

Pastor Dolapo Lawal



INTRODUCTION TO SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Transcribed and Published by LivingSermons.com

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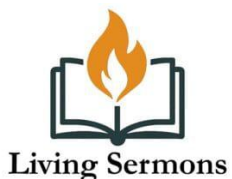
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Foreword

At the heart of this teaching lies a burden that cannot be ignored: the restoration of accurate theology in the life of the believer. Not theology as mere intellectual exercise, but theology that shapes identity, defines morality, and anchors destiny. Here, the preacher carefully dismantles the subtle errors that have crept into modern Christian thinking—errors that either push men into performance or lure them into careless living—and replaces them with that unfolds in intimacy with God. It confronts the fear of missing God’s will and replaces it with the assurance of His goodness and intentionality. It further establishes the balanced truth of God’s Word.

With remarkable clarity, this message reveals that purpose is not something to be anxiously chased, but something particularly striking is the emphasis on grace—not as a licence to sin, but as a divine teacher. Grace is presented in its true form: instructive, transformative, and empowering. It does not merely restrain behaviour; it renews the heart. In a time when grace is often misunderstood, this message restores its dignity and purpose. Its foundation: that morality is not subjective, not “my truth” or “your truth,” but the expression of God’s unchanging nature written upon the hearts of men.

The teaching also addresses the danger of false doctrine with precision, exposing how deception often comes clothed in what appears noble or spiritual. It calls the believer into discernment, urging a return to Scripture as the final authority, rightly interpreted and rightly applied.

As you journey through these pages, you will find more than words—you will encounter alignment.

— *Wisdom Epsi*
Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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Publisher's Note

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

The live sermon from which this message was transcribed can be accessed here: [Live Video](#)

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Our daily goal is to transform powerful live sermons into polished PDF and ebook editions for the edification of the Body of Christ.

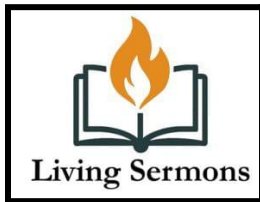
It is our prayer that as you read, the same grace, conviction, clarity, and impartation present in the live service will minister to you afresh.

— *Livingsermons.com*

A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship

Main Message

Begins Here:



Opening Charge and Spiritual Alignment

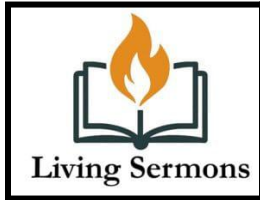
For the people online, one of the most recurring things I heard in the UK is that people want to be seen and recognised. So, you are seen and you are recognised. I am watching out for you as well.

I want to thank Tiwalola Ouis. Thank you for the gift you sent to me. God bless you in Jesus' name. Amen.

We are building, and we are getting ready for October. October is going to be your month of testimonies. Amen. Believe His prophets.

September, we are going to “stock the cloud.” I will give the template for what we are doing. Initially, I wanted us to fast for seven days, but as we prayed, the Lord said twenty-one days. And we still have November—we are also going to fast twenty-one days.

We will take the last twenty-one days of September. I will share the template clearly, but I want to encourage you to apply yourself. God gave us a word—that we are coming into a *mountain of solutions*. There is going to be a heavy downpour in October.



Evangelism and Accountability

We are entering what I call *Berean mode*.

We will:

- Go out for evangelism in groups
- Have guided conversations on how to share the Gospel
- Share testimonies online under the theme: **“The Gospel According To...”**

For example:

- The Gospel According to Kumi
- The Gospel According to Lola

You will declare the good news of what Jesus has done for you and invite others to know Him.

Spiritual Lifestyle Adjustments

Guidelines for the month:

- No non-gospel music
- Share your worship playlists
- Engage in daily prayer walks
- Maintain accountability through visible action

“Work out your salvation with fear and trembling” (Philippians 2:12, KJV). We are taking that seriously—spiritually and even physically.

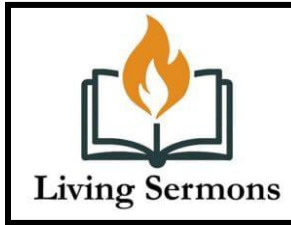
A Posture of Surrender

In September, you should not even come with fixed prayer points. Come with expectation.

Abraham did not choose—God showed him.

