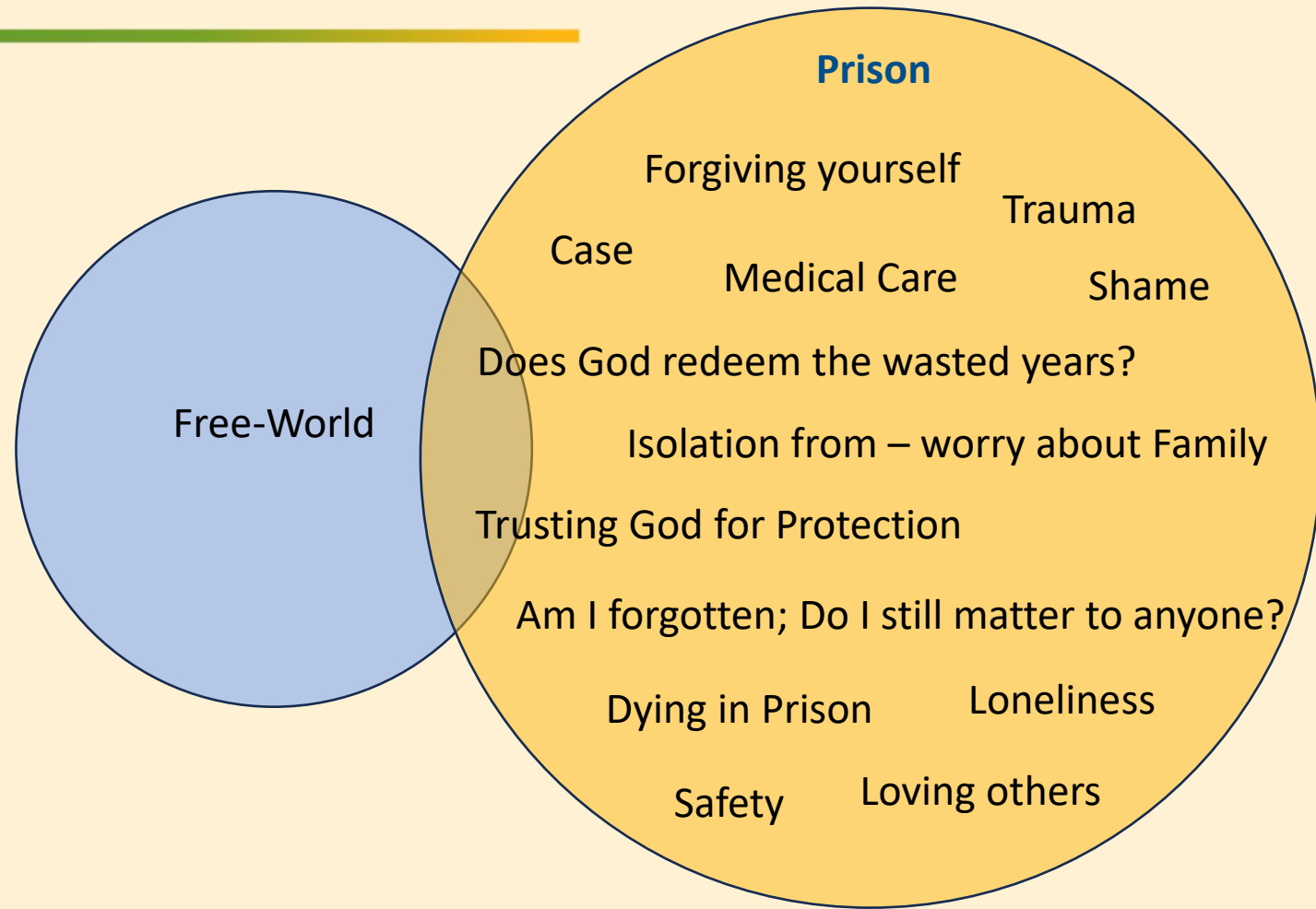
Concerns & Fears



Concerns & Fears

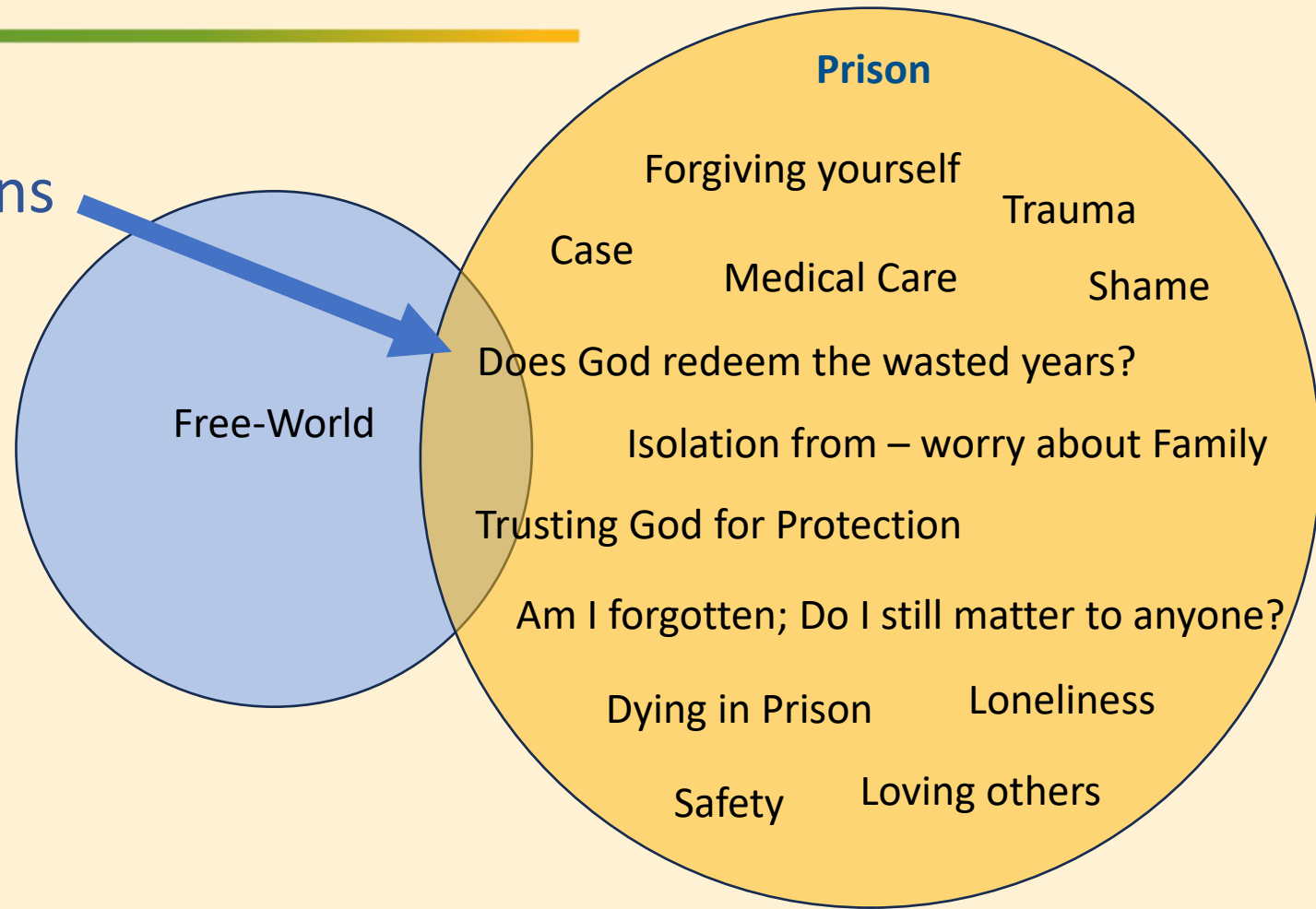


Concerns & Fears

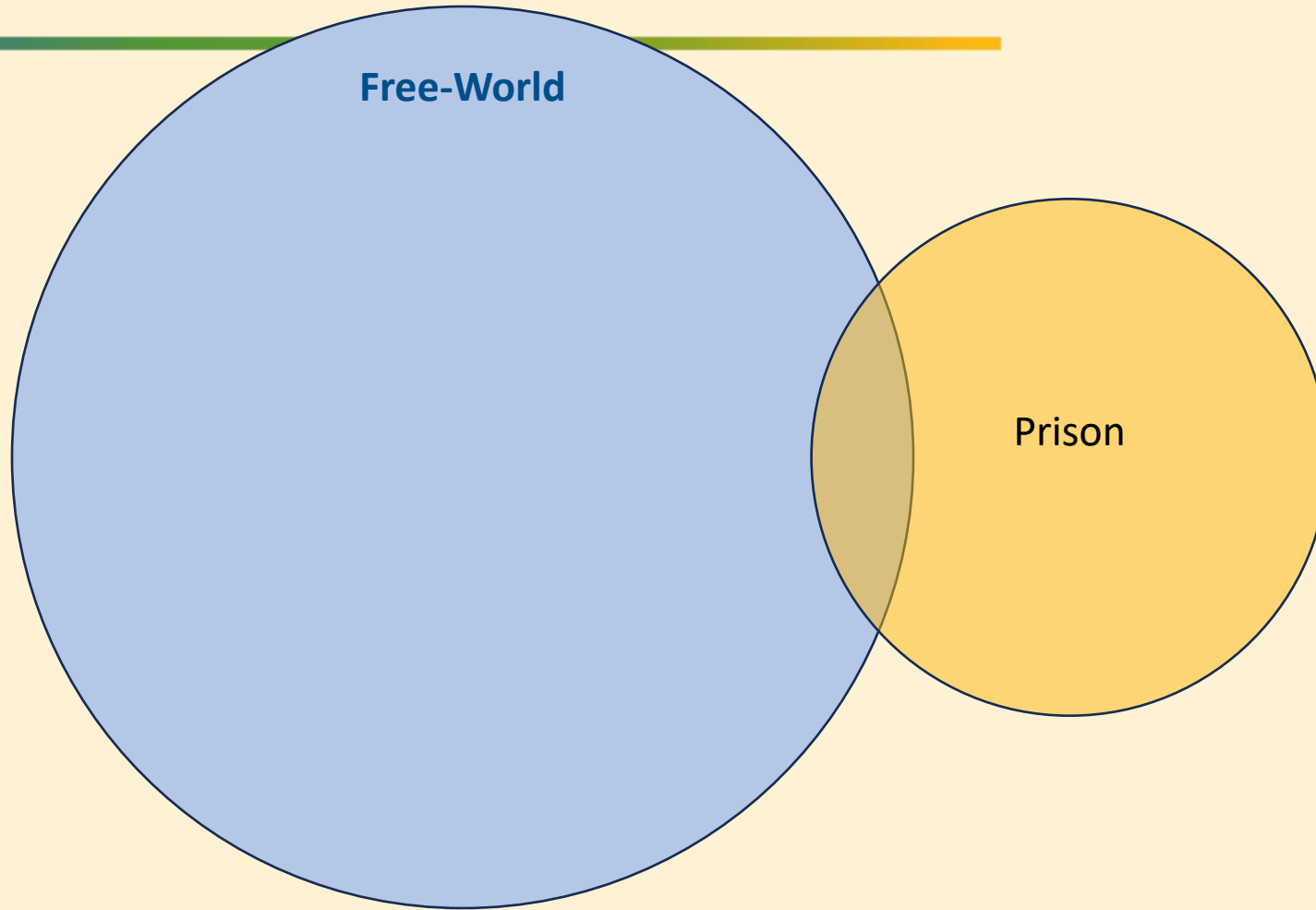


Concerns & Fears

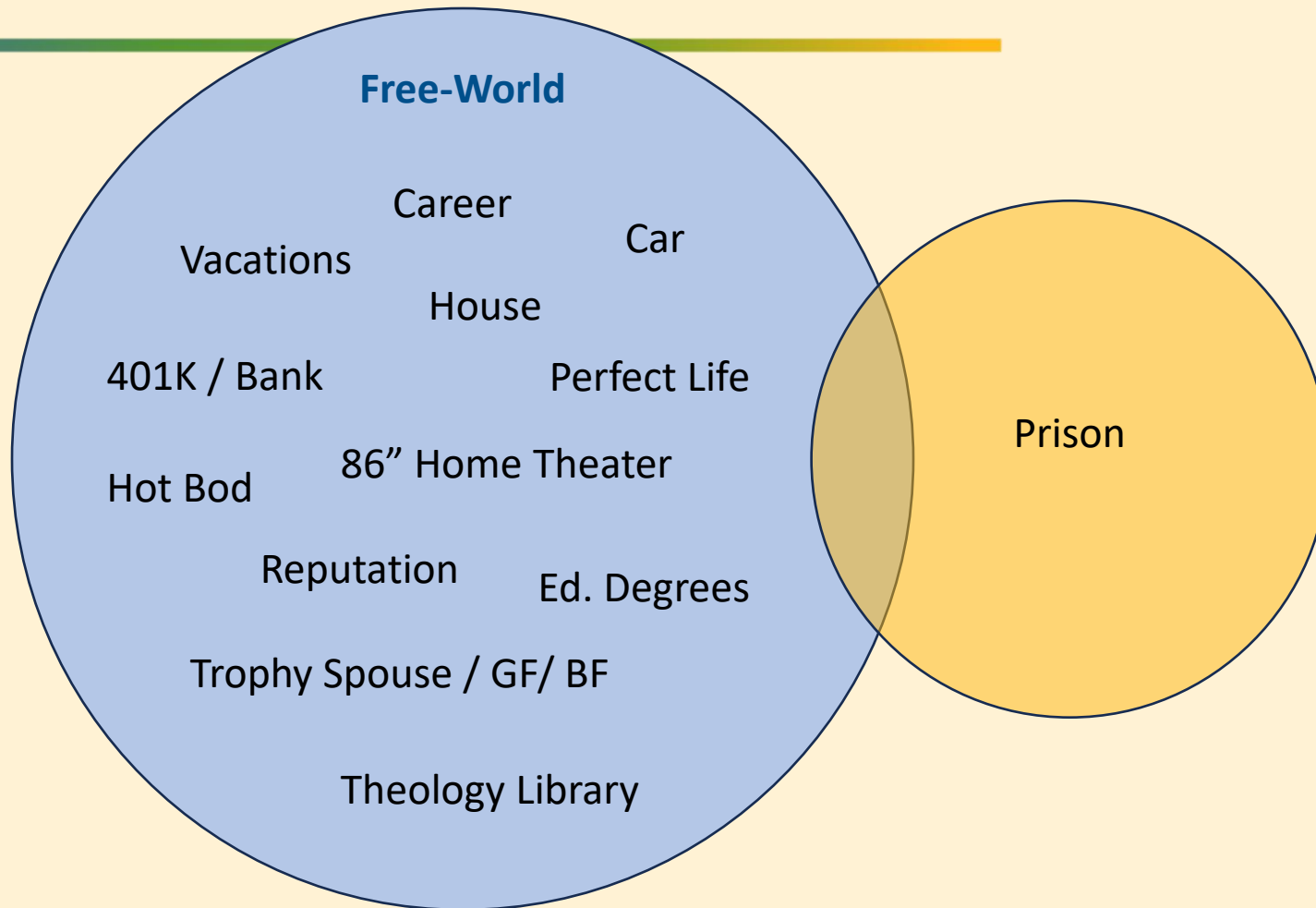
When you pray,
Pray for their concerns



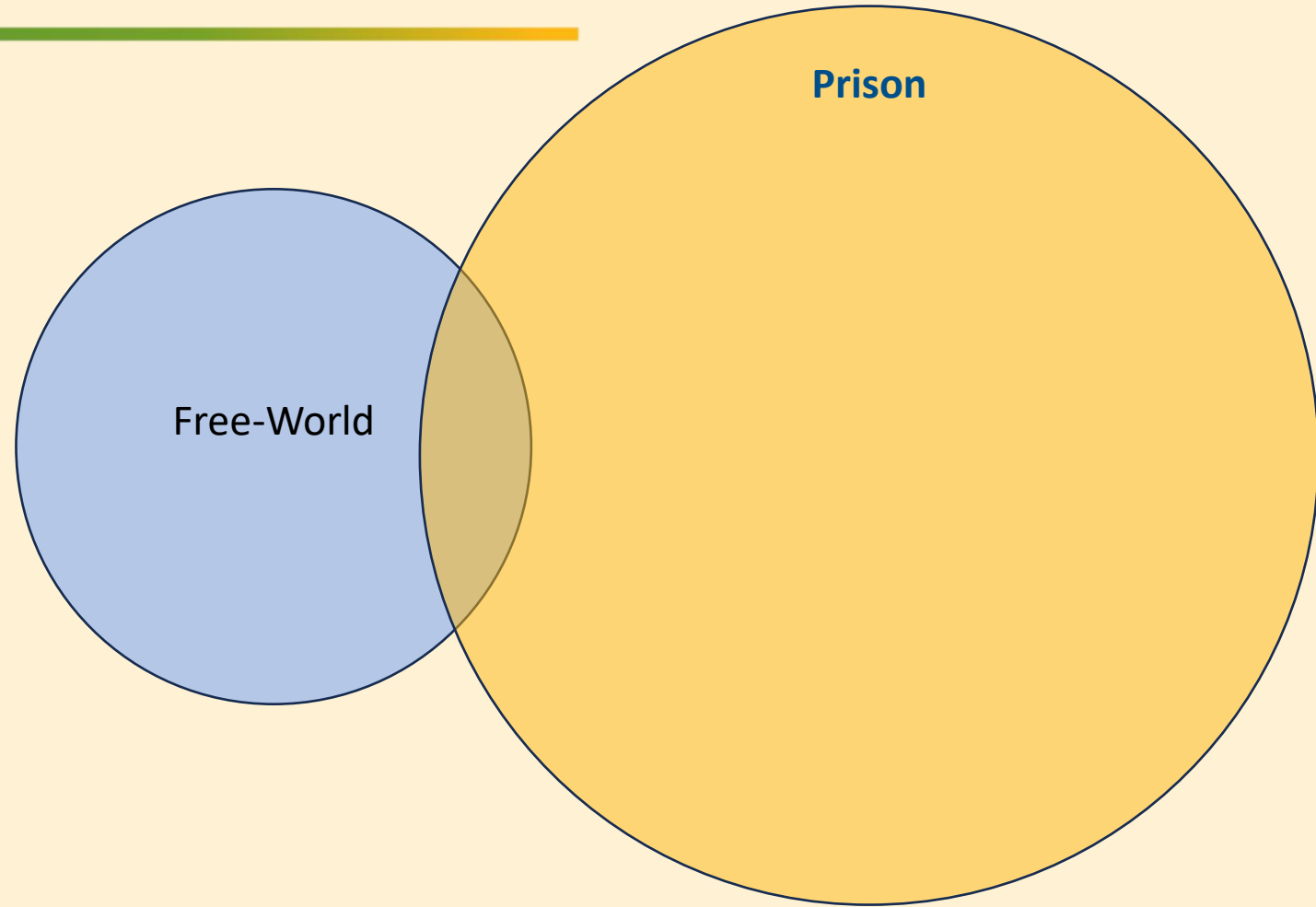
Idols



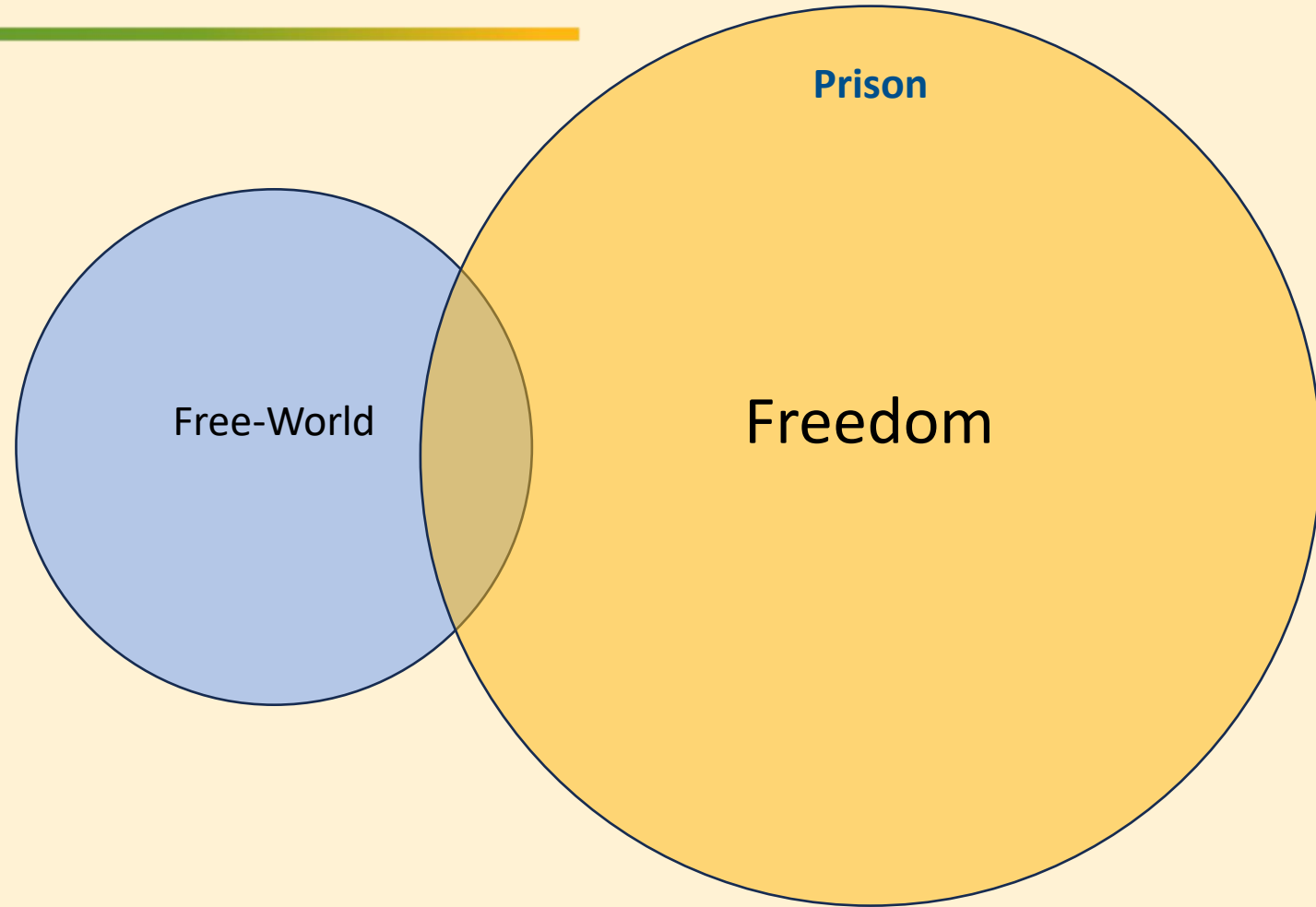
Idols



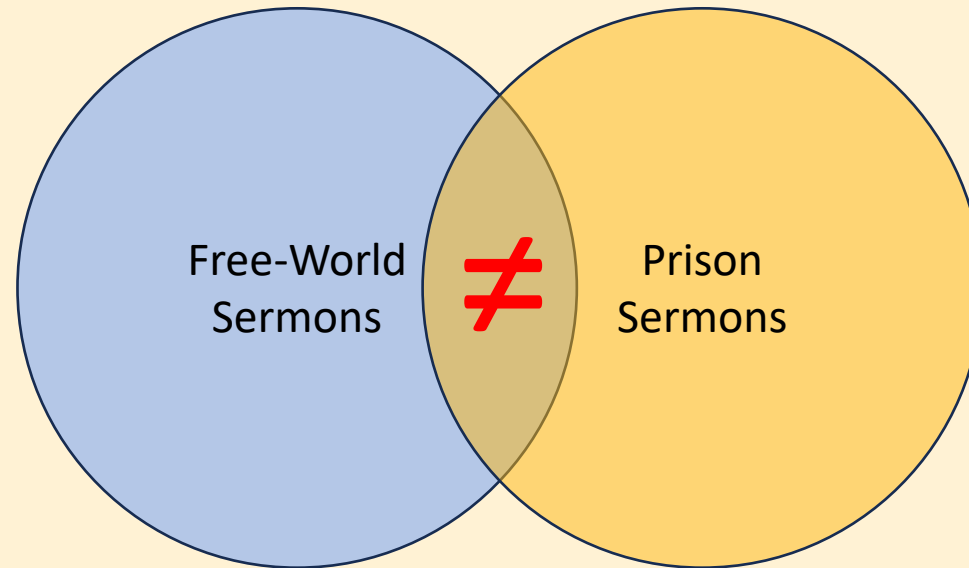
Idols



Idols



The Problem



Congregation Exegesis

How?

The Spiritual Gift of Listening



- Conversations / counseling - **70% listening**
- Active Listening – ask probing questions
- 20 minutes of friendly chatting
 - before they begin to share what's really on their heart
- The best sermon prep happens ~~in the study,~~
