WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

A Cause To Celebrate

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

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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 October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - A Cause To Celebrate

Part One of Two

August 17, 2021

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Sovereign Election

God's choice of individuals to salvation is the central cause for celebration, rooted in His sovereign will and not in human merit.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation' (2 Thessalonians 2:13) and emphasizes that 'we did not choose Him. He chose us.'

Human Depravity

Humans are utterly sinful and incapable of seeking God, making divine election necessary for anyone to be saved.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Romans 3:10-18, describing humanity as 'none righteous, no, not one' and 'there is no fear of God before their eyes.'

Grace and Mercy

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and mercy, not based on human works or will.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy' (Romans 9:16) and 'everything we have comes from His grace and His mercy.'

Humility in Salvation

Understanding election should produce humility, not pride, because believers contribute nothing but sin.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jonathan Edwards: 'You contribute nothing to your salvation but the sin which made it necessary.'

Praise and Thanksgiving as a Debt

Believers are bound by a growing debt of gratitude to praise God continually for their salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word opheilō in 2 Thessalonians 2:13 means 'to owe, to be bound to a duty, and to be a debtor' and that this debt 'accrues over time.'

Theocentric Salvation

Salvation is God-centered; He is the initiator, and without His first move, there would be no salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Salvation is always theocentric... Salvation originated with God. He is the initiator of salvation.'

Key Arguments

God's choice is the basis for thanksgiving

Paul says believers are bound to give thanks because God chose them to salvation, making election a cause for celebration.

Lecture support: 2 Thessalonians 2:13: 'But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you... because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation.'

Humans did not choose God; He chose them

Jesus explicitly states that He chose His disciples, not vice versa, establishing the priority of divine choice.

Lecture support: John 15:16: 'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you.'

Election is not based on foreseen merit

God's choice of Jacob over Esau before they were born shows election is according to His purpose, not works.

Lecture support: Romans 9:11: 'For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand.'

Salvation is entirely by grace through divine intervention

Ephesians 2 shows that while we were dead in sins, God made us alive, highlighting the 'But God' intervention.

Lecture support: Ephesians 2:4-5: 'But God, who is rich in mercy... even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ.'

No one would be saved without election

Because all are sinful and none seek God, if God had not chosen some, all would be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lecture support: Romans 9:29: 'Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.'

Everything believers have is received from God

Paul's questions in 1 Corinthians 4:7 emphasize that any difference in believers is due to God's grace, not personal merit.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 4:7: 'For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive?'

Scripture References

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

The main text of the sermon, emphasizing thanksgiving for God's choice of believers to salvation.

Exodus 23:2-3, 6

Used to show negative biblical causes: not following a multitude to do evil or perverting justice for the poor.

Numbers 27:1-7

The case of Zelophehad's daughters, illustrating bringing a complicated cause before the Lord.

Proverbs 3:5-7

Encouragement to trust in the Lord and not lean on one's own understanding.

1 Peter 5:7

Casting all care upon God because He cares for us.

Psalm 9:4

David acknowledges God maintained his right and cause.

Psalm 35:1, 23

David prays for God to plead his cause and fight against his enemies.

Psalm 43:1

A prayer for God to plead one's cause against an ungodly nation.

John 18:37

Jesus states He came into the world for the cause of bearing witness to the truth.

John 15:16, 19

Jesus tells His disciples they did not choose Him, but He chose them.

1 Peter 2:9-10

Believers are a chosen generation, called out of darkness into light.

Revelation 17:14

Those with Christ are called, chosen, and faithful.

1 John 4:19, 10

We love God because He first loved us; love is not that we loved God but that He loved us.

Amos 3:2

God's unique knowledge of Israel as His chosen nation.

Numbers 3:41

God chose the Levites for service instead of the firstborn.

Mark 3:13-14

Jesus called whom He would to be apostles.

Hebrews 5:4

No one takes the honor of priesthood unless called by God as Aaron was.

Isaiah 42:1

God the Father chose the Messiah.

Psalm 78:67-68

God refused the tabernacle of Joseph and chose the tribe of Judah.

Acts 4:26-28

The actions of Herod, Pilate, and others were determined by God's counsel.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that believers are 'bound' to give thanks, and how does this debt of gratitude grow over time?