So your posture is:

“Lord, whatever You have for me, lead me and show me.”



The Foundation: Understanding Systematic Theology

The first time I heard about systematic theology was in Bible school. I remember a statement: if the local church was doing its job, there would be no need for Bible schools.

Everything in Scripture was written to people—not just pastors. The Bible is not too deep for understanding. It was written to ordinary people—many of them poor and unlearned.

You do not need to be intellectually superior to understand Scripture. You need openness of heart and the Spirit of God.

Every believer carries the wisdom of God.

Clarity of Scripture

If it is truly the Word of God, it will be clear. Its depth is found in its application to your life.

Jesus Himself spoke in simple, everyday language. He ministered largely to the poor (Luke 4:18, KJV). His audience was not made up of elites, but ordinary people under oppression.

So approach Scripture with this mindset: it is meant for you.

The Discipline of Learning

When you come for Bible study, approach it like Bible school. You are not here to be pampered. You are here to grow into responsibility—to become a true representative of Christ, able to defend your faith and understand what you believe.

What is Systematic Theology?

Systematic theology is:

The orderly, rational, and coherent study of God and His works, organised into major categories or doctrines.

It seeks to present **biblical truth as a unified whole.**

What is Theology?

The word *theology* comes from two Greek words:

- *Theos* — God
- *Logos* — Word, reason, or study

So theology simply means: **The study of God—His Word and His ways.**

The Reality of Theology

Everyone has a theology. The moment you say:

- “God is good,”
- “God punishes sin,”
- “God doesn’t care,”
- or even “There is no God,”

—you are expressing your theology. The real question is not whether you have a theology, but whether it is **correct**.

Why Theology Matters

What you believe about God shapes everything:

- How you pray
- How you respond to trials
- How you treat people
- How you see yourself
- How you discern truth

As Scripture says:

“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them...” (1 Timothy 4:16, KJV)

The Goal of Theology

We are not studying for knowledge alone. We are studying:

- To know Him
- To walk with Him
- To represent Him

Sound theology should lead somewhere.

It should affect:

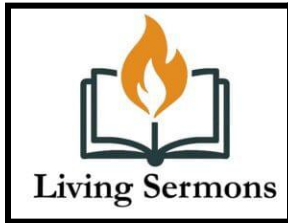
- **Axiology** (your values)
- **Soteriology** (your understanding of salvation)
- And ultimately lead to **Doxology** (worship and devotion)

A Necessary Warning

If your theology:

- Makes you proud
- Makes you argumentative
- Makes you wicked

Then something is wrong. True theology should humble you, transform you, and draw you into deeper submission to God.



Understanding Doctrine: How Truth is Established

It is clear—*1 Peter 3:15* (KJV) is there. If you read the epistles, you will realise that most of them are written to establish and explain doctrine.

The book of Acts, however, is different. Acts records what happened in the lives of the apostles. It is historical. You do not build doctrine solely from Acts—it is called the *Acts of the Apostles*, not the acts of God.

Let me bring balance to it.

When you want to establish doctrine, you must understand the structure of Scripture. You classify the Bible into:

- **History**
- **Poetry**
- **Epistles**
- **Prophecy**

History: Description, Not Prescription

Historical books (like Samuel, Kings, Chronicles) show events that happened. But not everything recorded is meant to be practised.

Just because something happened in Scripture does not make it biblical.

In the Bible:

- God spoke
- The devil spoke
- Men spoke

So everything written is not automatically *biblical*. What is biblical is what aligns with:

- God's character
- The consistent witness of Scripture
- The leading of the Spirit

A Critical Example: The Book of Acts

If you try to build doctrine only from Acts, you may conclude that:

- People must gather as 120 in an upper room
- Before speaking in tongues

But that is not doctrine—that is an event.

Acts shows patterns and experiences, but doctrine must be established more broadly.

The Principle of Witnesses

“In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.”

These “witnesses” are not eyewitnesses—they are **scriptural witnesses**. Scripture interprets Scripture. So to establish truth, you must see it consistently across:

- Multiple passages
- Multiple authors
- The overall message of Scripture

The Fourfold Framework of Doctrine

To properly establish doctrine, examine Scripture through:

1. History

Did it happen in Scripture?

2. Poetry

Is it affirmed in books like Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon?