but **in the pod, in 1-on-1 conversations**

The Spiritual Gift of Listening



Listening says to the person:

“You have **value.**”

“You are **worth** my attention and my time.”

Concerns, Fears, & Idols

My life would be perfect **if only**

Concerns, Fears, & Idols

My life would be perfect **if only** _____.

Institutionalized



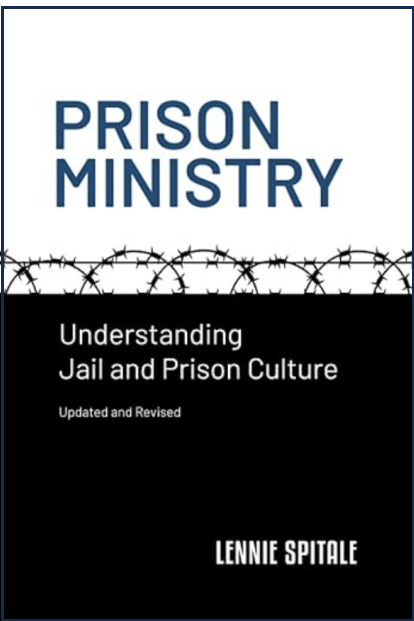
- Free-world – 500 decisions a day
- Incarcerated – 40 decisions a day


Conditions them to think

You must be specific with your application

Prison Culture


- Spend **time** inside
- More than your program – **in** the pods, barbershop, music room




Prison Ministry: Understanding Jail and Prison Culture 

Paperback – August 24, 2020

by [Lennie Spitale](#) (Author)