Consider: Weaver explains the Greek word opheilō as a debt that accrues, implying increasing obligation to praise God.

2. How does understanding that God chose us before we chose Him affect our view of salvation and personal humility?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that we love and choose God only because He first loved and chose us, which should produce humility.

3. In what ways do the four types of election (national, vocational, messianic, soteriological) demonstrate God's sovereignty?

Consider: Weaver outlines these elections to show that God consistently chooses according to His will in various realms.

4. Why is it important to recognize that we contribute nothing to our salvation but sin?

Consider: Weaver quotes Jonathan Edwards to stress that salvation is entirely of grace, leaving no room for boasting.

5. How should the truth of election influence our prayer life and our approach to bringing causes before God?

Consider: Weaver earlier urged believers to bring their complicated issues to God, and election reinforces God's sovereign care.

6. What is the relationship between God's mercy and His hardening of hearts, as seen in Pharaoh's example?

Consider: Weaver discusses Romans 9:18, noting that God has mercy on whom He wills and hardens whom He wills.

7. How can we practically 'offer praise' to glorify God in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver cites Psalm 50:23 and urges continual praise for God's salvation, love, and revelation.

Applications

Cultivate a habit of thanksgiving

Believers should continually give thanks to God for their salvation, recognizing it as a growing debt of gratitude.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We are bound to give thanks always to God... this debt of gratitude and praise grows over time.'

Bring your problems to God in prayer

Instead of relying on human wisdom, believers should bring their complicated causes before the Lord and His Word.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We seldom ever bring our problems, our controversies, and our complicated issues before the Lord and His Word.'

Embrace humility in light of election

Understanding that salvation is entirely God's work should lead to humility, not arrogance.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God's salvation does not make one arrogant, haughty, and proud. God's salvation brings us in the dust before Him.'

Praise God for His sovereign grace

Believers are to offer praise continually, glorifying God for His mercy and salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver exhorts, 'We ought to be praising the Lord daily for his so great salvation in Jesus Christ.'

Recognize that all spiritual good is a gift from God

Acknowledge that repentance, faith, and any spiritual desire are gifts from God, not self-generated.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Where did you get repentance from? Who gave it to you? ... Everything that you have, God gave you.'

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

Pastor John Weaver - A Cause To Celebrate

Part Two of Two

August 17, 2021

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-40 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Divine Sovereignty in Salvation

Salvation is entirely God's work, from election to calling to preservation, leaving no room for human boasting.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'He chose us, so we chose him. He loved us, so we love him. He called us, and we came to him... He gets all the honor and all the glory of our salvation.'

The Necessity of Holiness

God requires not only a just cause but a holy people; His help is contingent on personal purity and obedience.

Lecture support: From Deuteronomy 23:9-14, Weaver emphasizes, 'God then demands not just a holy cause, but a holy people and a clean people as well.'

Inseparability of Spirit and Truth

Sanctification by the Spirit and belief of the truth cannot be divorced; true belief manifests in doing the truth.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You cannot divorce these two concepts. If someone is sanctified by the Spirit, then he does indeed believe the truth.'

Effectual Calling

God's inward call through the gospel is effectual, drawing sinners to Christ and ensuring they obtain salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'When God calls us unto salvation, it is an effectual call. It actually works.'

Perseverance and Godly Character

True salvation produces a character that stands fast, holds to truth, and is established by God, evidencing genuine faith.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The proof that we have ever savingly believed is we continue to believe... God preserves us is evidenced in our perseverance.'

Key Arguments

Election is unto salvation, not salvation itself

Election is the foundation, but it must be realized through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Election is indeed the foundation of salvation, but it is not salvation of itself. It is unto salvation.'

No evidence of election without Spirit and truth

One cannot claim to be elect without the Spirit's work and belief in the truth; otherwise, they are not Christ's.

Lecture support: Citing Romans 8:9, Weaver argues, 'If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.'

Believing the truth means doing the truth

True belief is not mental assent but active obedience; those who do the truth come to the light.

Lecture support: From John 3:21, Weaver notes, 'He that doeth truth cometh to the light... he is bringing forth the truth, he is fulfilling the truth.'

