

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

A Biblical Perspective on Preaching

Study Guide

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the 54-page September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

A Biblical Perspective on Preaching

Part One

November 13, 2005

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22.

Major Themes

Deterioration of Preaching and Listening

Both the quality of preaching and the ability to listen have declined significantly over the past 150 years.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'preaching has deteriorated greatly over the last 150 years' and 'just as preaching has deteriorated, equally so has the ability to listen to preaching deteriorated.'

Expository Preaching as the Biblical Standard

Expository preaching, which goes through Scripture word by word and allows context to interpret, is the best method because it presents the whole counsel of God.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The best kind of preaching is what is known as expository preaching... you always allow the context to interpret and to explain it.'

The Whole Counsel of God and the Preacher's Responsibility

Preachers are freed from the blood of all men only by declaring the whole counsel of God, which requires expository preaching.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Acts 20:26-27: 'I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.'

True Preaching as Exposition, Explanation, and Application

Biblical preaching consists of reading distinctly, giving the sense, and causing understanding, as modeled in Nehemiah 8:8.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'So what is real preaching and teaching? It is exposition, explanation, and application.'

God's Sovereignty in the Efficacy of Preaching

The outcome of preaching depends on God, not human effort; God's Word accomplishes His purpose, whether salvation or condemnation.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The efficacy of the application of the Word of God is in the hands of God alone' and cites 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

The Sufficiency of Scripture for All Purposes

All Scripture is inspired and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction; God can use any portion to convert sinners.

Lecture support: Weaver references 2 Timothy 3:16 and Jeremiah 23:29, stating, 'All of His Word is like a fire. All of His Word is like a hammer.'

Key Arguments

Expository preaching is necessary to declare the whole counsel of God.

Only expository preaching forces the preacher to deal with all subjects in Scripture, not just favorite topics.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'It is impossible to preach the whole counsel of God if you preach topically. It's impossible to teach the whole counsel of God if you preach textually.'

Preaching is not for entertainment but for instruction and edification.

Christians often judge preaching by feelings rather than by whether the Word of God was expounded and applied.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Most Christians erroneously judge a preaching service by the false standard of their feelings... and not whether or not the Word of God was preached.'

God alone gives the increase in preaching.

The preacher is merely an instrument; God is the one who saves and applies the Word.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 3:6-7: 'I have planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.'

God's Word accomplishes His purpose, whether for life or death.

Preaching is always a triumph in Christ, regardless of visible results, because God's Word never returns void.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 2 Corinthians 2:14-16: 'We are unto God a sweet savor of Christ in them that are saved, and in them that perish.'

Understanding God's sovereignty is essential for faithful preaching.

A grasp of God's absolute control allows preachers to handle hard passages without fear of outcomes.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'An understanding and comprehension of God's sovereignty is absolutely essential and necessary to the faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of God.'

Scripture References

Acts 10:1-6

Introduction of Cornelius, a devout centurion, who is told to send for Peter.

Acts 10:30-33

Cornelius recounts the angel's message and states that they are present to hear all that God commands.

1 Timothy 3

Qualifications of a pastor; all except being apt to teach are required of every Christian.

Acts 20:17-27

Paul's farewell to the Ephesian elders; he is pure from the blood of all men because he declared the whole counsel of God.

Nehemiah 8:7-8

The Levites read the law distinctly, gave the sense, and caused the people to understand, modeling true preaching.

Jeremiah 23:29

God's Word is like a fire and a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces.

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

1 Corinthians 2:2

Paul determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ and Him crucified; Weaver argues this requires preaching the whole counsel of God.

Isaiah 55:8-11

God's Word will not return void but will accomplish His purpose.

1 Corinthians 1:21

It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Jonah 2:9

Salvation is of the Lord.

Acts 2:47

The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

Paul planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase; the preacher is nothing.

Zechariah 4:6

Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord.

2 Corinthians 2:14-16

God always causes us to triumph in Christ; we are the savor of life unto life and death unto death.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways have you observed a deterioration in preaching or listening to preaching in your own experience?

Consider: Weaver claims both preaching and listening have declined over the last 150 years.

2. How does expository preaching differ from topical or textual preaching, and why does Weaver consider it superior?

Consider: Weaver defines the three types and argues for expository preaching as the best method.

3. What does it mean for a preacher to be 'pure from the blood of all men,' and how is this achieved according to Acts 20?

Consider: Weaver explains Paul's statement and its connection to declaring the whole counsel of God.