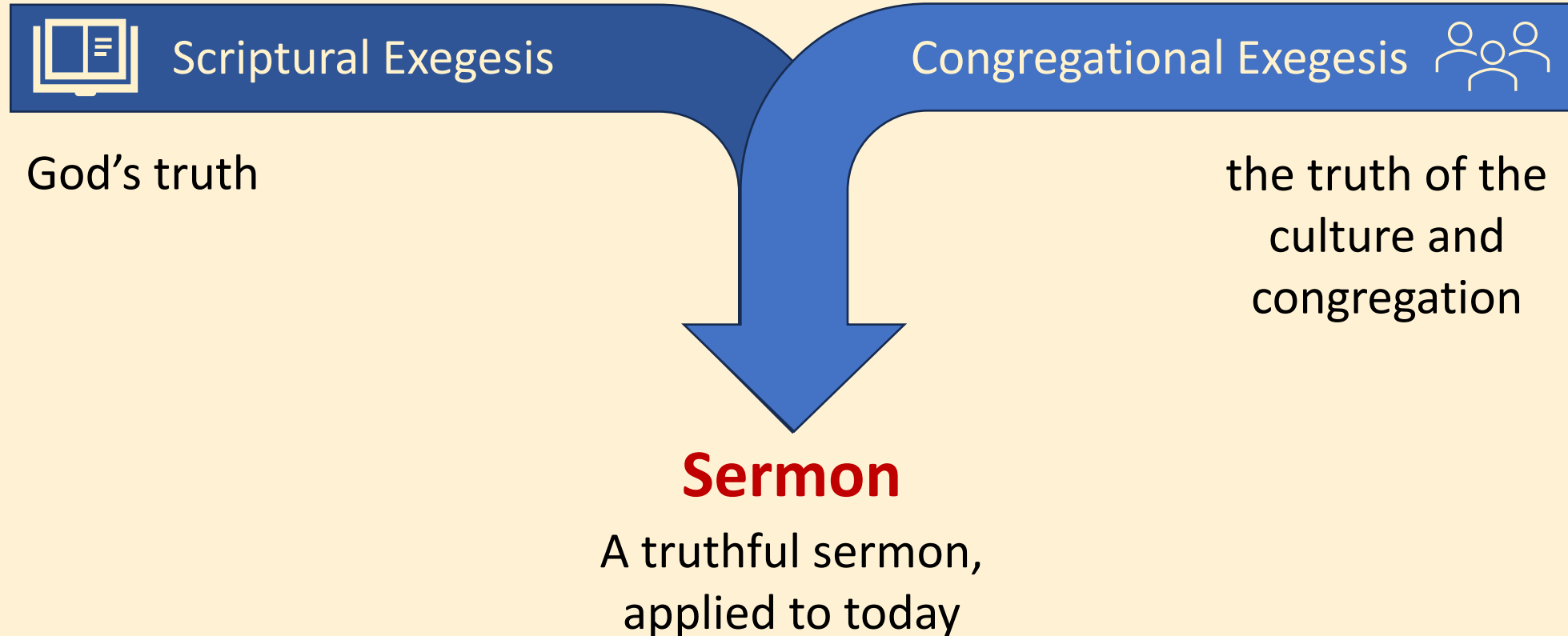
4.8 ★★★★★  22 ratings [See all formats and editions](#)

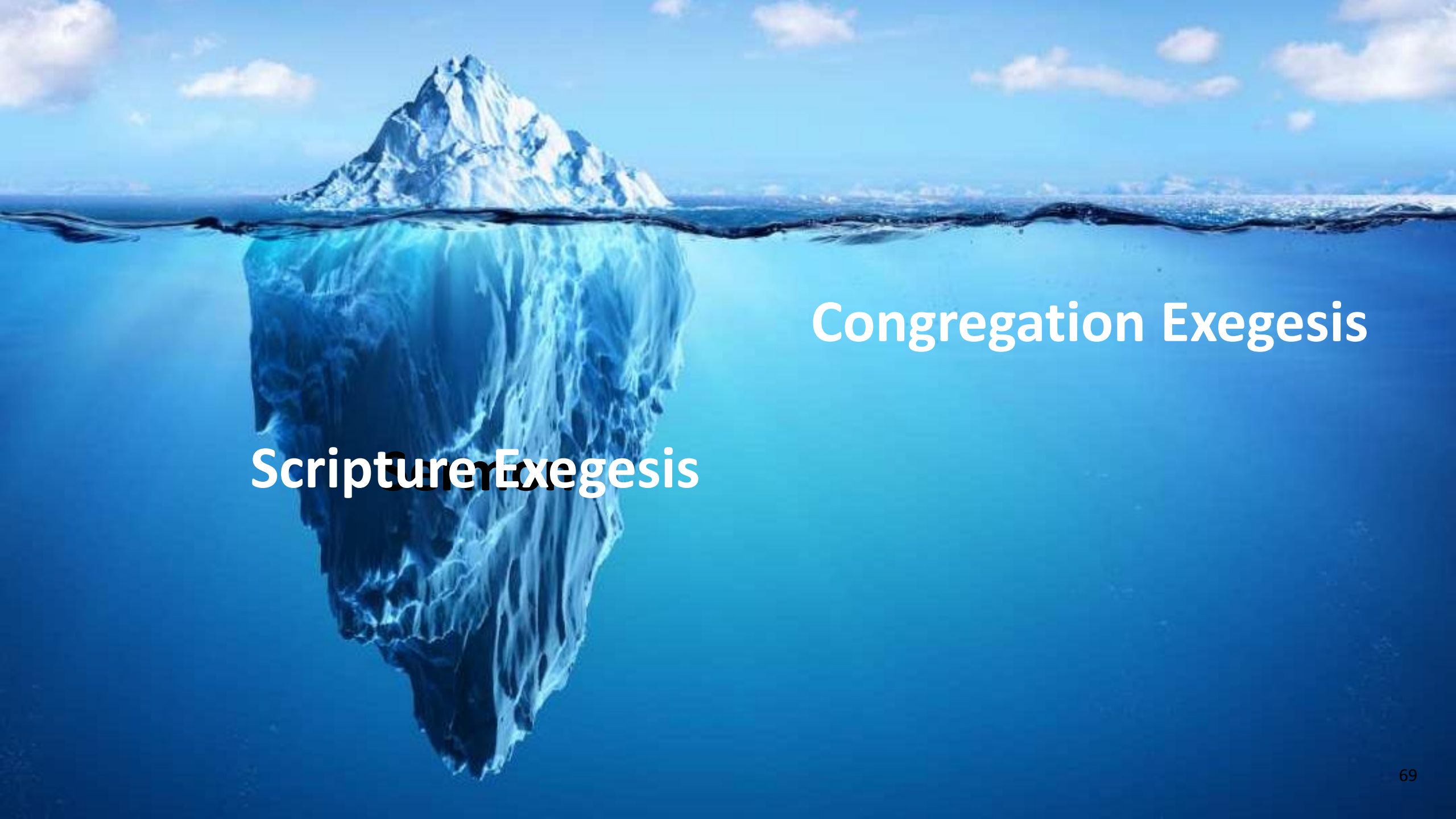
A traveler's guide for Christians to a foreign land where the fields are ripe for harvest. For most Christians, prison culture is like visiting a foreign land, and the thought of ministering behind bars with those incarcerated is an intimidating prospect. Prison Ministry will offer you the empowerment you need as a volunteer, chaplain, pastor, or lay leader in doing effective prison ministry. Of the former edition, the late Charles Colson, founder of Prison Fellowship Ministries, wrote: "This may well be the definitive book on prison ministry. Fascinating insights about the prison culture and how to reach it. Mandatory reading for everyone in corrections and for Christians who care about the command to visit prison." Providing a thorough "inside-out" view of prison life, Lennie Spitale offers a unique and qualifying vantage for writing about prison culture and prison ministry. As a young man, Spitale was incarcerated several times. Two years after his conversion to Christianity, he began conducting a weekly Bible study in a local jail. This led to full-time prison ministry. Prison Ministry covers areas such as: the emotional challenges of the incarcerated, the environment of fear, the culture of deprivation, friendships, guidelines, dos and don'ts, and many other relevant and essential topics forequipping any individual or church for effective prison ministry.

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Print length	Language	Publication date	Dimensions	ISBN-10
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The Art of Homiletics





Congregation Exegesis

Scripture Exegesis

The Three Big Questions

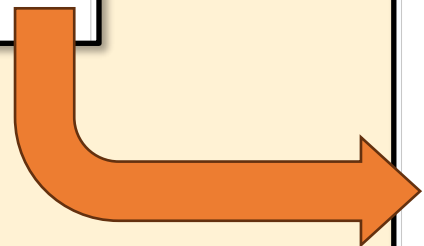
1. What does this passage **mean**?
2. How does this passage fit into God's Grand Redemptive Story?
 - How does this passage **point to Christ**?
3. How does this passage **change my life** today?
 - How does this passage help **me** repent?
 - How does this passage help **me** be a living sacrifice?

The Goal of every Sermon

- The **Gospel**
 - not the ABC of the Christian life, but the **A to Z** of the Christian life
- **Hope**
 - They have a **place** in Christ's Kingdom
 - They are ~~forgotten~~
 - God has a plan to **use them for his glory** TODAY!
 - Not someday later - if/when they get out
- **Comfort, Comfort Ye my People**
 - God cares about their concerns

Scriptural Exegesis

Verse	Text	Meaning	Cross Ref	Illustration	Redemption	Application
2	c start with the problem He drew me out from the deep waters	water can mean purification, but here water means: evil, treachery, extreme danger, destruction - Tremper Longman	Daniel 7:2 - Four winds of heaven churning up a great sea Jonah - when Jonah fled God he went to the sea.	Swimming/Diving a tiny you, swimming in a sink, and someone turns on the garbage disposal. that's what David felt like.		God is willing to go with you into your personal dark places. When you get lost in the dark night of your soul. You are not alone.
4	16 a He reached down from on high	Transcendent, wholly other, incomprehensible, on high, powerful, the Creator	Psalm 145:3 - His greatness no one can fathom	God is watching from a distance Julie Gold 1985 Bette Midler 1990 Study on modern American Beliefs - God is distant		Be careful that we don't limit God ---- become so comfortable with theology that we forget how amazing God is. ---- When you talk about God, talk of how powerful and majestic He is.
5	He reached down from on high		Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.		God takes the initiative to save us	
6	b and took hold of me	Imminence, engaged, right here, right now, able to save	Psalm 139:7-10 - If I go up to the heavens, you are there... Isaiah 57:15 - I live in a high and holy place, but		God saves individual people, you.	God is both powerful and right here in this yard



Sermon Outline

God is there in our Days of Calamity

16
He reached down from on high and took hold of me;
he drew me out of deep waters.
God- both distance and near
Scuba - Water ~ Evil, Chaos, Danger ~ Dan 7

17
He rescued me from my powerful enemy,
from my foes, who were too strong for me.
Enemy - Death, sin, our own soul's tendency to wander

18
They confronted me in the day of my disaster,
Days of Calamity - little days, big days - facing death, danger
Melissa - Mortality in my face
Death is lonely - Chuck Limbrick - "I don't want to die alone in prison"
but the Lord was my support.
What does that look like? 1 Peter 5:6-7

19
He brought me out into a spacious place;
Where you can't be jumped
he rescued me because he delighted in me.
God does delight in you Eph 2:10 πoιήμα NLT? Phil 1:6 Imago Dei

If you're not sure that you are God's masterpiece , that you know that you belong to God, and your sins have been forgiven, come talk to me.

Shame

- Every aspect of prison is designed to:
 - Dehumanize
 - Remind them of the one of the worst days of their lives
 - Reduce their hope
- They wear their sin and shame
- Preach:
 - New Creation
 - Biblical Role
 - Imago Di – Honor

ACE Trauma

- Adverse Childhood Experience
- Preach:
 - Source of sin & trauma
 - God as master of time
 - God as sovereign, wise
 - Forgiveness

Prison Trauma

- Crime trauma
 - Arrest, interrogation, sentencing
 - Prison trauma
- Preach:
 - Source of sin & trauma
 - God as master of time
 - God as sovereign, wise
 - Forgiveness

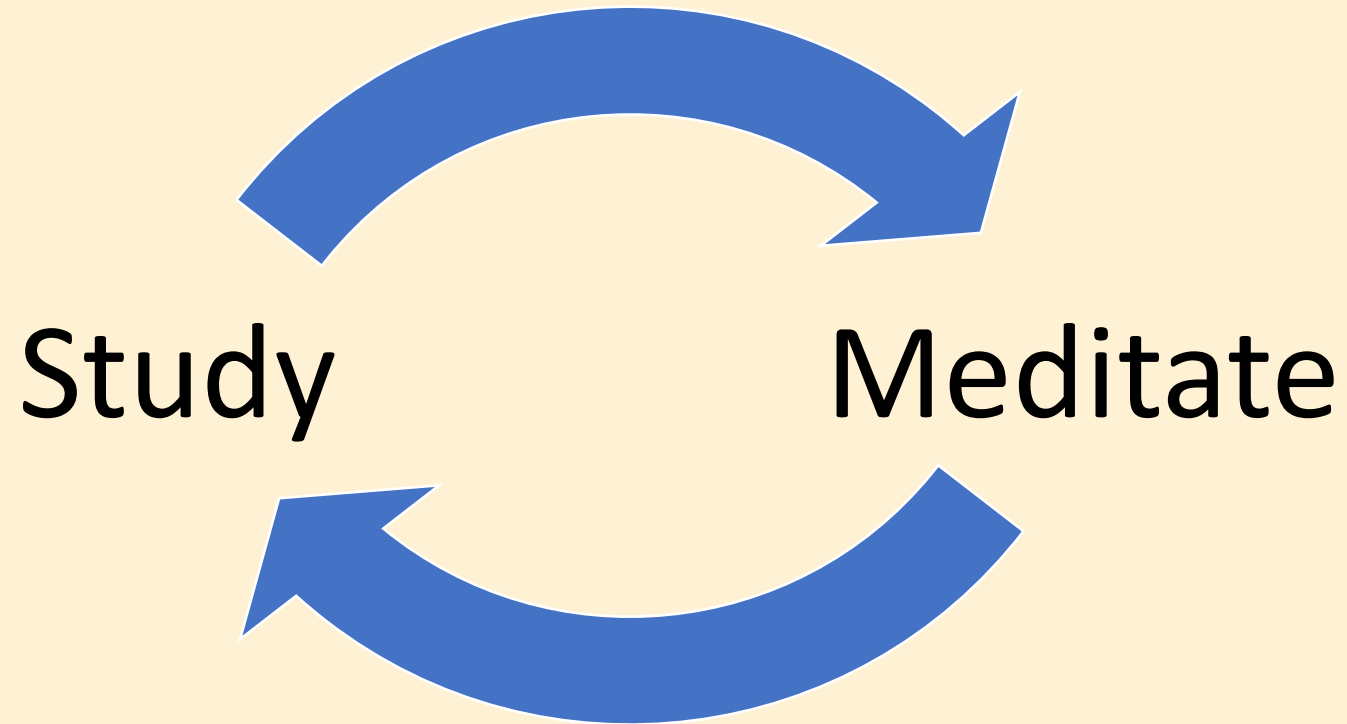
Guilt

- They wear their sin
- Overwhelming regret
- Preach:
 - Brokenness of all
 - Mark 1:41 – Indignation (NIV,NET)
 - God as wise
 - Romans 8:1 – No Condemnation

