THEMES OF DOCTOR FAUSTUS

Good Vs. Evil
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fv-sKP17xTw
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uTpklGUyJw

There is a constant battle in Faustus between following good and evil. We see this fight in the duel persuasions of the Good and Evil angels. One always persuading him to the salvation and mercy of God while the other to temptations of the devil.
Greed/Pride

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PF_i0rX_MAw
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rnROGsIN12M

One of the key elements to the fall of Faustus and in the reality of all men is the sin of greed and pride. Stated by Faustus “A sound magician is a mighty god. Here Faustus, try thy brains to gain a deity.” Faustus wanted to have all power and glory in the world that led him to sell his very soul. Also whenever Faustus thinks of repenting and turning away from the devil the obstacle that pulls him back is pride.
**Damnation**


Question: When was Doctor Faustus’ fate certain?

All throughout they play, even after Faustus signs his soul away in blood, there are hints of the possibility of redemption. Many scholars debate when Faustus’ fate was sealed. One version of the play has Faustus’ friends, when finding Faustus gone, give a religious celebration that hints of possible salvation. Another leading theory is that Faustus’ fate was sealed in the conjuring up of a spirit as Helen of Troy. Demoniality was considered by many back then as an unpardonable sin.

Side Note: Interesting similarities between Faustus’ fall and Lucifer’s fall.

---

**Magic/Religion**
1. Magic was a very touchy subject to touch on during the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Prominent church leaders (Protestant and Catholic) condemned any practice of it and many were executed for suspicion of practicing magic. Marlowe had to walk a tight rope.

2. Marlowe touches also on the changing shape of faith during his time. Lots of searching and questioning.

**Parallels to Faustus**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlgP03hv_V4

Deals with the Devil/Faustian Bargains