

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Daniel

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: Keeping the Heart	4
Lesson 2: The Reason for Wars	15
Lesson 3: Jefferson Davis Revisited	26
Lesson 4: Trembling at the Word of God	27
Lesson 5: The Excommunication of Christ	36
Lesson 6: Pastor John Weaver - Jefferson Davis Revisited	47
Lesson 7: Keeping Your Heart	57
Lesson 8: Turning Love Into Hate	66
Lesson 9: Pastor John Weaver - Has The Lord Spoken To You?	75
Lesson 10: Keeping the Heart	85
Lesson 11: Pastor John Weaver - Lessons Learned From The Omnipotence Of God	94
Lesson 12: Why You Are Still Alive	104
Lesson 13: Pastor John Weaver - Are You Praising The Wrong God?	112
Lesson 14: Pastor John Weaver - The Rise And Fall Of A Tyrant	122
Lesson 15: It's The Mind, Stupid	130
Lesson 16: One More Time	139
Lesson 17: Pastor John Weaver - The Cure For The Sin Of Pride	148
Lesson 18: The Earthly Comprehensiveness of Christ's Prayer	159
Lesson 19: Pastor John Weaver - The Power Of The Mind	169

Lesson 20: Pastor John Weaver - Pride - The Particular Sin of Rulers	180
Lesson 21: Do You Need to Eat Grass?	190
Online Lecture Resources	198

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 September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

The printed contents lists lessons. PDF bookmarks also provide direct access to each lesson's study sections.

LESSON 1

Keeping the Heart

October 01, 2000

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-25.

Major Themes

The Heart Defined as the Mind

The biblical heart is not the physical organ but the mind, understanding, and reasoning ability. This is proven from multiple scriptures.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'So what is the heart? The heart is the mind. The heart is the understanding.' He cites Genesis 6:5, Genesis 27:41, Proverbs 5:12, Matthew 5:27-28, and Daniel 4.

Personal Responsibility in Guarding the Mind

Every believer is personally responsible to keep their own heart. No one else can do it for them, and they cannot blame others for their sin.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'You keep your heart. Listen, if your heart is your understanding... then you're the one responsible to keep it.' He illustrates with blame-shifting examples.

The Mind as the Battleground

Spiritual warfare is fought in the mind. Believers must cast down imaginations and bring every thought captive to Christ, because whoever controls the mind controls the body.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds 2 Corinthians 10:4-5: 'Casting down imaginations... and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.' He says, 'whoever controls the mind, controls the body.'

The Connection Between Thoughts and Actions

Out of the heart flow all actions. As a man thinks, so he is. Sin begins in the mind before it becomes an outward act.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You do what you do because you think the way you think.' He cites Proverbs 23:7 and explains that there is no such thing as a sudden sin.

The Necessity of Keeping the Heart for Christian Living

Without keeping the heart, believers cannot learn more truth, pray effectively, or perform basic Christian duties. It is also evidence of genuine faith.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Unless we keep our hearts, we will never, ever be able to discharge even the most fundamental duties of Christian life.' He references Psalm 66:18 and 1 John 3.

God's Sovereignty and Human Agency in Heart-Keeping

Only God can prepare the heart, but man is responsible to seek Him and obey. Keeping the heart involves both divine enablement and human effort.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts Proverbs 16:1 and Hosea 10:12, saying, 'God only has the ability to prepare our hearts, but we have the responsibility to seek Him to prepare our hearts.'

Key Arguments

The heart is the mind, not the physical organ.

Weaver argues from multiple scriptures that the biblical heart refers to the mind, understanding, and reasoning ability, not the physical heart.

Lecture support: He says, 'So what is the heart? The heart is the mind. The heart is the understanding.' He uses Genesis 6:5, Genesis 27:41, Proverbs 5:12, Matthew 5:27-28, and Daniel 4.

Keeping the heart is a personal, non-transferable duty.

God commands each individual to keep their own heart. No pastor, deacon, or committee can do it for them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There's no pastor that can keep your mind. There's no deacon that can keep your mind... God has given you your understanding. He's given you your mind and you are responsible to keep it.'

Sin originates in the mind before it becomes action.

There is no such thing as a sudden sin; people think about sin before they commit it. The sin is not in the fleeting thought but in dwelling on it.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There's no such thing as a sudden sin... You think about everything before you do it.' He explains that the sin comes when you 'back the thought up and say, Yeah, I'd like that.'

Controlling the mind is essential because it controls the body.

Whoever controls the mind controls the body. This is why spiritual warfare targets the mind, and why believers must bring every thought captive to Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Whoever controls the mind, controls the body.' He cites 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 and gives the example of TV advertising and propaganda.

Believers must actively refuse evil thoughts and replace them with godly ones.

When wicked thoughts enter the mind, believers must refuse them in Jesus' name and deliberately focus on Christ and Scripture. This may need to be done repeatedly.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Lord, I refuse that in the name of Jesus Christ. I will not have that in my mind.' He references Philippians 4:8 and Isaiah 26:3.

Keeping the heart is necessary for effective prayer and Christian service.

If the heart is not kept, believers cannot pray, study, attend church, or witness effectively because of condemnation and unconfessed sin.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you don't keep your heart, you cannot even perform the most fundamental basic requirements of the Christian life.' He cites Psalm 66:18 and Matthew 5:23-24.