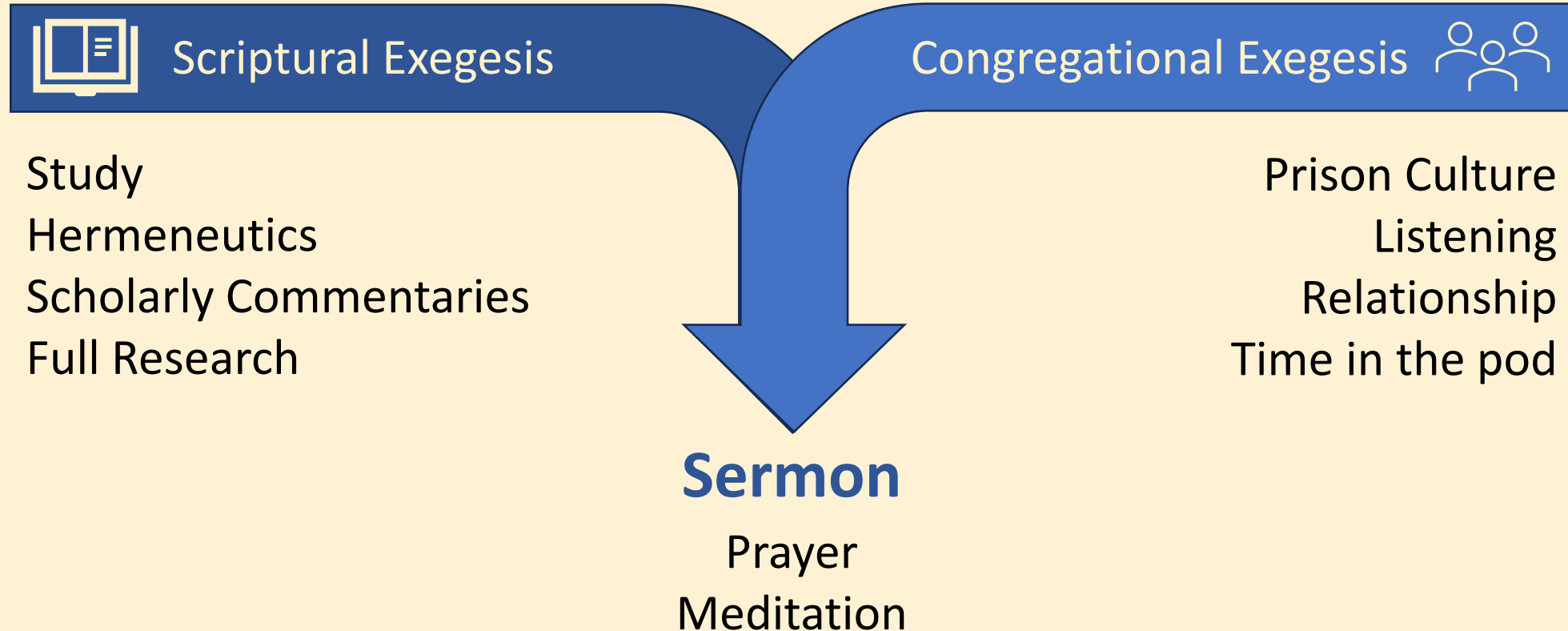
Loneliness

- Constant façade
- Miss family
- Preach:
 - Family of believers
 - Christ as big brother
 - Connection

The Art of Homiletics



The Art of Homiletics



Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- **16!** Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- **17!** **Intentional Decisions**
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources



1) Your habit of Prep & Pray ?

Pray when choosing the passage

Pray when talking with the guys

Pray when studying / prepping

Pray & meditate on the passage for a couple of weeks

Pray before you preach – *“I am not qualified, I need you LORD”*

Pray to open the Sermon

Pray during your sermon

Pray at the close of the sermon

2) Ministry Theme Verse?

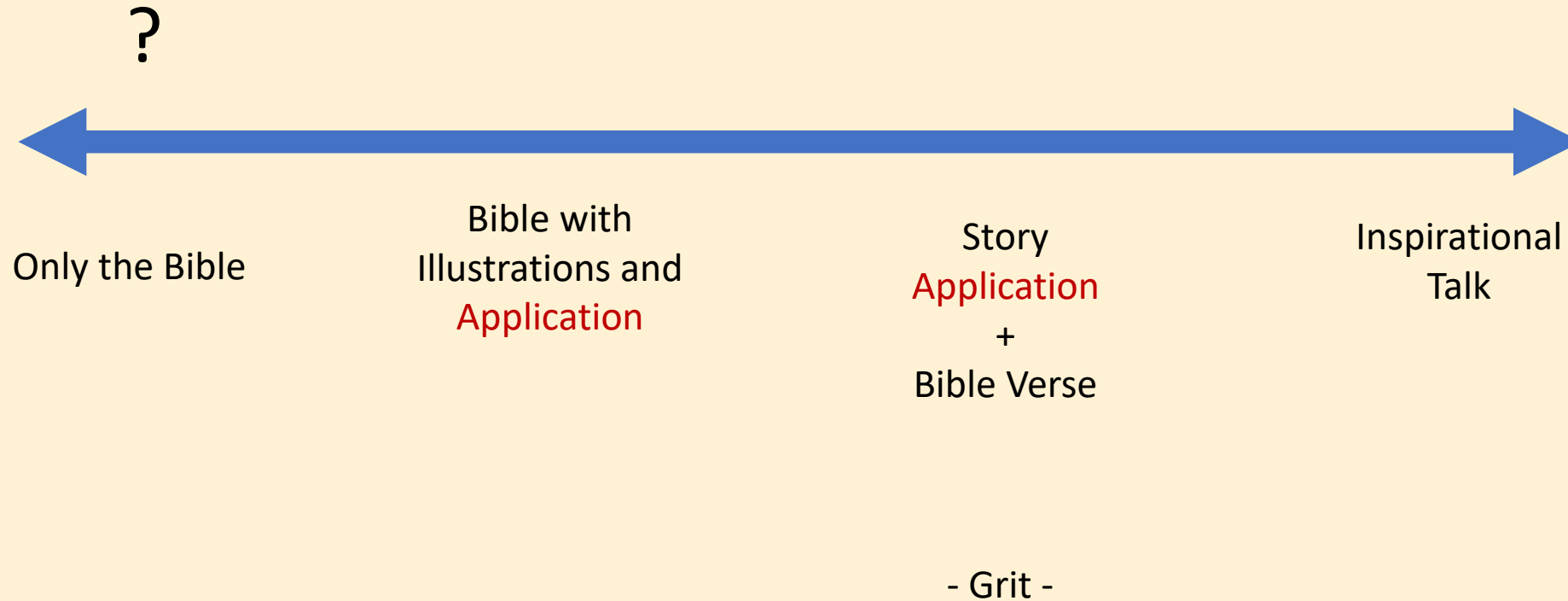
But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you.

But do this with gentleness and respect,

- 1 Peter 3:15

3) Inspirational Spectrum?



4) Teach or Preach?



Teaching is transferring facts and knowledge

- Good teaching is Instructional Design
- Adult education Principles

Preaching is leading a person to repent and follow Christ



Great Preaching is both teaching and preaching

5) Sermon Type?

- Topical
- Book study – verse by verse

6) Rotating Chaplains / Prisons ?

- Each on their own schedule
 - Con: No continuity, Topics jump all around
 - Con: It's easier, no challenge

A handwritten schedule on lined paper showing a rotation of chaplains. The schedule is organized into columns for dates and chaplains, with some entries including topics and days of the week. The entries are as follows:

Topic / Date	Chaplain	Day	Page	
Coons	Coons	May 5		
1:1-5	Howie	May 12		
1:6-11	Paul	May 19		
1:12-18	Cody	May 26		
2:1-8	Howie	June 2	1	
2:9-24	Jose	June 9	2	
	- Yard	June 14 -		
ch 3:	Paul	June 16	3	
ch 4	Memstones Darin	June 23	4	
5:1-12	Renew the Covenant Howie Paul	June 30	5	
5:13-6:27	Fall of Jericho Howie Cody	July 7	1	
ch 7	Achaz's Sin Howie Jose	July 14	2	
ch 8	AI	Paul	July 21	3
	OFF		28	4

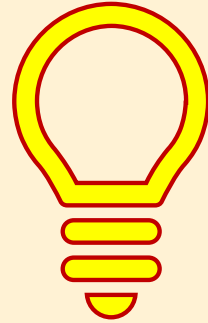
- Rotating through a shared schedule
 - Pro: Continuity for the Inmates
 - Pro: It makes you a better preacher
 - Pro: learn to collaborate - same page
 - Con: Lockdowns can shift the schedule

6) Rotating Chaplains / Prisons ?

- Repeating / reusing a sermon
 - Iterations improve a sermon

7) Organize your Sermon?

Point A
Point B
Point C
Application



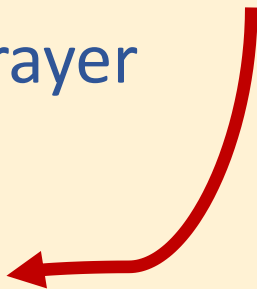
Big Idea
Application

Passage – Meaning – Application
Passage – Meaning – Application
Passage – Meaning – Application
Passage – Meaning – Application

7) Organize your Sermon?

- 3-point well-outlined Sermon
- Big-Idea Method
- Passage – Meaning – Application
- Wander all over the place with no destination until time is up

8) Sermon Flow ?

- Scripture Reading
- Sermon Intro – grab attention, reduce anxiety
- Prayer
- **Sermon Message** (25-45 minutes)
- Closing Prayer
- Song
- **Final Point** 
- Benediction – Jude 24-25, Romans 15:13

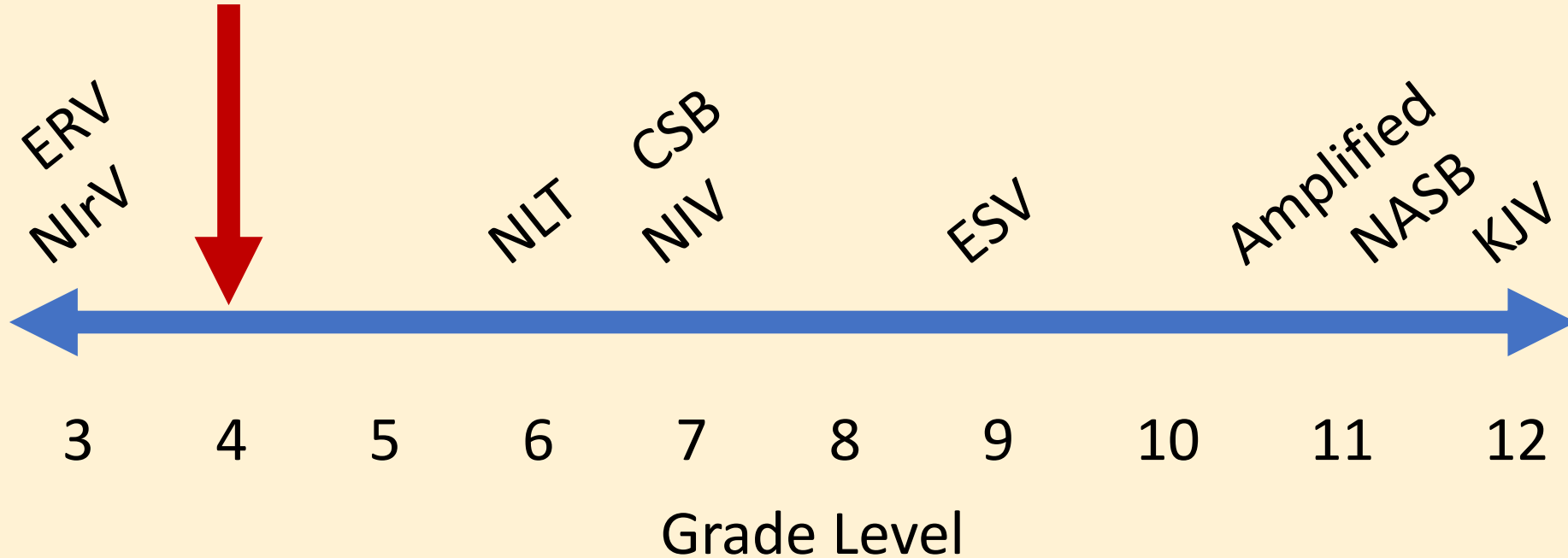
9) Educational Level?

- Wide range of reading levels – 4th grade to Masters
- Vocabulary
- How abstract?
- How much Bible background detail?
- To whom in the congregation are you preaching?