God's call is effectual and inward

The outward preaching of the gospel is insufficient without God's inward, secret call that draws sinners to Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates, 'What God does is inward and secret and effectual... God himself was speaking to me.'

Salvation results in a changed character

Grace produces a godly character that stands fast; one cannot be saved and remain unchanged.

Lecture support: Weaver asserts, 'You cannot be saved and remain the same... When God saves you, He changes you.'

Scripture References

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

Primary text of the sermon, outlining divine choice, channel, calling, and character.

Deuteronomy 23:9-14

Used to show God's requirement for a holy camp and holy people, not just a holy cause.

Psalm 35:1, 23; 43:1

David's pleas for God to plead his cause, conditional on personal righteousness.

1 Thessalonians 5:9

God has not appointed believers to wrath but to obtain salvation, highlighting divine appointment.

Romans 9:29

Unless God left a seed, all would be like Sodom; emphasizes necessity of election.

Romans 8:9

If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him; evidence of salvation.

1 Thessalonians 4:8

God gives believers His Holy Spirit; those who despise this despise God.

1 John 3:24; 4:13

We know we abide in Him by the Spirit He has given us; the Spirit is a witness.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

Repentance and acknowledging the truth are gifts from God, leading to recovery from the devil's snare.

John 17:17, 19

Sanctification comes through truth; Jesus sanctified Himself so believers may be sanctified.

Hebrews 2:10-11

Jesus, the sanctifier, and the sanctified are all of one; He is not ashamed to call them brethren.

John 3:19-21

Those who do evil hate the light; those who do the truth come to the light, showing their deeds are wrought in God.

Philippians 2:13

God works in believers both to will and to do His good pleasure.

Isaiah 26:12

God ordains peace and has wrought all our works in us.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, by whom believers were called into fellowship with His Son.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

God has called us not to uncleanness but to holiness.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

God saved and called us with a holy calling, not according to works but His purpose and grace.

1 Peter 1:15; 2:9

As He who called is holy, be holy; He called us out of darkness into marvelous light.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 21

The preaching of the cross is foolishness to the perishing but the power of God to the saved.

John 6:44-45

No one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him; all taught by God come to Him.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the requirement for personal holiness in Deuteronomy 23 challenge our approach to seeking God's help in our causes?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that God demands a holy people, not just a holy cause.

2. In what ways might people misunderstand or pervert the doctrine of election, and how does this sermon correct those errors?

Consider: Weaver addresses the misconception that election means one can be saved regardless of belief or obedience.

3. Why is it impossible to separate the work of the Spirit from belief in the truth, and what are the practical implications?

Consider: The sermon argues that sanctification and truth are inseparable; true belief results in doing the truth.

4. What is the difference between the outward call of the gospel and the inward effectual call, and how should this affect our evangelism?

Consider: Weaver illustrates the distinction with a personal story and explains that only God can save.

5. How does the promise of God establishing us in every good word and work provide comfort and motivation for perseverance?

Consider: The sermon concludes with the assurance that God will comfort and establish believers, ensuring they stand fast.

Applications

Examine personal holiness

Believers must ensure their own lives are holy and pure, not just their causes, to expect God's help and blessing.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If we want God's divine help, we need to make sure that we ourselves are holy and clean and pure, and not just simply our cause as well.'

Rest in God's sovereign grace

Recognizing that salvation is entirely God's work from election to glorification should produce humility and gratitude.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'He chose us, so we chose him... He gets all the honor and all the glory of our salvation.'

Pursue sanctification through truth

Believers should actively engage with God's Word, knowing that sanctification comes through truth and is evidenced by doing the truth.

Lecture support: From John 17:17, 'Sanctify them through thy truth. Thy word is truth.'

Stand fast in the faith

In the face of trials, believers are called to persevere, holding to apostolic teaching and not giving in to discouragement.

Lecture support: Weaver exhorts, 'Stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught... We do not give in. We do not give up.'

Celebrate salvation joyfully

Believers should actively rejoice and give thanks for their salvation, recognizing it as a cause for celebration.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'If we cannot celebrate and rejoice in the salvation that he has so graciously provided... our understanding is very deficient.'

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: Pastor John Weaver - A Cause To Celebrate - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01625

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01625&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - A Cause To Celebrate - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01626

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01626&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 upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.