Only God can open the heart of the lost, so prayer is essential for evangelism.

Since the heart is the mind, only God can open it to understand the gospel. Believers must pray for God to open the hearts of the unsaved.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If the heart is the mind, if it's the understanding, only God can open it.' He references Lydia in Acts 16 and 1 Corinthians 2:14.

Scripture References

Proverbs 4:23

The central text of the sermon: 'Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.'

Proverbs 4:24-27

The following verses show the results of keeping the heart: putting away a froward mouth, looking straight ahead, and removing foot from evil.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God searches the earth for those whose heart is perfect toward Him, showing how few truly keep their hearts.

Genesis 6:5

The first mention of 'heart' in the Bible, showing that the heart thinks and imagines.

Genesis 27:41

Esau said in his heart that he would slay Jacob, showing the heart can speak.

Proverbs 5:12

The heart can despise instruction, showing it is capable of receiving or rejecting teaching.

Matthew 5:27-28

Jesus teaches that lustful looking is adultery in the heart, showing the connection between eyes and heart.

Daniel 4:16, 34, 36

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's heart, and when his understanding returned, it shows the heart is the mind.

Acts 24:16

Paul exercised himself to have a conscience void of offense; conscience means 'with knowledge,' equating it with the mind.

1 Corinthians 2:9

Things not entering the heart of man means they cannot be comprehended by the mind.

Romans 12:1-2

Believers are transformed by the renewing of their mind, not by conforming to the world.

Philippians 2:5

Believers are to have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5

Spiritual weapons pull down strongholds by casting down imaginations and bringing every thought captive to Christ.

Matthew 15:16-20

Jesus teaches that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc., proceed from the heart and defile a man.

Jude 20-21

Believers are to keep themselves in the love of God.

1 John 5:2-3

The love of God is keeping His commandments; keeping oneself in God's love means obeying His Word.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man are from the Lord, showing God's sovereignty.

Hosea 10:12

God commands to break up fallow ground and seek the Lord, showing human responsibility.

Proverbs 23:12, 19, 26

Believers are to govern and guide their hearts by giving them to God and observing His ways.

Hebrews 3:12

Warning against an evil heart of unbelief that leads to departing from the living God.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does defining the heart as the mind change the way you understand Proverbs 4:23?

Consider: Weaver spends significant time proving from Scripture that the heart is the mind.

2. What are some practical ways you can 'set double guards' around your mind daily?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the Hebrew intensity of 'keep with all keeping' and the need for vigilance.

3. Why is it so difficult to take personal responsibility for our thoughts and reactions instead of blaming others?

Consider: Weaver discusses blame-shifting from Adam and Eve to modern examples.

4. How can we distinguish between a fleeting temptation and the sin of dwelling on a thought?

Consider: Weaver explains that sin is not in the thought passing through but in backing it up and entertaining it.

5. In what ways does our media consumption (TV, internet, etc.) affect our ability to keep our hearts?

Consider: Weaver warns against pornography, soap operas, and worldly entertainment.

6. How does keeping the heart relate to our prayer life and effectiveness in evangelism?

Consider: Weaver connects heart-keeping to prayer (Psalm 66:18) and to praying for God to open hearts.

7. What does it mean to 'keep yourselves in the love of God' as described in Jude 21 and 1 John 5:2-3?

Consider: Weaver explains that keeping oneself in God's love means obeying His commandments.

8. How can we help fellow believers who are struggling to keep their hearts without taking on their responsibility?

Consider: Weaver stresses personal responsibility but also the need for prayer and mutual encouragement.

Applications

Renew Your Mind Daily with Scripture

Believers must actively submit their minds to the Word of God, renewing their thoughts daily to avoid being conformed to the world.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind' (Romans 12:2). He emphasizes that the Bible is the blueprint for life.

Refuse and Replace Wicked Thoughts

When evil thoughts enter, immediately refuse them in Jesus' name and deliberately focus on Christ or Scripture. Repeat as often as necessary.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Lord, I refuse that in the name of Jesus Christ. I will not have that in my mind.' He references Philippians 4:8.

Guard What You Watch and Hear

Avoid media that fills the mind with lust, adultery, and ungodly values, such as pornography and soap operas.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'That's why you should never watch anything pornographic. That's why you should never watch the soap operas.'

Take Responsibility for Your Reactions

Do not blame others for your anger, bitterness, or sin. You are responsible to control your spirit regardless of how others treat you.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I cannot make you mad unless you allow me to make you mad... If you can control your spirit, there's nothing I can do to you.'

Keep Short Accounts with God and Others

Confess sin promptly and seek reconciliation, because unconfessed sin hinders prayer and Christian service.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 66:18 and Matthew 5:23-24, saying, 'If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me.'

Pray for God to Open Hearts

Since only God can open the mind to understand the gospel, pray specifically for the conversion of lost loved ones.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you've got family and friends that you want converted, you better learn to pray, Lord, open their hearts.'

Obey God's Commandments as an Act of Love

Keeping yourself in the love of God means keeping His commandments. Obedience is the practical outworking of love.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 1 John 5:2-3: 'For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.'