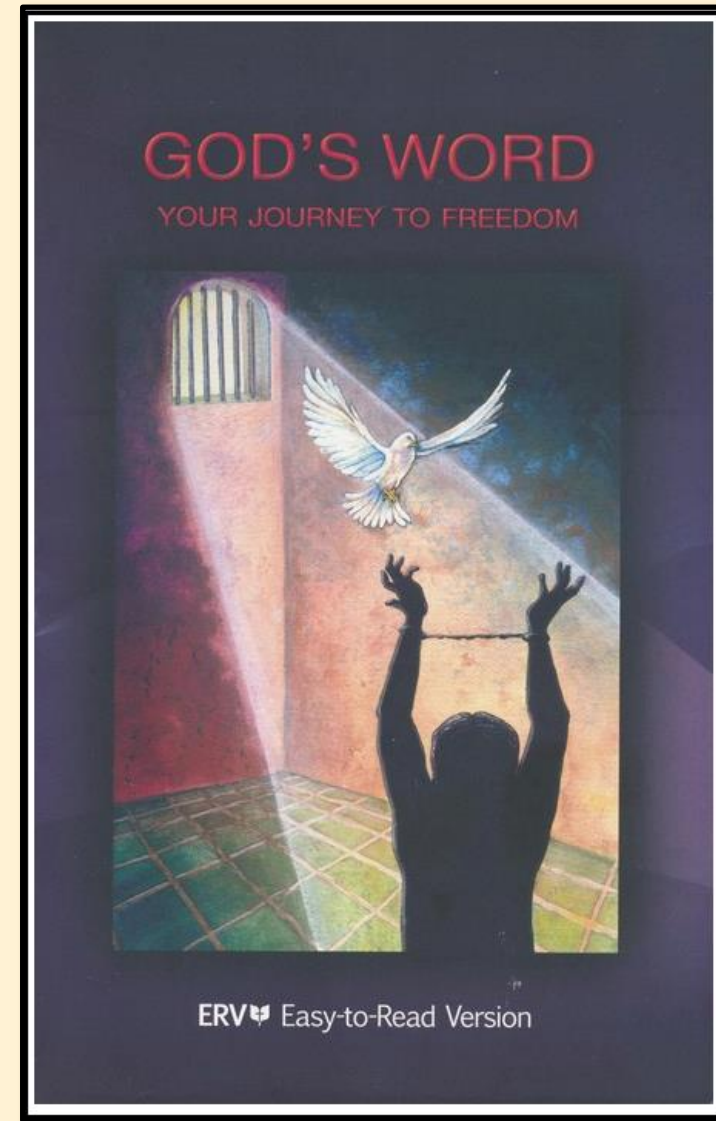
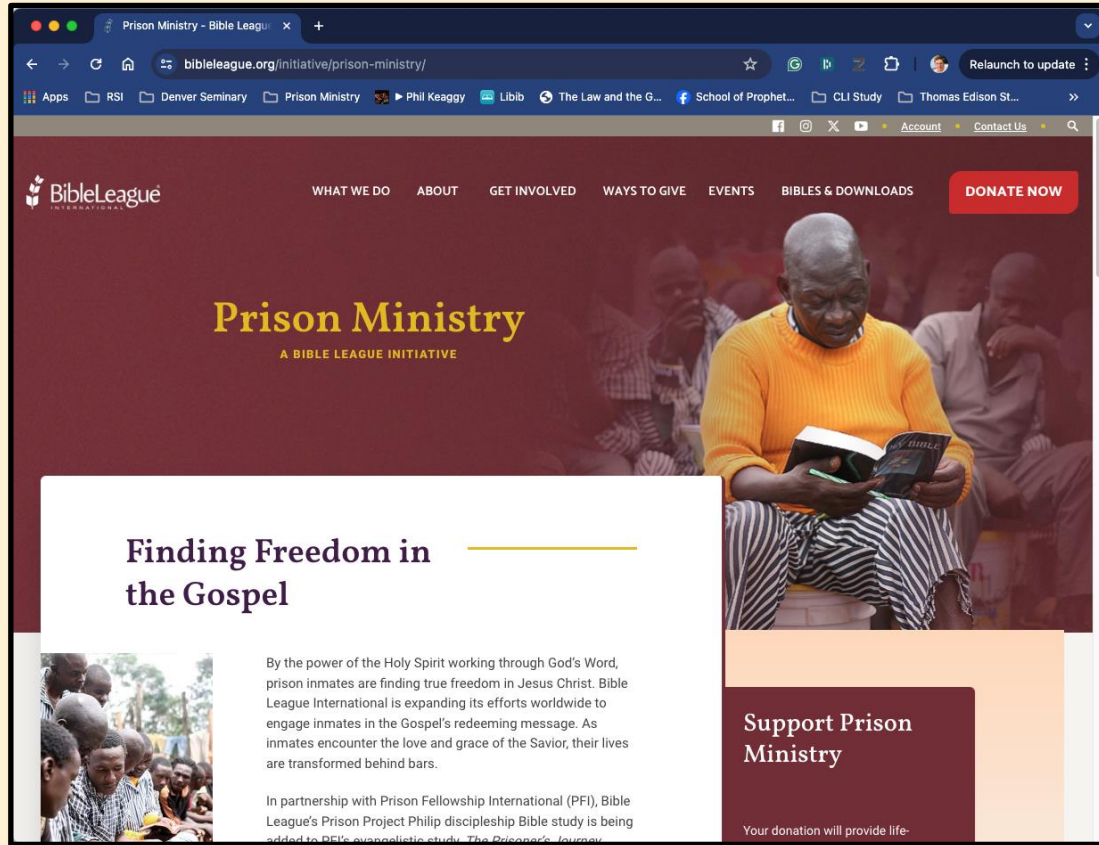
**WARNING:
THIS IS
HARDER
THAN IT
SEEMS**

10) Preaching Translation?

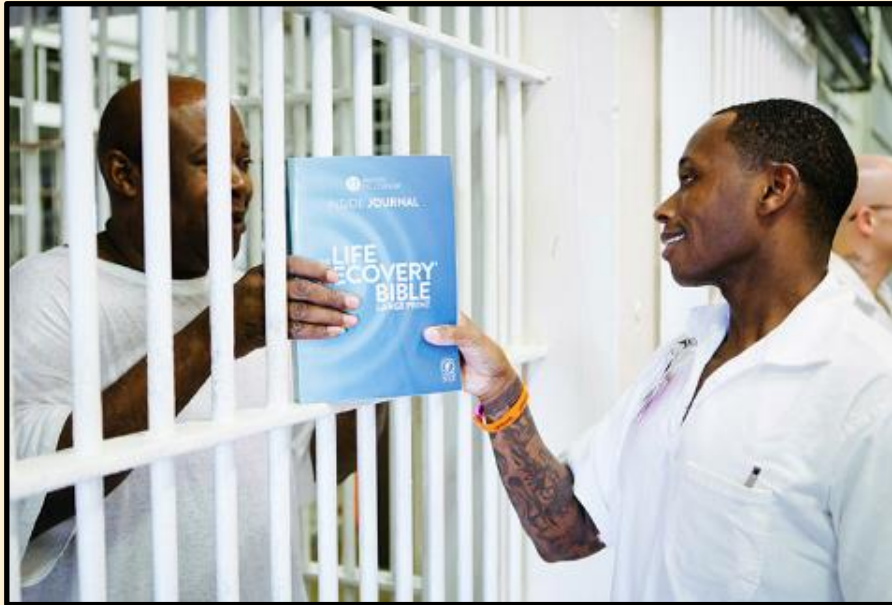
70% of all incarcerated adults reading level below 4th grade



ERV – Prison Bible



NLT – Prison Bible



PRISON FELLOWSHIP

Welcome to the Storehouse!

[Register](#) [Login](#)

New here? The Storehouse is an online marketplace dedicated exclusively to chaplains.

On the Storehouse, Prison Fellowship® offers dozens of encouraging resources to support the vital work you do as a chaplain—and everything is completely free!

Register today to receive access to products such as Inside Journal®, a newspaper written for the incarcerated community; inspiring Floodlight® DVDs; information on Create: New Beginnings®, a restorative 10-session art program for women; helpful books, and more!

Some resources are available in both English and Spanish. Don't wait—register for the Storehouse today!

For more information, email us at chaplainresources@pfm.org or call 800.206.9764.

A vernacular translation of Rom 6:23

...ward in righteousness, and the end is everlasting life.
23 Fer th' booty o' villainy be death; but th' bounty o' God be eternal life
through Jesus Christ our Cap'n!

Chapter 7



11) Interaction?

- Asking Questions
- Allowing Questions
 - Clarification
 - Vocab Questions
- Theological Challenges
 - Pro: address heresy from the power of the pulpit
 - Con: can become a public debate
 - Con: you set up other chaplains / preachers for trouble



Concerning Theology



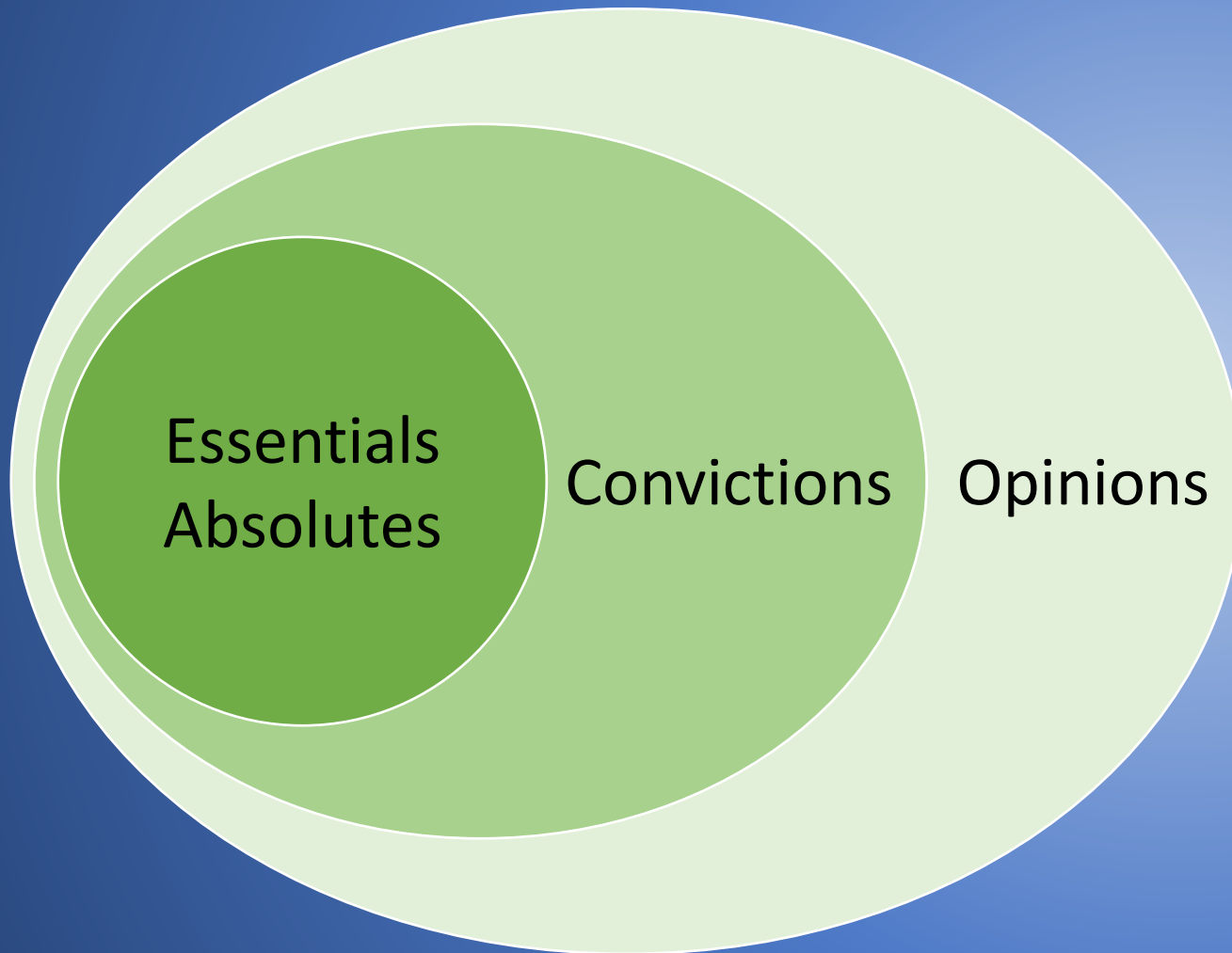
Prison is
petri dish of theology

12) Preaching Theology?

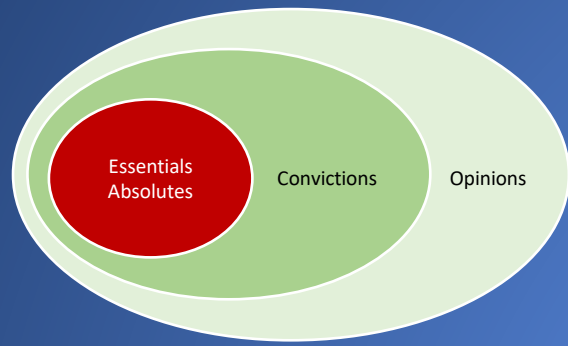
- 1 - Core, Essential theologies
- 2 - Secondary, Denominational Differences
- 3 - Opinions

Are you a Christian, Protestant, or Denominational Preacher?

Circles of Theology

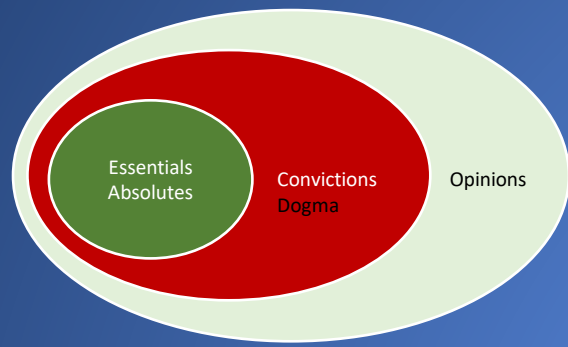


- Essentials, Absolutes, Core
 - Clear in Scripture
 - Every Christian Tradition agrees
 - The core, must believe, theologies of the Christian faith.
 - If you don't believe these, then unbeliever, cult, or very poorly misled.
- Convictions
 - Less Clear in Scripture
 - Denominational / Personal beliefs based on Scripture
 - We can respectfully disagree and still have joyful fellowship
- Opinions
 - No, or very little, Scriptural direction
 - Our personal preference not based on clear Scriptural teaching.