3. Epistles

The epistles are the clearest expression of doctrine.

They are not stories—they are explanations.

We interpret the Old Testament, but we **declare** the New Testament.

The epistles are already interpretation. You do not interpret interpretation—you echo it.

4. Prophecy

Check the writings of the prophets—major and minor. “Major” and “minor” refer to the **length of the books**, not their importance.

Truth can be found in Isaiah or Obadiah—it carries equal authority when aligned with Scripture.

Clarity as a Test of Truth

If you have to struggle excessively to prove a doctrine, there is a high chance it is wrong. Truth in Scripture is clear. It is consistent. It is visible. If you must search obscure verses to support an idea no one has seen before, be careful.

Guarding Your Thoughts with Scripture

Sometimes, a thought or inspiration comes to you. As you begin to explore it in Scripture, if you encounter a verse that contradicts it and you ignore that verse—then you are already in error. The moment Scripture resists your idea, you must drop it. We cannot be deeper than the revealed truth of Scripture.

The Purpose of Theology

As we study theology, we are not studying for knowledge alone.

We are studying:

- To know Him
- To walk with Him
- To represent Him

The Goal of Theology: Finding Us

The end goal of theology is not just to know God—it is to find ourselves in Him. There are four fundamental questions theology answers:

1. Origin — Where Did We Come From?

The world says:

- Chance
- Evolution

But Scripture says:

“In the beginning God created...” (Genesis 1:1, KJV)

We came from God.

Your life is not an accident—it is intentional.

2. Meaning — Why Are We Here?

The world says:

- Live your life
- Be happy

But Scripture says:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord... for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” (Revelation 4:11, KJV)

You were created for His pleasure. You do not define your purpose—your purpose is already embedded in your creation. Purpose is not something you invent. It is something you discover by yielding to God.

A Warning About Superficial Purpose

Kingdom financing is not a substitute for purpose. You cannot say: “My ministry is just to give money.”

God is after **you**, not just what you have. Every believer must:

- Win souls
- Intercede
- Serve in the house of God

Serving God means serving people *unto God*.

Burden and Direction

Sometimes you feel a burden—a deep dissatisfaction or stirring. Do not rush into action. If you act without direction, you may delay God’s purpose.

Example: Moses

He felt the burden to deliver Israel but acted prematurely. As a result, he delayed the process by 30 years.

The Right Response to Burden

When burden comes:

- Go into prayer
- Wait for direction
- Do not act prematurely

The release of burden comes through **direction**, not activity.

The Ministry of Angels (Clarified)

“Are they not all ministering spirits...” (Hebrews 1:14, KJV)

This refers to angels ministering within the context of God’s plan—particularly in relation to those awaiting salvation.

Their ministry involves:

- Direction
- Instruction
- Communication of God’s will

It does not mean believers command angels at will.

The Promise: The Holy Spirit

The “promise” referenced in Scripture is the Holy Spirit.

“...the promise of the Father...” (Acts 1:4, KJV)

“...the Holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians 1:13, KJV)

The difference between us and Old Testament saints is this:

The Spirit is now in us.

Purpose Illustrated

Purpose is not outside you—it is within your design. A keyboard produces sound only when it is used. In the same way, your purpose is revealed as you **yield**.

Purpose is not always comfortable. It is not always easy. But it is always aligned with God’s intention. Why are you laughing? Is it funny? Yes, it’s funny. But listen.

Purpose is not: “I just love being around children.”

You can love something and still miss your purpose in it. Purpose is what God is stirring your heart to see as a problem, and then equipping you with the wisdom to solve. You walk into a place and say, “This place is dirty.”

That may be purpose revealed—clean it.

If you are mature enough to identify a problem others cannot see, you are mature enough to carry the solution. So, the moment you begin to *search* for purpose in anxiety, you may miss it.

A Foundational Truth: God is Good

Write it down:

God is good.

Some people say, “I’m afraid of missing my purpose.”

But missing purpose is not about ignorance—it is about **disobedience**. In the parable of the talents, the servant did not say, “I didn’t know.”

He said, “I knew you...”

He acted based on a wrong understanding.

Rest, Not Struggle

An iPhone does not desire to function more than the manufacturer designed it to. In the same way, God desires your fulfilment more than you do. Do not strive your way out of His direction—**rest in Him**.