Study notes

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

The Reason for Wars

January 28, 2007

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 27-45.

Major Themes

Rebellion against God as the root cause of war

War fundamentally stems from man's rebellion against God and His law, not merely political or economic factors.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Here is the basic reason why there are wars, and it is this: it is rebellion toward God and toward His law.'

God's sovereignty in raising up adversaries

God actively raises up enemies against those whose ways displease Him, as a form of judgment.

Lecture support: In 1 Kings 11, God stirred up adversaries against Solomon; in Isaiah 9, He set up adversaries against Israel.

Idolatry as political and religious rebellion

Baalism and Molech worship represent humanism and the divine right of kings, where rulers set themselves up as gods, leading to societal destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Baalism or Baal worship is nothing more than humanism. It is a political religion... All of it is a violation of the sixth commandment.'

Corporate responsibility of citizens for wicked rulers

People are judged alongside their rulers when they follow wicked statutes and fail to oppose ungodly leadership.

Lecture support: In 2 Chronicles 28:19, God brought Judah low because of Ahaz; in Jeremiah 15:4, people were removed because of Manasseh's sins.

Futility of human alliances without God

When God's hand is against a nation, treaties and powerful allies cannot help; only repentance can.

Lecture support: Ahaz sought help from Assyria, but Tiglath-Pileser distressed him and did not strengthen him (2 Chronicles 28:20-21).

The necessity of Christ's return for ultimate peace

Lasting world peace will only be achieved when the Prince of Peace returns and establishes His kingdom, as described in Isaiah 2.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Isaiah 2:1-4, concluding: 'We will not have world peace... until the Prince of Peace returns and fully establishes his kingdom.'

Key Arguments

War is not merely political but religious

War advances both politics and religion because one's theological stance determines political actions.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'War is not simply the advancement of politics by other means. It is also the advancement of religion by other means as well.'

God judges nations through war for wickedness

God delivers nations into war as a direct consequence of the wickedness of rulers and people, as seen in Ahaz's defeat.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 28:5-6 shows God delivering Ahaz into the hands of enemies and the slaughter of 120,000 because they forsook the Lord.

Wicked rulers and people are mutually reinforcing

Wicked rulers beget wicked citizens, and wicked people desire wicked rulers, leading to collective judgment.

Lecture support: Hosea 8:4 says the people set up kings but not by God; Isaiah 9:16 says leaders cause people to err and they are destroyed.

Obeying man's law over God's law is idolatry

Following the statutes of heathen rulers instead of God's commandments is equated with fearing other gods and brings captivity.

Lecture support: 2 Kings 17:7-8 states Israel feared other gods by walking in the statutes of the heathen; Micah 6:16 condemns keeping the statutes of Omri.

Small enemies can defeat a nation under God's judgment

When God's hand is against a people, even insignificant nations like Edom and Philistia can conquer them.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 28:17-18 describes Edomites and Philistines invading and taking cities of Judah.

Repentance is the only remedy for national judgment

Alliances and human efforts are useless; only turning back to God can avert war and destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'There is no help for a people who have forsaken God except repentance.'

Scripture References

2 Chronicles 28:1-4

Introduction of King Ahaz's wicked reign, including idolatry and child sacrifice.

2 Chronicles 28:5-6

God delivers Ahaz into the hands of Syria and Israel; 120,000 slain because they forsook the Lord.

2 Chronicles 28:16-21

Ahaz seeks help from Assyria but is distressed instead; his payments to Tiglath-Pileser are futile.

2 Chronicles 28:22-25

In distress, Ahaz trespasses more, sacrifices to Syrian gods, and shuts up the temple.

Genesis 11:4

The philosophy of fallen man: building a city and tower to make a name for themselves, rejecting God's command to scatter.

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

1 Kings 11:9-14, 23-25

God stirs up adversaries against Solomon because his heart turned from the Lord.

Isaiah 9:8-12

God sets up adversaries against Israel for their pride and refusal to repent.

2 Chronicles 27:2, 6

Jotham did right in the sight of the Lord and became mighty because he prepared his ways before God.

Amos 7:12-13

Amaziah tells Amos not to prophesy at Bethel because it is the king's chapel and court.

Psalms 145:13

God's kingdom is everlasting and His dominion endures throughout all generations.

Daniel 4:34-35

Nebuchadnezzar confesses God's everlasting dominion and that none can stay His hand.

Psalms 2:1-3, 10-12

Kings and rulers rebel against God; they are admonished to serve the Lord and kiss the Son lest they perish.

Hosea 4:17

Ephraim is joined to idols; God lets him alone.

Hosea 8:4

The people set up kings but not by God; they made idols for their own destruction.

Hosea 5:10-11

Princes of Judah remove boundaries; God pours out wrath; Ephraim is oppressed for willingly following wicked commandments.

Isaiah 9:16

Leaders cause people to err, and those led are destroyed.

2 Kings 17:7-8, 18-19

Israel sinned by fearing other gods and walking in heathen statutes; Judah also kept not God's commandments.

Micah 6:16

The statutes of Omri are kept; therefore God will make them a desolation.

Isaiah 2:1-4

In the last days, the Lord's house will be established; nations will learn His ways and war will cease.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the sermon's claim that war is 'the advancement of religion by other means' challenge common secular explanations for conflict?