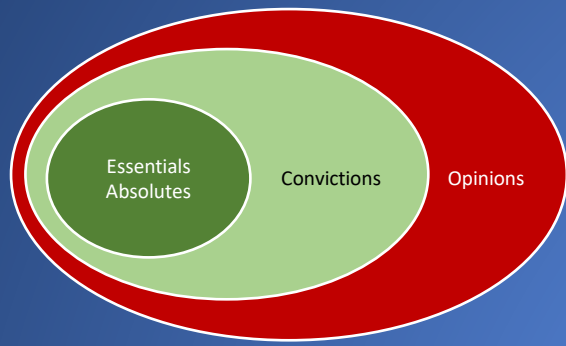
(1) 8 Essentials, Absolutes, Core

- Scripture is the Word of God – faithful and true
- One God – Three in One – Father, Son, & Holy Spirit
- God created everything (physics, time, matter, all life) from nothing
- God is all powerful, all knowing, everywhere, and here
- God is the definition of good, wisdom, love, & justice
- Humans live one life, then Judgement - Afterlife
- The Fall – everyone has wandered/sinned and needs salvation
- Salvation only by Grace Through Faith in Christ's faithfulness
 - Christ's virgin birth, perfect life, death, & resurrection of Christ for salvation



(2) Convictions

- Calvinism-Reformed / Arminianism
 - God Chooses Us / We Choose God
- Dispensationalism / Covenant
- Perseverance of the Saints
 - Once Saved Always Saved
 - Conditional Salvation
- Young Earth / Old Earth
- Baptism – who?, mode?, meaning?
- Women Pastor ordination
- End Times
- Meaning of Communion
- Baptism of the Spirit
- Sign gifts
- Hell-Guilt / kindness in evangelism
- Worship on Saturday / Sabbath
- Tithing
- Bible Translations
- LGBTQ Marriage, lifestyle, ordination



(3) Opinions

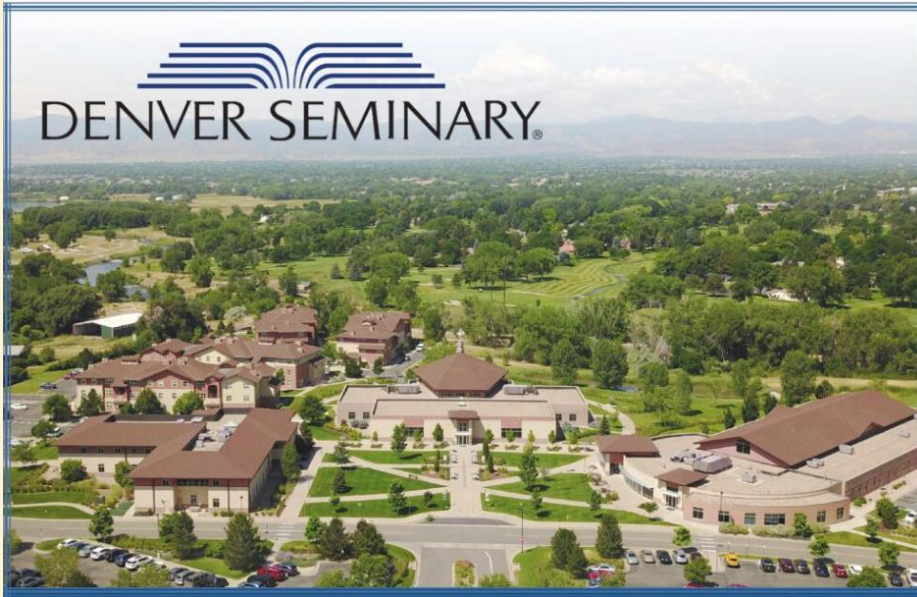
- Alcohol
- Bible Translations
- Ordination requirements
- Church Government Style
- Worship music style
- Color of the carpet
- School building / build a church building
- Expository / Topical sermons
- Sermon Style
- Best size of church
- Pastor tucks in his shirt, wears socks
- Method of communion
- Home Church / Organized Church
- Christmas

Concerning Theology

Theology
- Love

Noise

Charitable Orthodoxy



1st seminary
M Div in Chaplaincy

Denver Seminary's Core Commitments

Questions such as, "What defines this institution?", "What commitments center everything that we do?" and "What provides a foundation for our vision?" guide us in the process of crafting strategy and executing our mission. We believe that these five characteristics are woven throughout the tapestry of our school's history and remain central to our distinct institutional identity.

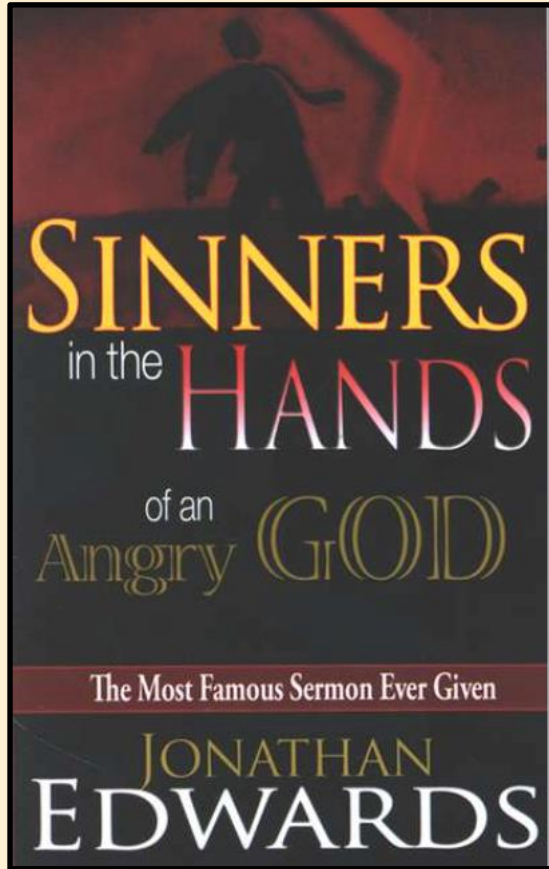
- + Biblical Authority
- + Vigorous Scholarship
- + Charitable Orthodoxy

We are people of the Faith, committed to the great core confessions that have defined Christianity for centuries. We cling to these great core truths of the faith for they frame our understanding of God, the world in which we live, and His work in it. Furthermore, we confess these great truths as a way forward for those trapped in the mire of indifference and relativism. Around that common confession and our agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Seminary, we engage in gracious and serious conversations about many different areas of faith and life. At



The Bible forms the basis of our doctrinal statement and the centerpiece of our curriculum. We study the Bible and look to it as our authoritative reference, assessing theories and arguments for congruence with what it affirms.

13) Addressing Sin?



- Discussing Sin - Wandering from God - False Identity
- Everyone Wanders
 - Some to professional careers and wealth
 - Some to a boring 9-5, nagging wife, and beer
 - Some, life goes sideways and they end up with a DOC number
- Everyone is broken, Everyone will die

14) Presenting the Gospel?

- Every sermon?
- When
 - Woven into the Sermon
 - Tacked on the end
- How to invite
 - Invite them to talk with you after
 - Alter call, raise hands
 - Invite them to talk with an incarcerated believer

A hand is shown painting a portrait of Jesus with a brush. The portrait is rendered in a realistic style with dark, curly hair and a beard. The background is a mix of warm, golden-brown and light, airy tones. The hand holding the brush is in the foreground, and the brush is positioned near the bottom of the portrait.

15) Illustrations?

- From a book?
- Quote a theologian?
- Stories from history?
- Art?
- Your personal stories?

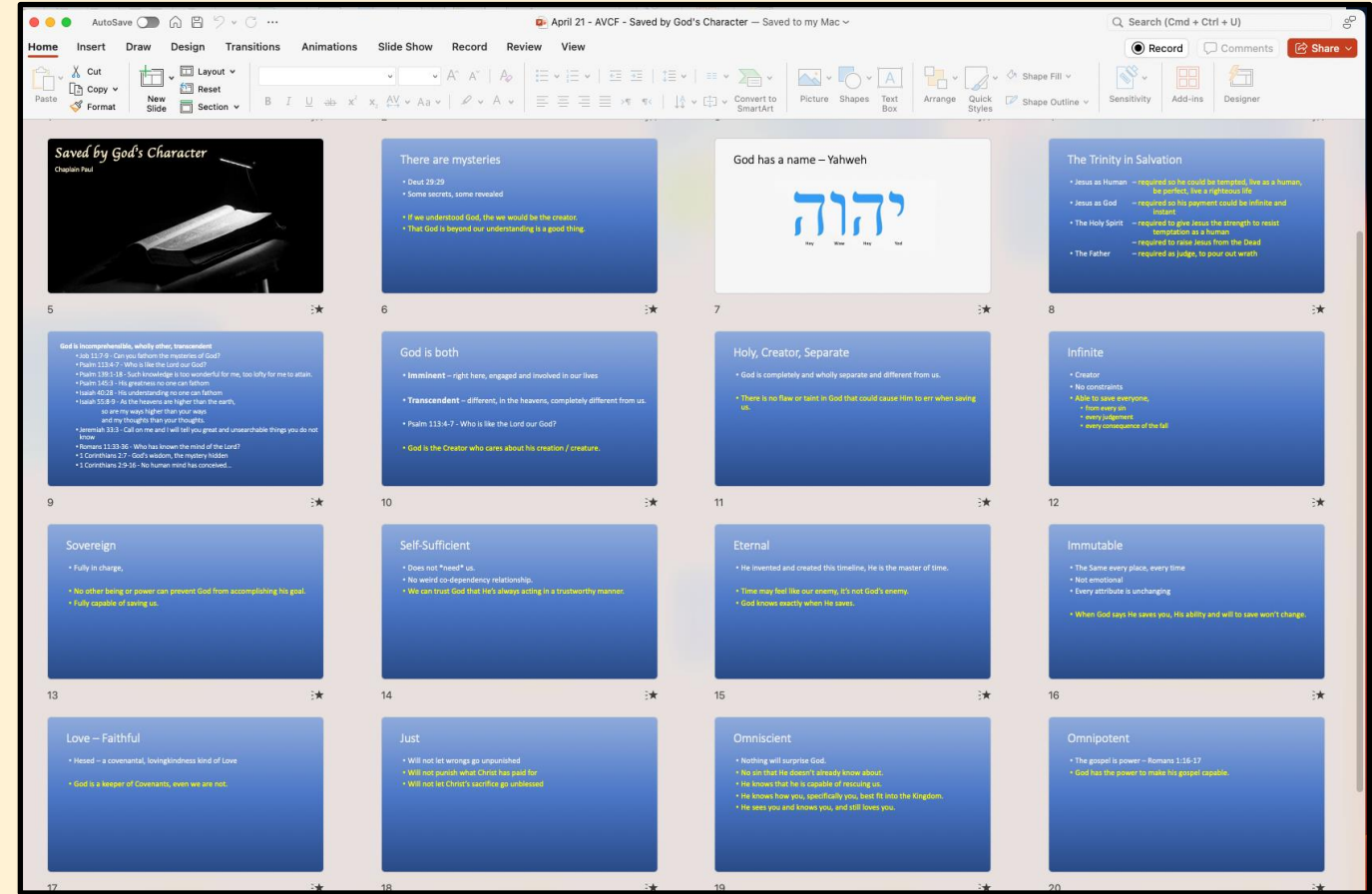
16) PowerPoint?

Aid or Distraction?

Scripture?

Amount of Text?

How to get the file into the prison?



17) Preaching Morality

- Preach morals
- Preach gospel?
- Are you making good people who don't know Jesus?

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- **Never have I ever**
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

Never have I ever...

tried to sound like,
or be like,
my favorite pastor.

Never have I ever...

tried to sound tough.

Be transparent.

It's ok to lament.

No one will believe that you're perfect – don't try to be.

Never have I ever...

used the pulpit as a personal therapy session.

The congregation will quickly learn your weakness.
Open to manipulation.

Never have I ever...

used an
application or devotional
commentary.

Never have I ever...

used
25¢ words,
university words,
adv theology
words.

Never have I ever...

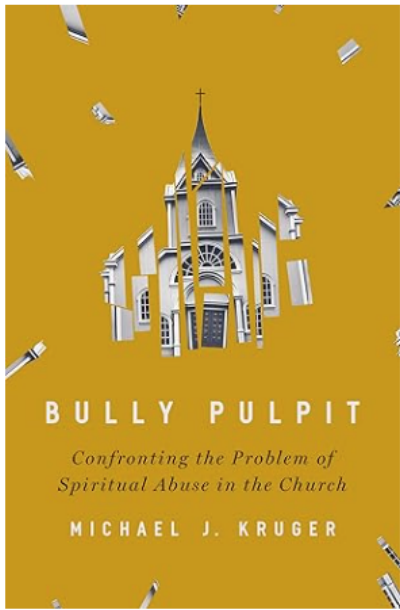
bashed another religion.

Never have I ever...

called out someone for anything negative.

Never have I ever...

revealed a confidential issue from the pulpit.



Bully Pulpit: Confronting the Problem of Spiritual Abuse in the Church Hardcover – November 8, 2022
by [Michael J Kruger](#) (Author)
4.7 ★★★★★ 313 ratings 4.5 on Goodreads 778 ratings [See all formats and editions](#)

Are churches looking for the wrong kind of leaders? The last decade has witnessed a rising number of churches wrecked by spiritual abuse--harsh, heavy-handed, domineering behavior from those in a position of spiritual authority. And high-profile cases are only a small portion of this widespread problem. Behind the scenes are many more cases of spiritual abuse that we will never hear about. Victims suffer in silence, not knowing where to turn.

Of course, most pastors and leaders are godly, wonderful people who don't abuse their sheep. They shepherd their flocks gently and patiently. But we can't ignore the growing number who do not. We have tolerated and even celebrated the kind of leaders Jesus warned us against.

We need gentle shepherds now more than ever, and in *Bully Pulpit*, seminary president and biblical scholar Michael J. Kruger offers a unique perspective for both church leaders and church members on the problem of spiritual abuse, how to spot it, and how to handle it in the church.