Calling Begins with Intimacy The first priority is not “doing”—it is **being**.

He called them to be with Him.

Calling is not sending. Calling is an invitation to intimacy.

When you say:

- “I’m called to teenagers”
- “I’m called to marriage”

It means: You are called to God, to learn how to serve in that area. A calling is a **learning process**.

Clarity of Divine Direction

God does not call people vaguely.

- Elisha knew when Elijah called him
- Moses argued, but still knew he was called
- Jesus’ assignment was unmistakable

If you are doing something you were not sent to do, you may struggle unnecessarily. The most powerful thing you can do for your destiny is **preparation**.

The Third Question of Theology: Morality

Morality answers the question: **How do I know what is right or wrong?**

We are speaking of **God’s moral law**, not just personal consecration. God will never instruct you in a way that contradicts His moral law.

No Such Thing as “My Truth”

There is nothing like “*my truth*.” Truth must be:

- Objective
- Consistent
- Universal

If truth changes from person to person, it is no longer truth.

The Danger of a Desensitised Conscience

Wrong teaching can harden the heart and make sin seem acceptable. False doctrine often appears in **extremes**. God's throne is founded on righteousness and justice—**balance**.

Consider Cain and Abel.

From a human perspective, Cain could have escaped judgement—no witnesses, no evidence.

But God said:

The voice of your brother's blood cries from the ground.

God judges not only actions, but **motives**.

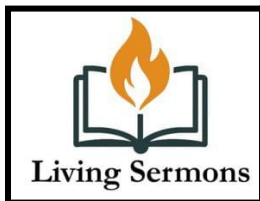
Another Example: Judas

In *John 12*, Mary poured costly perfume on Jesus.

Judas said: "This should have been given to the poor."

That sounds noble. But Scripture reveals: He was a thief.

God sees beyond words—He sees the heart. Morality is not external performance. It is an inward alignment with God's nature. If you miss this, you will begin to look for loopholes in Scripture instead of transformation.



Understanding False Doctrine

“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith...” (1 Timothy 4:1, KJV)

People do not leave the faith casually—they leave through **deception**. False teachings often look spiritual:

- Forbidding marriage
- Enforcing unnecessary restrictions
- Promoting self-punishment

These are described as **doctrines of devils**.

The Subtle Nature of Error

False doctrine does not always say, “Go and sin.” Instead, it says: “Earn God’s acceptance.” It promotes:

- Performance over grace
- Guilt over transformation
- Self-effort over surrender

Anything that leads you to harm yourself in the name of pleasing God is a distortion of truth.

Two Extremes to Avoid

1. **Legalism** – Trying to earn acceptance
2. **Lawlessness** – Living without restraint

Both are errors.

A Misunderstood Scripture

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin...” (1 John 3:9, KJV)

This must be read in context. To be born of God is to be born of **love**. And love is the fulfilment of God’s commandments.

The Law Written on the Heart

God’s law is not abolished—it is internalised.

“I will write my laws in their hearts...”

The Ten Commandments, once written on stone, are now written in the heart of the believer.

Clarity on the Law

When Scripture speaks of “the law,” it can refer to:

- The Ten Commandments (God’s moral law)
- Ceremonial laws (given through Moses)

The moral law remains foundational. That is why, even today, we know:

- We should not lie
- We should not steal
- We should not commit immorality

Powerful Insight

If the law was completely abolished, how would we still recognise sin?

The truth is simple: God has written His standards within us. And through sound theology, we learn to align with that truth clearly and confidently. Once you take away that foundation, you destroy society.

God brought grace so that grace can teach. The Scripture says:

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.” — (Titus 2:11–12, KJV)

The problem with the law is that it is consequential—it does not teach. The law of Moses says, “Do not steal,” but it does not teach you how not to steal. Grace, however, teaches.

Grace reveals that you are complete in Him. It builds contentment in you, and that contentment empowers you not to sin. The law says, “Don’t look at my shoes.”

Grace says, “Look at my face.”

The law creates curiosity and rebellion. Grace creates understanding and transformation. The law says: “Do not cross this line or you will die.” Grace says: “There is poison here. This boundary is for your safety.”

Grace teaches. It is curative. If you are hearing the true message of grace, it is not a licence to sin. Sin cost God His Son. Sin cost God His life. That is not a small thing. An angel could not do it. It mattered deeply to God.