Consider: Weaver argues that one's theology determines politics, so war advances both.

2. In what ways might modern societies parallel Ahaz's idolatry, such as sacrificing children to Molech?

Consider: Weaver compares abortion and public education to child sacrifice to false gods.

3. What responsibility do citizens have when their rulers act wickedly, according to the examples of Judah?

Consider: God judged the people along with Ahaz and Manasseh because they did not stop them.

- 4.** How should Christians balance submission to government with the command to 'obey God rather than men'?

Consider: Weaver cites Acts 5:29 and condemns following man's statutes over God's law.

- 5.** What does the futility of Ahaz's alliance with Assyria teach about trusting in political or military solutions apart from God?

Consider: Even the most powerful king could not help when God's hand was against Ahaz.

- 6.** How does the sovereignty of God in raising up adversaries (as with Solomon) affect our understanding of current global conflicts?

Consider: God actively stirs up enemies as judgment for disobedience.

7. What practical steps can individuals take to 'be as godly and as obedient and as holy as he can be' to potentially avert national judgment?

Consider: Weaver suggests that righteous living can help, referencing the ten righteous in Sodom.

8. How does the promise of Isaiah 2 shape a Christian's hope and engagement with worldly peace efforts?

Consider: True peace comes only when Christ returns and nations learn His ways.

Applications

Recognize the root cause of war as rebellion against God

Understand that wars are ultimately spiritual in nature, stemming from disobedience to God's law, and not merely political or economic.

Lecture support: Weaver states the basic reason for wars is rebellion toward God and His law.

Prioritize obedience to God over human authority

When civil laws conflict with God's commands, believers must obey God rather than men, as the apostles did.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Acts 5:29 and condemns walking in the statutes of Omri.

Oppose wicked rulers and their policies

Citizens have a responsibility to resist ungodly leadership; failure to do so brings shared judgment.

Lecture support: God judged Judah for not stopping Ahaz and Manasseh.

Do not trust in political alliances or military might for security

When God's hand is against a nation, no human coalition can help; only repentance can.

Lecture support: Ahaz's alliance with Assyria failed; Tiglath-Pileser distressed him instead of helping.

Pursue personal holiness to influence national well-being

Individual godliness can contribute to averting judgment, as seen in the principle of the ten righteous in Sodom.

Lecture support: Weaver urges: 'determine to be as godly and as obedient and as holy as he can be... live righteously.'

Reject modern forms of idolatry, such as humanism and statism

Identify and turn away from systems that exalt man or the state above God, including false religions and ideologies.

Lecture support: Weaver equates Baalism with humanism, Illuminism, and New World Orderism.

Hope in Christ's return for ultimate peace

Place ultimate hope for world peace not in human efforts but in the return of the Prince of Peace to establish His kingdom.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Isaiah 2:1-4 as the promise of future peace under Christ's reign.

Pray for God's mercy and grace for children and nation

Recognize that only God can grant saving grace; besiege Him for mercy on the next generation.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes that we cannot give our children grace; only God can save them.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 3

Jefferson Davis Revisited

June 29, 2008

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 47-47.

Study material not available

This lecture does not yet have a structured Study Guide section in the local Weaver source data. Its original lecture link and QR code are included in Online Lecture Resources at the end of this guide.

LESSON 4

Trembling at the Word of God

August 24, 2008

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 49-66.

Major Themes

God's Transcendence and Sovereignty

God is above creation, sovereign over all, and needs nothing from man, including temples.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that heaven is God's throne and earth His footstool, showing His supremacy and ownership.

The Insufficiency of External Religion

God disregards magnificent buildings and external worship when hearts are not humble and obedient.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts God's contempt for the temple with His regard for the contrite, citing Matthew 24:1-2 and Hosea 8:14.

Humility and Contrition

God looks to the poor in spirit and contrite heart - those who recognize their sin and need for God.

Lecture support: Weaver defines 'poor' and 'contrite' using Hebrew meanings and cross-references Psalm 34:18, 51:17, and Isaiah 57:15.

Reverential Obedience as True Trembling

Trembling at God's Word means reverent submission and obedience, not mere emotional fear.

Lecture support: Weaver distinguishes demonic trembling (James 2:19) and Felix's fear (Acts 24:25) from the obedience seen in Ezra 10:3.

The Fear of God

A lack of fear of God leads to disobedience and societal decay; true fear produces trembling at His Word.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Romans 3:18 and Jeremiah 5:22 to show that fearing God means obeying Him.

The Authority of God's Word

God magnifies His Word above His name; His threats and promises are certain, demanding our trembling obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver references Psalm 138:2 to emphasize that God's Word is backed by His unchanging character.

Key Arguments

God does not need or value temples made by human hands.

Since God is transcendent and owns all, He has no need of a house; He holds elaborate buildings in contempt when they replace true worship.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Isaiah 66:1-2 and Matthew 24:1-2 that God destroyed the temple to show His disregard for buildings.

God looks to the humble and contrite, not to external grandeur.

The 'poor' and 'contrite' are those who recognize their spiritual poverty and sinfulness, and God dwells with them.