"Every Christian from pulpit to pew needs to read this wise and timely work."
From Sojourn Jones
[Read more](#)

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Never have I ever

read Scripture

& **only** saw how I might preach this passage.

Never have I ever

Used my prison ministry for my personal **validation** or to meet my **emotional needs**.

Never have I ever

thought of an incarcerated person
as “less than” me.

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- **Practical Tips**
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- Resources

Public Speaking Practical Tips

- ~~apologize~~
- ~~“Bear with me.”~~
- ~~“Good Morning – I can’t hear you”~~

Public Speaking Practical Tips

- Put extra effort into your first minute.

Public Speaking Practical Tips

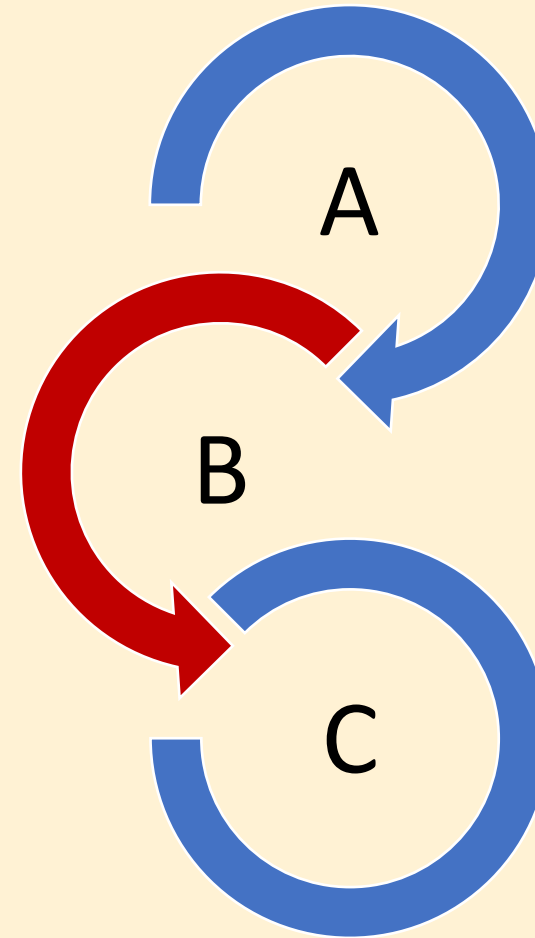
Speak more slowly.

Annunciate your words.

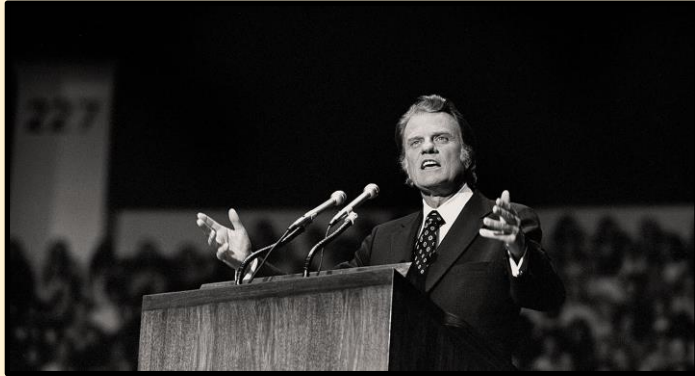


Public Speaking Practical Tips

- Make it easy to follow
- Make clean transitions
 - Wrap up the point
 - Where are we in the outline
 - Introduce the next point
- Always walk through your outline



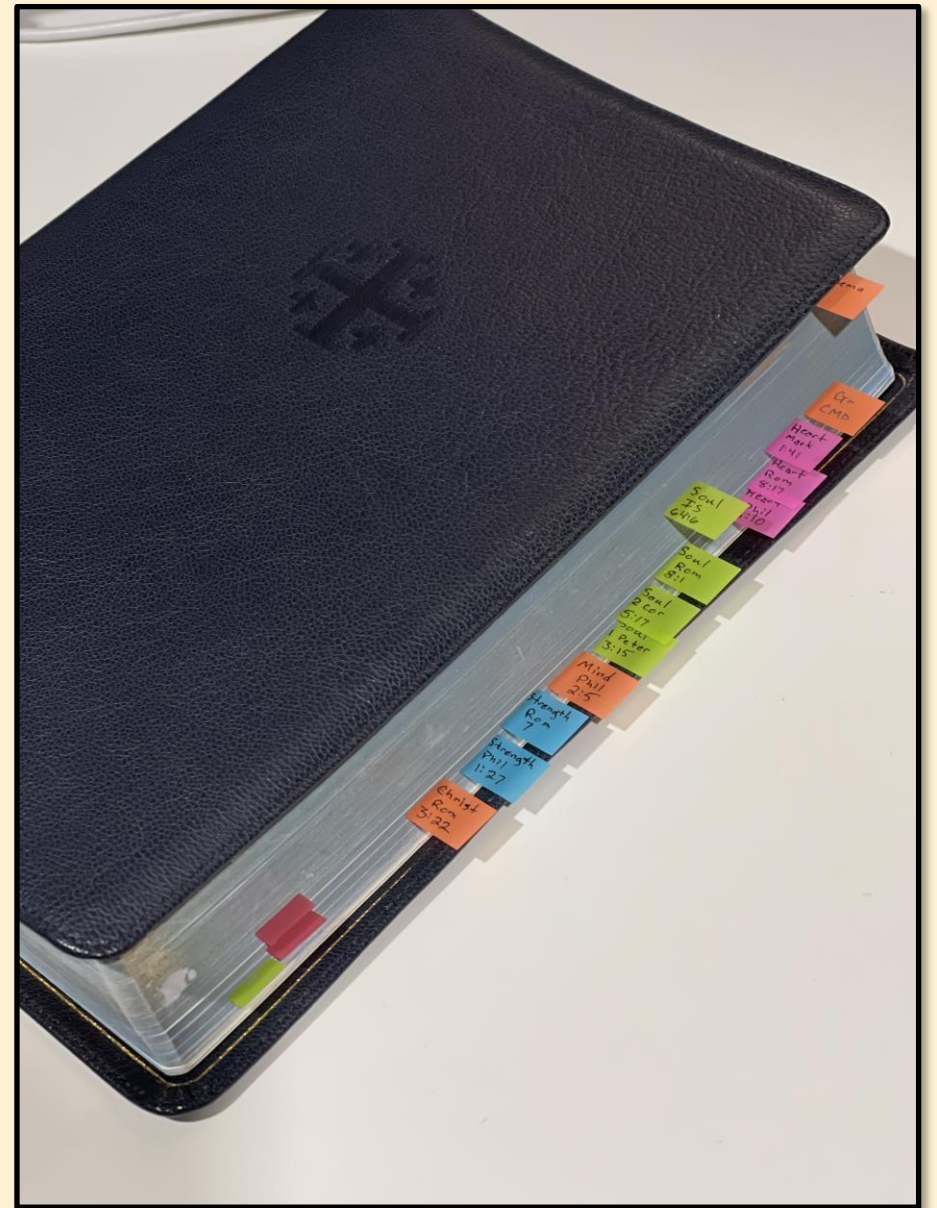
Public Speaking Practical Tips



- Be yourself – Don't try to sound like anyone else
- Be Yourself – Authentic
- Be Yourself – More than the words you use is the love and care they see in you
- Be yourself – Let your personality show
- Be Yourself – They love you, not some TV preacher

Bible Tips

- Hold your Bible when reading a passage
- Point to the passage
- Use legal pointer strips
- Working/Preaching Bible
 - Not a study Bible
 - Large print
 - Easy to read font



Public Speaking Practical Tips

Just **Sing**



Public Speaking Practical Tips

Imposter Syndrome

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- **Equipping the Incarcerated**
- Resources

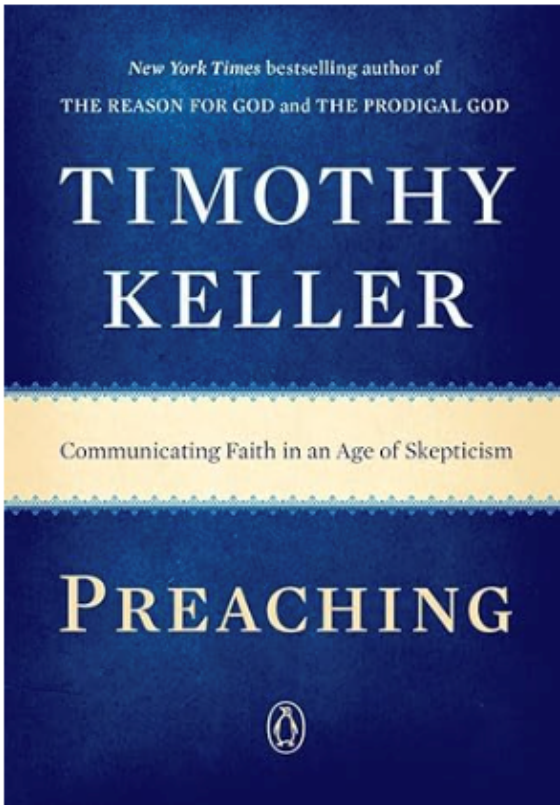
Equipping the Incarcerated

- Choose a small set of inmate who you think can **grow** into the role
- Choose a book of the Bible that's easy to preach
 - We picked Philippians
- **Study** the book
- Learn from **videos** from the resource list
- Let them practice their **intro**
- Let them choose the passage/section they **want** to preach.

Preaching Behind the Bars

- Homiletics
- Homiletics Applied to Prison
- Intentional Decisions
- Never have I ever
- Practical Tips
- Equipping the Incarcerated
- **Resources**


Preaching Resources



Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism


Paperback – December 6, 2016






by [Timothy Keller](#) (Author)


4.8  [1,157 ratings](#) 4.5 on Goodreads [3,306 ratings](#) [See all formats and editions](#)

Pastor, preacher, and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Prodigal Prophet* Timothy Keller shares his wisdom on communicating the Christian faith from the pulpit as well as from the coffee shop.

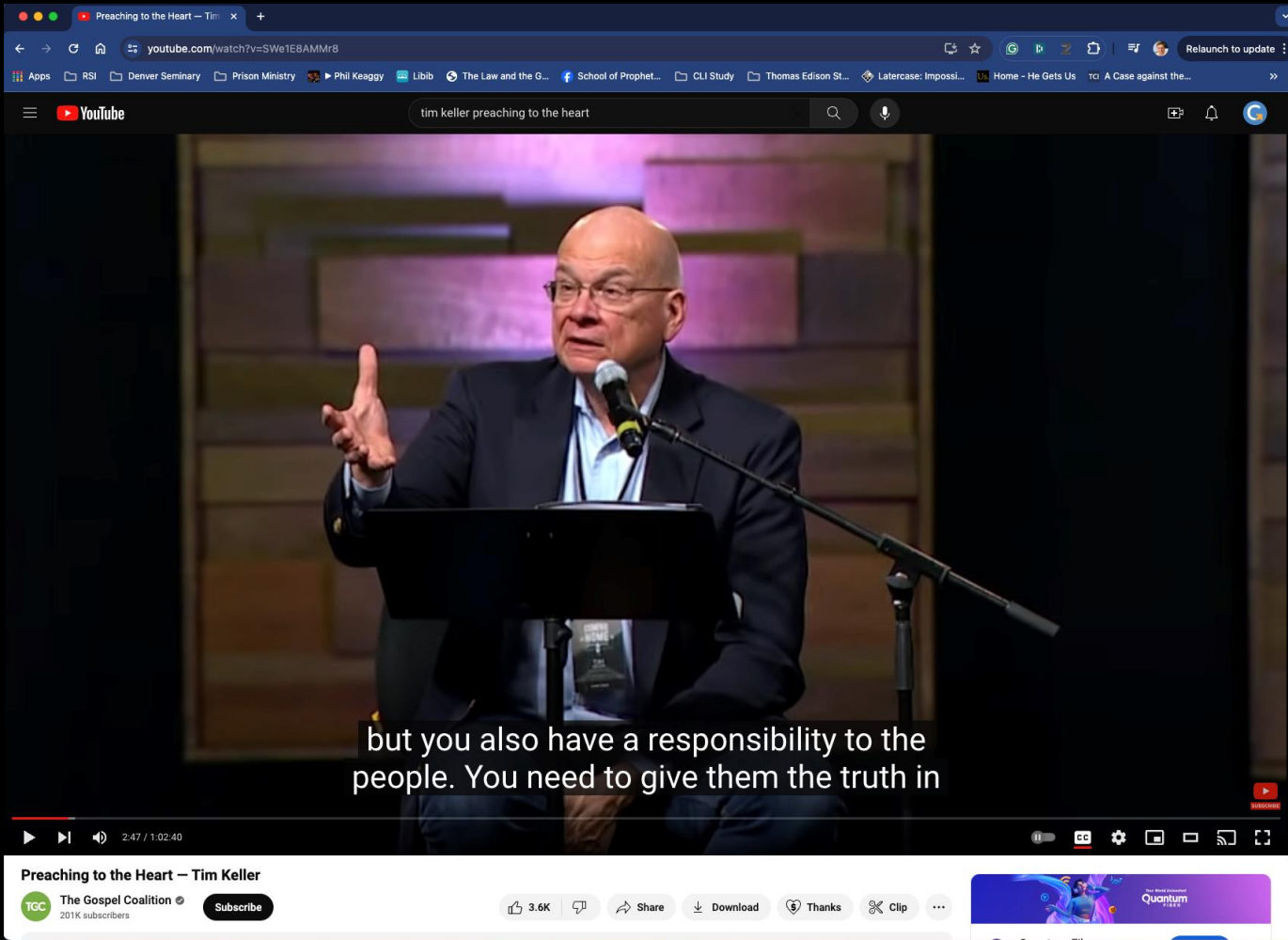
Most Christians—including pastors—struggle to talk about their faith in a way that applies the power of the Christian gospel to change people's lives. Timothy Keller is known for his insightful, down-to-earth sermons and talks that help people understand themselves, encounter Jesus, and apply the Bible to their lives. In this accessible guide for pastors and laypeople alike, Keller helps readers learn to present the Christian message of grace in a more engaging, passionate, and compassionate way.