Grace Does Not Encourage Sin

Look at how Paul puts it:

“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid.” — (Romans 6:1–2, KJV)

Certainly not. Grace does not make you comfortable with sin—it makes you despise it. It is like a mechanic covered in dirt. When someone is used to dirt, they are comfortable in it. But if that same person is clothed in clean white garments, everything changes. God has taken away the dirty garment and clothed you in righteousness. So why go back to the dirt?

The consciousness of what you wear affects how you behave. When you know you are clothed in righteousness, you begin to live accordingly.

Grace shifts you from a **consciousness of sin** to a **consciousness of righteousness**.

“How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?”

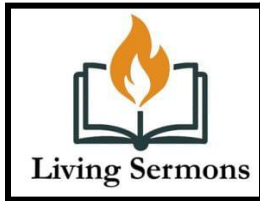
To continue in sin is to be comfortable in it—to dwell there. That is why guilt is dangerous. If not handled properly, it pushes a person deeper into sin: “I’ve already done it, so I might as well continue.”

That is deception. If you make a mistake, you rise again in righteousness.

We have established the key questions:

- Origin
- Meaning
- Morality
- Destiny

Today, we have focused on morality. Morality is rooted in the acceptance of God’s truth within the heart—not performance, but transformation.



A Call to Reflection and Prayer

Take a moment and internalise what you have heard. Ask Him for help.

Declare:

“I am not a sinner. I am the righteousness of God in Christ. I am not what I did. I am what He has done for me.”

Thank Him for light.

Prayer for Teaching Grace

Ask for the teaching anointing.

“Lord, give me the ability to make complex truths simple.

Put Your Word in my mouth.

Grant me wisdom that cannot be resisted.”

How do you preach the gospel to a child?

How do you explain truth to someone who has never been to church?

How do you reach someone who has been hurt by the church?

You need the help of the Spirit. “Help me.”

Prayer for Identity and Freedom

Pray for yourself and for those connected to you:

That they will not struggle with identity. That they will know who they are in Christ and whose they are.

We declare:

- No confusion
- No deception
- No identity crisis

We are fully persuaded:

If God be for us, who can be against us?

We silence every voice of accusation.

We tear down every lie:

- “You are not good enough”
- “You are pretending”
- “You will go back to your past”

We declare:

“I am loved.

I am accepted in the Beloved.

I do not perform for acceptance—I act from acceptance.”

Entering Into Rest

We break free from striving. We reject every false doctrine that portrays God as distant, disappointed, or conditional.

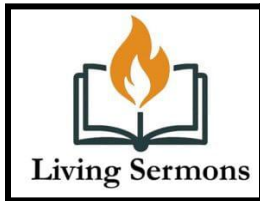
We enter into rest— the rest that Christ has given.

We declare:

“God is my Father. The Owner of the universe is my Father.”

And we give Him thanks for deliverance, for truth, and for freedom.

In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.



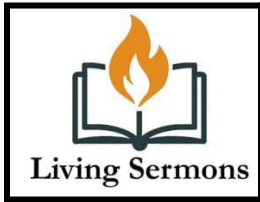
About the Speaker

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is a teacher of God’s Word with a clear, practical, and uncompromising voice. His ministry is marked by biblical accuracy, spiritual depth, and direct application to everyday life.

He is committed to raising believers who are grounded in Scripture, mature in character, and intentional about growth. His teaching addresses real issues—faith, relationships, purpose, leadership, and personal responsibility—without exaggeration or sentimentality.

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is known for clarity, accountability, and balance. He challenges listeners to look inward before looking outward, to embrace process over shortcuts, and to pursue transformation rather than appearance.

His desire is simple: that believers grow into stability, wisdom, and Christlike maturity through the uncompromised teaching of God’s Word.



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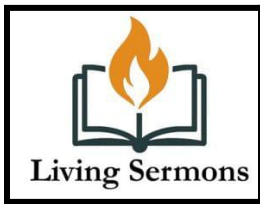
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At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher’s unique voice and anointing.

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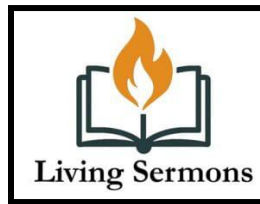
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