Lecture support: Weaver defines the Hebrew terms and cites Psalm 34:18, 51:17, and Isaiah 57:15 to show God's dwelling with the humble.

Trembling at God's Word is reverential obedience, not mere fear.

True trembling is shown by obeying God's commands, as in Ezra 10:3, not by the fear of demons or Felix.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts James 2:19 and Acts 24:25 with Ezra 10:3 and Jeremiah 5:22 to define trembling as obedience.

Disobedience proves a lack of fear of God.

Those who do not tremble at God's Word despise Him; the root problem in society and churches is no fear of God.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Romans 3:18 and Jeremiah 6:10 to show that rejecting God's Word is evidence of no fear.

God's Word is supremely authoritative and certain.

Because God magnifies His Word above His name, His promises and threats are sure; we must tremble and obey.

Lecture support: Weaver references Psalm 138:2 to argue that God's Word cannot fail without God ceasing to be God.

Scripture References

Isaiah 66:1-5

The primary text, read at the opening, contrasting God's throne and footstool with the temple and calling for trembling at His Word.

Psalms 115:3

Cited to support God's sovereignty: He does whatever He pleases.

Daniel 4:35

Used to show God's absolute sovereignty over all inhabitants of the earth.

1 Kings 8:27

Solomon's dedication prayer acknowledging that heaven cannot contain God, supporting His transcendence.

Psalms 139:1-12

Quoted to illustrate God's omniscience and omnipresence.

Psalms 24:1

Cited to show God's ownership of the earth and everything in it.

Psalms 50:12

God declares He would not tell us if He were hungry because the world is His.

Psalms 89:11

Affirms that the heavens and earth belong to God.

Hosea 8:14

Israel forgot its Maker and built temples; used to warn against trusting in buildings.

Matthew 24:1-2

Jesus foretells the temple's destruction, showing God's disregard for the building.

James 4:6

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, defining 'poor' in spirit.

1 Peter 5:5

Reinforces that God gives grace to the humble.

Psalms 34:18

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the contrite spirit.

Psalms 51:17

A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Isaiah 57:15

God dwells with the contrite and humble, not in temples.

1 Samuel 13:7

Example of the Hebrew word for 'tremble' used for fear in battle.

1 Samuel 14:15

Another use of 'tremble' for fear and earthquake.

James 2:19

Demons believe and tremble, but their trembling is not acceptable to God.

Acts 24:24-25

Felix trembled at Paul's preaching but sent him away, showing wrong kind of trembling.

Ezra 10:1-3

Those who tremble at God's commandment obey it, demonstrating true trembling.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'poor and of a contrite spirit'? How can we cultivate such a heart?

Consider: Weaver defines these terms as humility and brokenness over sin, citing Psalm 34:18 and 51:17.

2. How can we distinguish between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow for sin?

Consider: Weaver contrasts embarrassment over being caught with genuine grief for sinning against God.

3. In what ways might modern churches be guilty of 'forgetting their Maker and building temples'?

Consider: Weaver critiques elaborate church buildings used for entertainment rather than worship.

4. What is the difference between the trembling of demons (James 2:19) and the trembling God desires?

Consider: Weaver explains demonic trembling is rebellious fear, while godly trembling is reverent obedience.

5. How does obedience to God's Word demonstrate that we tremble at it?

Consider: Weaver uses Ezra 10:3 to show that those who tremble at God's commandment obey it.

6. Why is the fear of God lacking in our culture, and what are the consequences?

Consider: Weaver cites Romans 3:18 and applies it to nation, government, churches, and families.

7. What does it mean that God has magnified His Word above His name (Psalm 138:2)?

Consider: Weaver explains that God's Word is backed by His unchanging character; if it fails, He ceases to be God.

8. How can we practically 'work out our salvation with fear and trembling' (Philippians 2:12)?

Consider: Weaver connects this verse to obedience and reverential fear, not terror.

Applications

Examine your heart for humility and contrition.

Ask whether you are poor in spirit and truly sorry for sin, not just embarrassed by consequences.

Lecture support: Weaver defines 'poor' and 'contrite' and urges self-examination in light of God's regard for such.

Evaluate your view of church buildings and programs.

Do not place confidence in elaborate buildings or entertainment-focused services; God looks at the heart.

Lecture support: Weaver critiques modern church emphasis on buildings and programs over worship.

Tremble at God's Word by obeying it.

True trembling is shown by conforming your life to Scripture, not by emotional fear.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Ezra 10:3 and other passages to equate trembling with obedience.

Cultivate the fear of God.

Recognize that a lack of fear of God leads to disobedience; pray for reverential awe.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Romans 3:18 and Jeremiah 5:22 to show the necessity of fearing God.

Trust in the certainty of God's Word.

Because God magnifies His Word above His name, His promises and threats are sure; live accordingly.

Lecture support: Weaver references Psalm 138:2 to emphasize the reliability of Scripture.

Study notes

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 5

The Excommunication of Christ

August 14, 2011

Read Chapter 5 in the companion book, pages 67-84.

Major Themes

Excommunication of Christ

Christ has been rejected, cast out, and excommunicated by the religious and political establishments, both in His earthly ministry and today.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Christ has been essentially excommunicated from His own church by those who profess religion but do not possess Christ.'