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Print length	Language	Publisher	Publication date	Dimensions
 320 pages	 English	 Penguin Books	 December 6, 2016	 0.9 x 4.9 x 7 inches



Preaching Resources



A screenshot of a YouTube video player. The video is titled "Preaching to the Heart - Tim Keller" and is from the channel "The Gospel Coalition". The video shows Tim Keller, a man with glasses and a dark suit, speaking at a podium with a microphone. He is gesturing with his right hand. The video player interface includes a search bar with the text "tim keller preaching to the heart", a play button, a progress bar showing 2:47 / 1:02:40, and a list of actions: 3.6K likes, Share, Download, Thanks, Clip, and a menu icon. The channel name "The Gospel Coalition" has 201K subscribers. A "Subscribe" button is visible. The video player is set to "Relaunch to update".

but you also have a responsibility to the people. You need to give them the truth in

Preaching Resources

The screenshot shows a YouTube browser window with the search term "john piper preaching". The main content area displays a playlist titled "The Preaching Class" by the channel "Desiring God", which has 31 videos and 249,137 views. The playlist is currently playing the first video, "Invitation to 'The Preaching Class'", which has 399K views and was uploaded 2 years ago. Below the main video, there is a list of 8 videos in the playlist:

1. **Invitation to 'The Preaching Class'** (Desiring God • 399K views • 2 years ago)
2. **Lecture Introduction: Preaching Is a Great Thing** (Desiring God • 36K views • 2 years ago)
3. **Lecture 1: The Making of a Preacher** (Desiring God • 46K views • 2 years ago)
4. **Lecture 2: The Divine Call to Preaching** (Desiring God • 28K views • 2 years ago)
5. **Lecture 3: What Is Preaching?** (Desiring God • 24K views • 2 years ago)
6. **Lecture 4: What Is Expository?** (Desiring God • 29K views • 2 years ago)
7. **Lecture 5: What Is Exultation?** (Desiring God • 17K views • 2 years ago)
8. **Lecture 6: Preaching Is Worship** (Desiring God • 14K views • 2 years ago)

Preaching Resources

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `seminarynow.com/programs/better-sermon`. The page features a dark blue navigation bar with the "SEMINARY NOW" logo and links for "About", "Streaming Courses", "For Organizations", "Earn Credit", "Resources", "Get Started", and "Login".

The main content area includes a video player on the left with a "TRAILER" label and a play button. The video shows a woman, Mary Hulst, in front of a stone building. The video player has a progress bar at 00:00 and standard playback controls.

To the right of the video player, there is a "COLLECTION" header followed by the title "Ten Practical Ways to a Better Sermon" and the author's name "Mary Hulst". Below this is a paragraph of text:

No function of the pastor is as visible and stress inducing as preaching. Being a good preacher requires learning the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical skills needed to effectively share God's word with a congregation. It demands a commitment to the craft of preaching. But few pastors feel adequately prepared for this high-stakes responsibility when they begin their ministries.

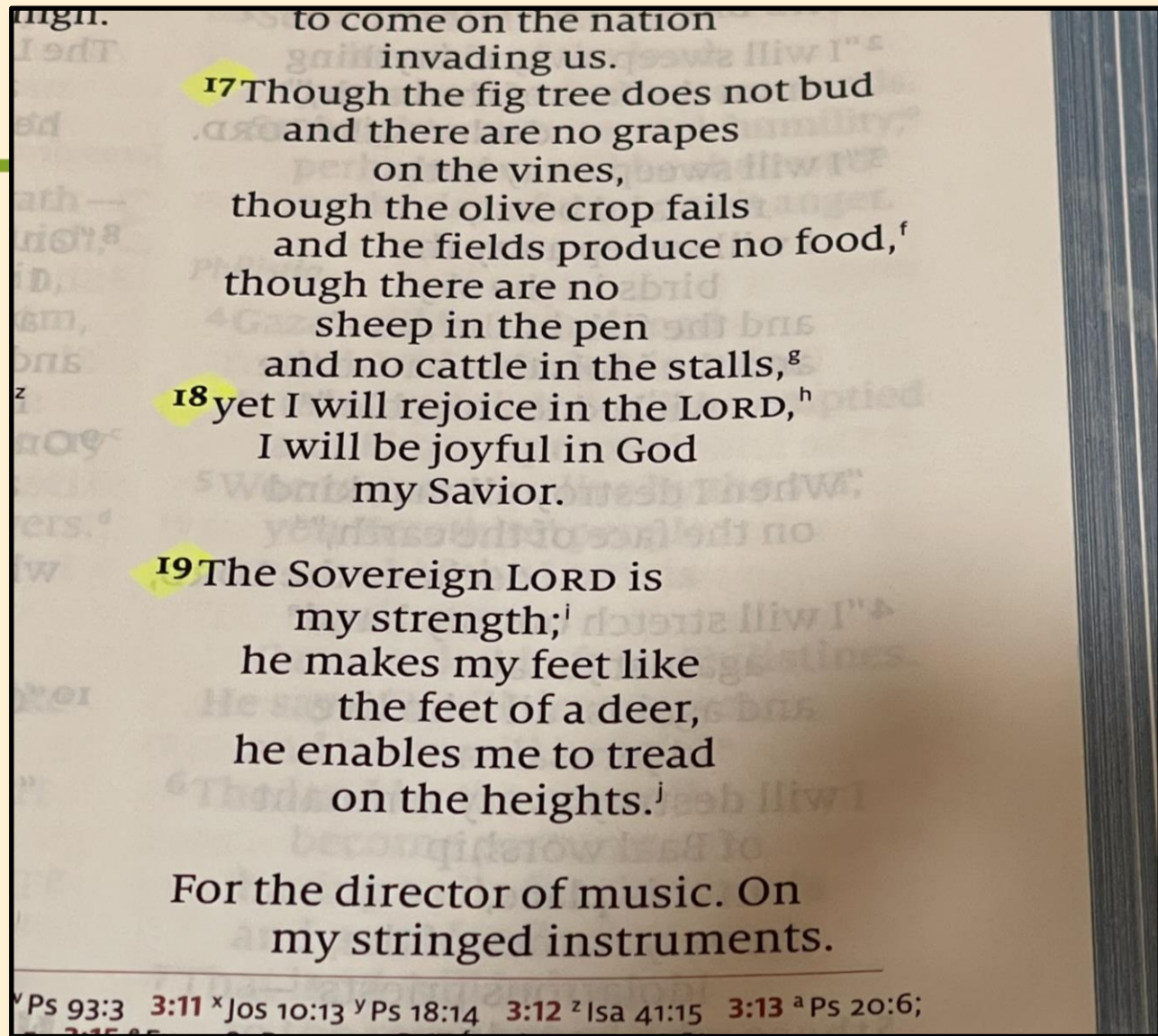
Below the paragraph is another paragraph:

Mary Hulst knows what it takes to preach well. Forged by her experiences as a pastor, preaching professor and college chaplain, she recognizes the challenges of the pulpit. In this uniquely practical course, Hulst provides foundational concepts and tips that all pastors can use, whether they are ministry newcomers or seasoned professionals.

At the bottom of the text area is a "Learn more" link and a dark blue button that says "Subscribe to watch" with a dropdown arrow and a comment icon.

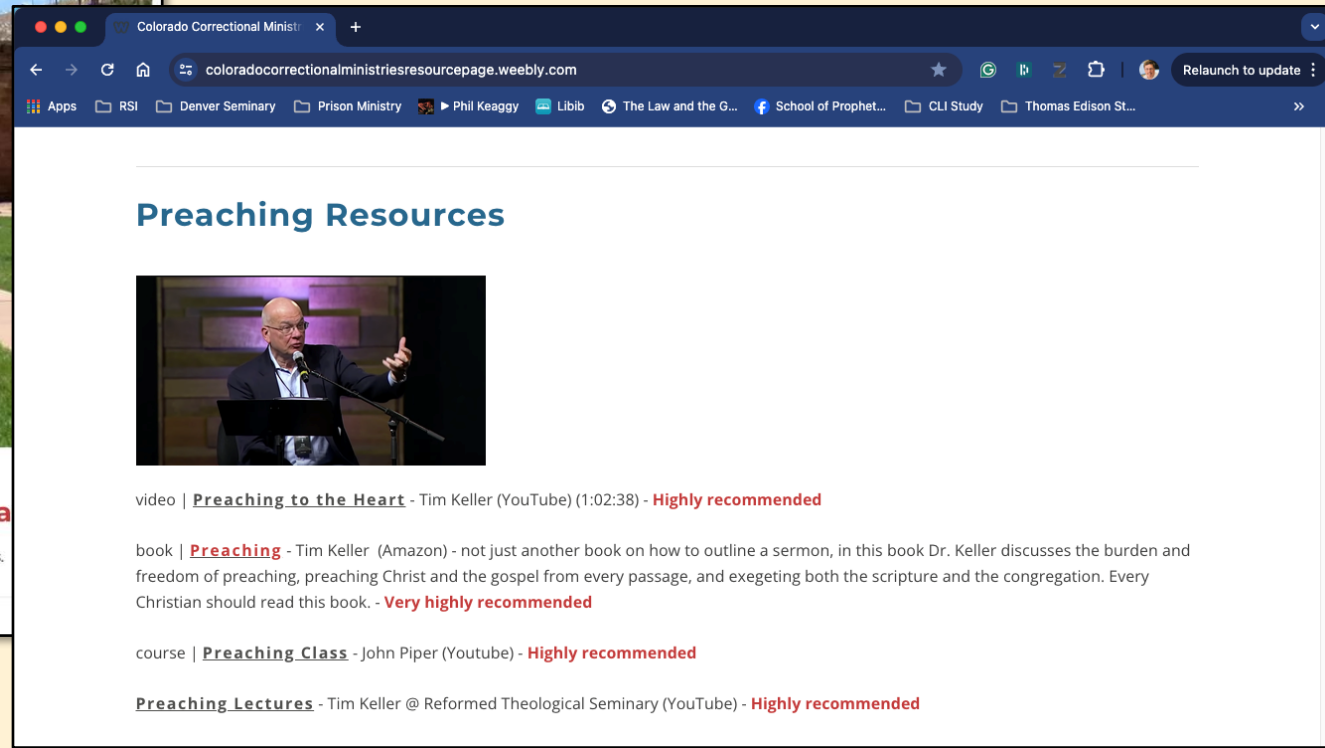
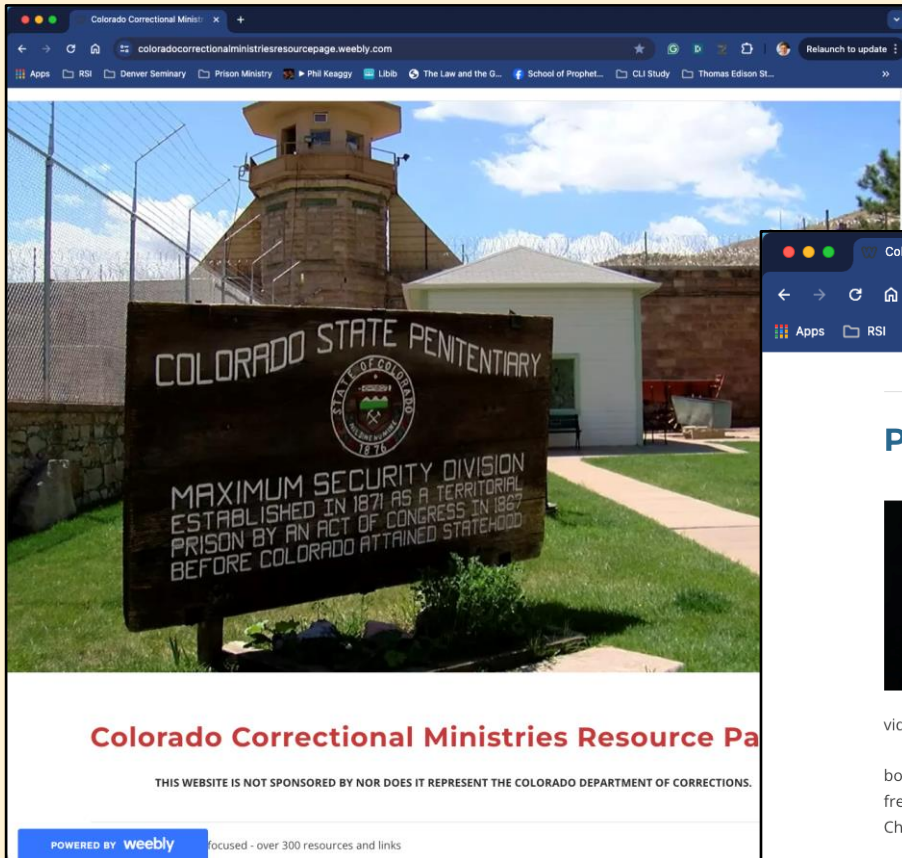
Habakkuk 3

Being faithful
in a hard place
gives God the
greatest glory.



www.ColoradoCorrectionalMinistriesResourcePage.weebly.com

300+ links!



The Three Big Questions

1. What does this passage mean?
2. How does this passage fit into God's Grand Redemptive Story?
 - How does this passage point to Christ?
3. How does this passage change our lives today?
 - How does this passage help me repent?
 - How does this passage help me be a living sacrifice?

CMCA Correctional Ministries Summit | May 17-18, 2024 | Wheaton College, IL

The Goal of every Sermon

- The Gospel
 - not the ABC of the Christian life, but the A to Z of the Christian life
- Hope
 - They have a place in the kingdom
 - They are not forgotten
 - God has a plan to use them for his glory TODAY!
 - Not someday later - if/when they get out
- Comfort Ye my People
 - God cares about their concerns

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