4. How does Nehemiah 8:8 shape your understanding of what should happen during a sermon?

Consider: Weaver uses this verse to outline the three parts of true preaching: exposition, explanation, application.

5. Why is an understanding of God's sovereignty essential for both preachers and hearers of the Word?

Consider: Weaver argues that sovereignty allows preachers to handle hard passages and trust God for outcomes.

6. How should we evaluate a sermon - by our feelings or by its faithfulness to Scripture? What practical changes might this require?

Consider: Weaver critiques the common standard of judging preaching by how it makes us feel.

Applications

Pursue expository preaching and teaching in the church.

Churches should prioritize expository preaching to ensure the whole counsel of God is proclaimed.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It is impossible to preach the whole counsel of God if you preach topically... But if you preach expositively... you might make a dent in it.'

Develop a biblical standard for evaluating sermons.

Christians should judge preaching by its exposition, explanation, and application of Scripture, not by entertainment value or feelings.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Most Christians erroneously judge a preaching service by the false standard of their feelings... and not whether or not the Word of God was preached.'

Trust in God's sovereignty for the results of preaching.

Both preachers and hearers should rest in God's control over the efficacy of His Word, rather than measuring success by visible results.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes, 'Mine is the responsibility and His is the ability' and cites 2 Corinthians 2:14-16.

Recognize the need for a balanced diet of Scripture.

Believers should desire teaching on the full range of biblical subjects, not just salvation, to grow in obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that many Christians complain, 'I'm starving to death as a Christian. All our preacher does is speak on the subject of salvation.'

Prepare to hear and obey the Word preached.

As Weaver will develop next week, hearers have a responsibility to listen, understand, and apply the Word.

Lecture support: Weaver previews, 'Your responsibility is to hear it and obey it and apply it.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

A Biblical Perspective on Preaching

Part Two

November 20, 2005

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-45.

Major Themes

Divine Preparation for Hearing

Just as God prepared Peter and Cornelius, He must prepare the hearts of hearers today. Without this preparation, preaching is ineffective.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God had to sovereignly prepare both the preacher and the hearer... there must be providential preparation in getting the preacher and the hearer together.'

Hearing as Obedience

True hearing is synonymous with obeying. One has not truly heard the Word until it is applied and obeyed.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you do not obey the Word of God, you've never really heard the Word of God.' He cites 1 Samuel 15:22 to equate hearkening with obeying.

The Measure of Hearing

God measures truth back to the hearer according to the diligence they give to hearing and obeying. Failure to use truth results in losing it.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Mark 4:24-25: 'With what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you... if you don't use the truth, you'll lose the truth.'

Presence Before God in Preaching

Hearers must recognize they are in God's presence during preaching, implying reverence, attention, and accountability.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Acts 10:33: 'We are all here present before God' and discusses its implications of God's special presence and the hearer's wholehearted engagement.

Hearing Christ in Preaching

In true preaching, Christ Himself speaks to His people. Hearers should listen for His voice.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'In the preaching and teaching of the Word of God, Christ is present, calling his sheep, speaking to his sheep.' He references Romans 10:14 and John 10.

Readiness to Hear All of God's Word

Believers should be willing to hear every doctrine and command of Scripture, not just preferred topics. This encourages faithful preaching.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes Cornelius's words, 'to hear all things that are commanded thee of God,' and laments that some subjects are taboo in churches.

Mutual Responsibility in Preaching

Preaching and hearing are corollary duties. The hearer's responsibility is to receive what God commands the preacher to deliver.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When someone is particularly called and commissioned by God to preach, it means those to whom he is sent have the obligation and duty and responsibility to hear.'

Key Arguments

God must prepare the hearer's heart for preaching to be effective.

Without divine preparation, even the best preaching falls on deaf ears. The parable of the soils illustrates that only prepared soil bears fruit.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The problem is not always with the preacher. Sometimes it is with the hearer... if the hearer is unprepared, all the teaching will fall on deaf ears.'

Hearing is not passive; it requires active obedience.

External hearing is insufficient; internal, spiritual hearing is evidenced by obedience. God gives more truth only to those who obey what they have received.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'No one ever really hears the Word of God until he applies the Word of God.' He cites Mark 4:24-25.

The hearer's attitude can limit or encourage the preaching of God's Word.

When hearers are dull or resistant, preachers may be hindered from teaching deeper truths. Conversely, eager hearers embolden preachers.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Hebrews 5:11-12, where the author cannot teach about Melchizedek because the hearers are 'dull of hearing.'