Rejection of Sound Doctrine

Rejecting Christ's doctrine is equivalent to rejecting Christ Himself; people prefer teachers who tell them what they want to hear.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'When one rejects the sound doctrine of Christ, he will always turn to others that will give him that which he wants to hear... he has effectively cut him off and cast him out.'

Christ Outside the Camp

Christ is not found in established religion, empty rituals, or worldly systems; He is outside the gate, and believers must go to Him there.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'He is not anywhere around established religion... He is outside the gate and without the camp.'

Empty Religion vs. Obedience

God despises heartless ceremonies and rituals; He desires obedience, justice, mercy, and humility over sacrifices.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Amos 5:21 and 1 Samuel 15:22 to show God's preference for obedience over sacrifice.

Separation from the World

Believers must morally and spiritually separate from the ungodly world, not physically, but by renouncing its values and following Christ daily.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Pink: 'To go forth unto Christ without the camp means... to make a complete break with his former manner of life, to renounce everything which is opposed to Christ.'

Bearing Christ's Reproach

Christians are called to willingly bear the shame and reproach that comes from identifying with the rejected Christ, counting it an honor.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If we identify ourselves with the reproached and excommunicated Christ, we shall be reproached and excommunicated ourselves.'

Fellowship with Christ Over Worldly Acceptance

It is better to have fellowship with the excommunicated Christ than to be accepted by the world and rejected by Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'I'd rather have fellowship with the excommunicated Christ than to be excommunicated by Christ.'

Christ as the Gospel

The gospel is not merely facts about Christ; Christ Himself is the gospel, and salvation is found only in a personal relationship with Him.

Lecture support: Weaver declares, 'The gospel is not about Christ. The gospel is not facts about Christ. Christ is the gospel.'

Key Arguments

Christ was excommunicated by religious and political leaders

The religious and political establishments of His day rejected and crucified Christ, casting Him outside the gate, and modern establishments continue to exclude Him.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Why did Christ suffer without the gate of Jerusalem? And the answer is because the religious leaders, along with the political leaders, despised, hated, refused, and crucified Him.'

Rejecting Christ's doctrine is rejecting Christ

When people refuse sound doctrine, they effectively excommunicate Christ from their lives, turning to teachers who satisfy their own desires.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When you walk away from the doctrine and teaching of Christ, you walk away from Christ. When you exclude His Word, you exclude Christ.'

Christ is not in established religion or worldly systems

Christ is absent from Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and even professing Christian churches that prioritize entertainment and compromise over truth.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'all of those professing Christian churches that are more interested in entertainment, programs, buildings, ecumenism, compromise... are without Christ.'

God despises empty rituals without obedience

God hates and despises religious ceremonies when they are not accompanied by justice, righteousness, and obedience to His word.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Amos 5:21-24 and explains, 'they had turned away from God's judgment, God's word, God's justice, and the ceremonies and the rituals were absolutely empty and meaningless and heartless.'

Believers must go forth to Christ outside the camp

Hebrews 13:13 calls Christians to leave behind empty religious systems and go to Christ, who is outside the camp, bearing His reproach.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'the apostle is saying, look, Christ has fulfilled every type and every shadow. He is not in the tabernacle... He is here and He is outside the camp.'

Salvation is in a person, not a system

Salvation and holiness come only through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, not through church membership or religious rituals.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'There is no church that can save you. There is no act that can save you. There is no religious establishment that can save you. He that would be saved must come to Christ.'

Separation from the world is moral, not physical

Going outside the camp means a spiritual and moral separation from worldly values and practices, not physical withdrawal from society.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Pink: 'It is not a local withdrawal from the world, but a religious and spiritual one... the Christian is still left in the world, but he must not be of the world.'

Bearing reproach is part of following Christ

Christians should expect and willingly endure reproach for Christ's sake, as He bore reproach for us, and count it a privilege.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We need to bear the reproach of our Lord willingly, cheerfully, courageously, and patiently. Did He not suffer in our stead? Did He not bear our shame and reproach?'

Scripture References

Hebrews 13:11-13

The main text of the sermon, describing Christ suffering outside the gate and the call to go forth to Him bearing His reproach.

2 Thessalonians 3:6

Command to withdraw from disorderly brethren, used to introduce the concept of excommunication.

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

Paul's instruction to deliver a sinning brother to Satan, illustrating church discipline and excommunication.

2 Corinthians 2:5-8

Paul's instruction to forgive and comfort the repentant sinner, showing the purpose of discipline.

John 6:32-35, 51-56, 60, 66-69

Jesus' teaching on the bread of life, causing many disciples to forsake Him, illustrating rejection of Christ's doctrine.

2 Timothy 4:2-3

Prophecy that people will not endure sound doctrine but will heap up teachers with itching ears.

Psalms 110:1

Prophecy of Christ seated at God's right hand, quoted to show His theological position.

Acts 2:25, 33-34

Peter's sermon applying Psalm 110:1 to Christ's exaltation at God's right hand.

Hosea 8:12-13

Israel counted God's law as a strange thing and built temples while forgetting God, paralleling modern empty religion.

Amos 5:21-24

God's hatred of empty feast days and sacrifices, desiring justice and righteousness instead.

1 Samuel 15:22

Obedience is better than sacrifice, emphasizing God's priority over rituals.

Micah 6:8

God requires justice, mercy, and humble walking, not empty ceremonies.

Luke 18:10-14

Parable of the Pharisee and publican, illustrating humble walking with God.

Jeremiah 22:13-16

Woe to those who build houses by unrighteousness; knowing God is doing justice and righteousness.

Exodus 33:7

Moses pitched the tabernacle outside the camp, a type of Christ being outside the gate.

Exodus 33:2-3

God refused to go with Israel because of their stiffneckedness, leading to the tabernacle being outside.

Daniel 4:30

Nebuchadnezzar's boast about his kingdom, illustrating self-serving leaders.

Hosea 5:6

They shall seek the Lord but not find Him because He has withdrawn Himself.

Song of Solomon 5:6

The beloved had withdrawn and was gone, illustrating Christ's withdrawal from the complacent.

Micah 3:4

God will hide His face from those who behave ill, not hearing their cries.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do modern churches and religious institutions 'excommunicate' Christ by their practices or teachings?

Consider: Weaver argues that Christ is absent from churches focused on entertainment, compromise, and empty rituals.

-
-
-
-
2. How can we discern whether we are truly following Christ or merely participating in empty religious rituals?

Consider: Weaver contrasts heartless ceremonies with genuine obedience, justice, and humility.

-
-
-
-
3. What does it mean practically to 'go forth to Christ outside the camp' in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver explains this as a moral and spiritual separation from worldly values, not physical isolation.

4. Why is it so difficult for people to endure sound doctrine, and how should we respond when we are tempted to seek teachers who scratch our itching ears?

Consider: Weaver discusses 2 Timothy 4:2-3 and the human tendency to reject truth for comfort.

5. How should we view the reproach and rejection that may come from identifying with Christ?

Consider: Weaver calls believers to bear Christ's reproach willingly, as Moses and Paul did.

6. What is the difference between coming to a church or religious system and coming to Christ Himself?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that salvation is found only in a personal relationship with Christ, not in institutions.

7. How can we maintain a pilgrim mindset in a world that constantly pressures us to conform?

Consider: Weaver quotes Pink on being strangers and pilgrims, using the world but not abusing it.

8. In what ways might we be tempted to seek the approval of the world rather than fellowship with the rejected Christ?

Consider: Weaver warns that woe comes when all men speak well of us, as they did false prophets.

Applications

Seek Christ outside the camp

Believers must leave behind empty religious systems and worldly values to find Christ where He is - outside the gate, bearing His reproach.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach.'

Prioritize obedience over ritual

God desires obedience, justice, mercy, and humility more than religious ceremonies; we must examine our hearts and practices.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Micah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 15:22 to show God's requirements.

Come to Christ personally

Salvation and holiness are found only in a living relationship with Jesus Christ, not in church membership or religious acts.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'He that would be saved must come to Christ. He that would be holy must come to Christ.'

Bear reproach willingly

Christians should expect and cheerfully endure reproach for Christ's sake, counting it an honor to suffer with Him.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We need to bear the reproach of our Lord willingly, cheerfully, courageously, and patiently.'

Separate morally from the world

While living in the world, believers must not adopt its values or seek its friendship, maintaining a pilgrim mindset.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Pink: 'the Christian is still left in the world, but he must not be of the world.'

Value Christ's reproach above worldly riches

Like Moses, we should esteem the reproach of Christ as greater treasure than the pleasures and wealth of this world.

Lecture support: Weaver references Hebrews 11:24-26 and Moses' choice.

Discern the hypocrisy of leaders

We must not be deceived by politicians or religious leaders who profess Christ but live contrary to His word; we judge by fruits.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It is by their fruits ye shall know them, not by their words.'

Choose fellowship with Christ over worldly acceptance

It is better to be with Christ outside the camp than to be inside the gate without Him, even if it means rejection by the world.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'I had rather be with Christ without the gate than to be inside the gate without Christ.'

Study notes

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 6

Pastor John Weaver - Jefferson Davis Revisited

January 27, 2012

Read Chapter 6 in the companion book, pages 85-98.

Major Themes

The Wisdom of the Aged and the Old Paths

Weaver emphasizes learning from past generations and returning to biblical and constitutional principles, citing Leviticus 19:32 and Jeremiah 6:16.

Lecture support: Leviticus 19:32: 'Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man...' and Jeremiah 6:16: 'ask for the old paths, wherein is the good way, and walk therein.'

Jefferson Davis as a Christian Statesman

Davis is portrayed as a man of wisdom, common sense, and deep Christian faith, validated by contemporary testimony.

Lecture support: J. William Jones's testimony: 'I had...the most abundant evidence that he took Christ as his personal Savior...'

Parallels Between 1861 and Modern America

The same issues of high taxes, loss of rights, bureaucracy, and federal usurpation faced by the South are present today.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'the exact same problems that we are facing today were exactly the same set of problems that our forefathers faced in 1861 through 1865.'

The Just Cause of the South

The Southern cause was about independence and self-government, not slavery, and was rooted in the right to alter or abolish oppressive government.

Lecture support: Davis: 'The war was not over slavery, it was over independence.' and 'I love the Union and the Constitution. But I had rather leave the Union with the Constitution than to stay in the Union without the Constitution.'