Preaching is a divine command, and hearers are obligated to receive it as such.

God commands preachers to proclaim His Word; therefore, hearers are commanded to hear and obey it. This removes chance from the preaching event.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God commands that His Word be preached and taught... by implication, what does He command you as people? To hear the whole counsel of God.'

Scripture References

Acts 10:1-33

The account of Cornelius and Peter, used as the primary text for the message.

Acts 10:28

Peter explains that God showed him not to call any man common or unclean, interpreting his vision.

Acts 11:1-3

The Jerusalem believers contended with Peter for going to Gentiles, showing the cultural barrier God overcame.

Acts 1:8

Jesus' commission to be witnesses to the uttermost parts of the earth, which Peter was slow to fulfill.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart are from the Lord, emphasizing divine enablement.

Hosea 10:12

The command to break up fallow ground, illustrating human responsibility to seek heart preparation.

Mark 4:24-25

Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be measured to you; more given to those who have.

Luke 8:18

Take heed how you hear, emphasizing the manner of hearing.

1 Samuel 15:22

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams, equating hearing with obedience.

Acts 27:21-24, 37

God gave Paul all who sailed with him, illustrating the hearer's responsibility to bring others under the Word.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

The Thessalonians received Paul's preaching not as the word of men but as the Word of God.

Matthew 18:20

Where two or three are gathered in Christ's name, He is in the midst, implying His special presence in preaching.

Romans 10:13-14

Calling on the Lord requires belief, which comes from hearing Christ through a preacher.

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice, referenced to show Christ speaks in preaching.

Hebrews 5:10-12

The hearers' dullness prevented the author from teaching deeper truths about Melchizedek.

Acts 13:15, 42-44

The Gentiles begged to hear more preaching, showing eagerness for the Word.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean for your heart to be 'prepared' to hear preaching, and what practical steps can you take to seek that preparation?

Consider: Based on the discussion of Proverbs 16:1 and Hosea 10:12 regarding divine ability and human responsibility.

2. How can we distinguish between merely hearing preaching externally and truly hearing it internally and spiritually?

Consider: Weaver emphasized that external hearing is not enough; true hearing results in obedience.

3. In what ways might our lack of obedience to previously received truth hinder our ability to receive more truth from God?

Consider: Referencing Mark 4:24-25 and the principle that God gives more to those who use what they have.

- 4.** What does it practically look like to come to church 'present before God'? How would our worship change if we truly grasped this?

Consider: From the exposition of Acts 10:33 and the idea of being in God's special presence during preaching.

- 5.** Are there any doctrines or passages of Scripture that you find yourself resistant to hearing? How can you cultivate a heart that says, 'Speak, Lord, all things'?

Consider: Weaver challenged the tendency to avoid certain topics and called for readiness to hear the whole counsel of God.

- 6.** How does understanding that Christ Himself speaks through preaching change the way you listen to sermons?

Consider: Based on the teaching from Romans 10 and John 10 that Christ is present and calling His sheep in preaching.

Applications

Seek God's preparation before hearing the Word.

Pray and turn from anything that would hinder receptivity, asking God to prepare your heart to receive the preached Word.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It is my responsibility to seek God to prepare my heart. It's my responsibility to turn from anything and everything that would keep me from hearing the Word of God.'

Obey what you hear.

Apply the truths from sermons immediately, recognizing that hearing without obedience is not true hearing and leads to spiritual loss.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you don't use the truth, you'll lose the truth,' and 'no one ever really hears the Word of God until he applies the Word of God.'

Bring others under the preaching of God's Word.

Take responsibility to invite family and friends to hear biblical preaching, as Cornelius gathered his household.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It is your responsibility to get your family and your friends under the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.'

Receive preaching as God's Word, not man's opinion.

Listen to sermons with the awareness that God is speaking through His Word, and submit to its authority.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and says, 'When we hear God's Word, we must not receive it as the Word of men, but we must receive it as the Word of God.'

Be willing to hear all of Scripture, even difficult truths.

Cultivate an attitude that welcomes every doctrine and command of the Bible, not just comfortable topics.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We want the whole Word of God... we're ready to hear everything.'

Trust God's providence in the message preached.

Believe that God has designed each sermon for your specific need, even if you don't immediately see its relevance.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates with the army breakfast: 'When God puts you on that five mile hike with a full field pack, He's given you what you need in advance.'

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1 | Part One

Lecture JW00954

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00954&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2 | Part Two

Lecture JW00953

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00953&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout pilot prepared September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.