Resistance to Tyranny is Biblical and Constitutional

Breaking laws of a tyrant is justified, as the American colonists did; secession was a lawful withdrawal from an oppressive compact.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the colonists broke 'the law of a tyrant' and Davis argued secession was not insurrection but a right.

The Necessity of a Virtuous and Holy People

A just movement must be sustained by a virtuous people; the lack of holiness and righteousness hinders the cause of liberty.

Lecture support: Davis: 'Obstacles may retard, but they cannot long prevent the progress of a movement sanctified by its justice and sustained by a virtuous people.'

The Constitution and Declaration as Ignored Documents

Modern government has trashed the Constitution, making it a 'flaunting lie' and the Declaration a 'glittering generality,' leading to empire.

Lecture support: Davis: 'one sees only an empire and the once famous Declaration of Independence trodden in the dust...and the compact of the Constitution...denounced as a flaunting lie.'

Principles Do Not Die

The principles of liberty, self-government, and resistance to tyranny are eternal and must be fought for in every generation.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'Principles do not die. Principles do not have funerals.' and Davis: 'The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it be at another time in another form.'

Key Arguments

The South fought for independence, not slavery

Weaver argues that the war was about self-government and that the North would not let the South govern itself.

Lecture support: Davis: 'The North was mad and blind and would not let us govern ourselves, so the war came.'

Secession was a constitutional right

The states had the right to withdraw from a union that became oppressive, just as the colonies did from Britain.

Lecture support: Davis: 'When certain sovereign and independent states form a union...and any one or more of them...suffer unjust and oppressive grievances...is such a withdrawal an insurrection?'

Modern federal coercion mirrors 19th-century tyranny

Today's unfunded mandates and threats to cut funding are the same as the economic blackmail used against the South.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'If you don't do what we say...we will cut off your federal funding.' and describes historical blackmail.

A just cause requires a virtuous people

The failure of the modern conservative movement is due to the lack of personal holiness and righteousness among its adherents.

Lecture support: Davis: 'a movement sanctified by its justice and sustained by a virtuous people' and Weaver: 'The problem is not with the movement. The problem is with the people in the movement.'

The Constitution is effectively dead

The federal government ignores constitutional limits, making the document a lie and turning the republic into an empire.

Lecture support: Davis: 'one sees only an empire and the once famous Declaration of Independence trodden in the dust...and the compact of the Constitution...denounced as a flaunting lie.'

Principles are eternal and must be reasserted

The same principles of 1776 and 1861 are applicable today and will continue to resurface until they are vindicated.

Lecture support: Davis: 'The principle for which we contend is bound to reassert itself, though it be at another time in another form.'

Apologizing for the Southern cause dishonors forefathers

To call the issues dead or apologize for the defense of the South is to desecrate the memory and sacrifice of those who fought.

Lecture support: Davis: 'Nothing fills me with deeper sadness than to see a Southern man apologizing for the defense we made...'

Christianity was the foundation of Southern greatness

The greatness of leaders like Lee and Jackson stemmed from their Christian faith and obedience to God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'What made them great? It was their Christianity. They believed the Word of God and they stood on it.'

Scripture References

Leviticus 19:32

Weaver opens the sermon with this verse to emphasize honoring the aged and learning from their wisdom.

Jeremiah 6:16

Quoted to urge a return to the old paths of righteousness and warn against rejecting them.

Deuteronomy 20

Referenced as the biblical principle behind Davis's statement about a just cause and a virtuous people.

Daniel 11:32

Cited to show that knowing God makes people strong and able to do exploits, contrasting with modern weakness.

Study notes

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do the grievances of the South in 1861 parallel issues we face today?

Consider: Weaver lists high taxes, loss of rights, bureaucracy, and federal overreach as common problems.

2. What does it mean to 'ask for the old paths' in our current cultural and political context?

Consider: Based on Jeremiah 6:16, Weaver calls for a return to biblical and constitutional principles.

3. How should Christians balance submission to government with resistance to tyranny?

Consider: Weaver argues that breaking the 'law of a tyrant' is justified, citing the American Revolution.

4. Is secession ever a legitimate option for states today? Why or why not?

Consider: Davis defended secession as a right of sovereign states; Weaver presents this as a valid principle.

5. What role does personal virtue and holiness play in the success of a political movement?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that a just cause must be sustained by a virtuous people, citing Davis and Deuteronomy 20.

6. In what sense has the Constitution become a 'flaunting lie' in modern America?

Consider: Weaver uses Davis's words to describe the current disregard for constitutional limits.

7. How can we cultivate the 'fighting spirit' of our forefathers without resorting to violence?

Consider: Weaver calls for a spirit of resistance to wickedness and tyranny, rooted in Christian courage.

8. Why is it important not to apologize for or dismiss the principles of the past as 'dead issues'?

Consider: Davis lamented Southerners who apologized; Weaver argues principles do not die.

Applications

Honor and learn from the aged

Rise up before the hoary head and seek wisdom from older generations who understand history and biblical truth.

Lecture support: Leviticus 19:32 and the anecdote about General Bush.

Return to the old paths of righteousness

Stand in the ways and ask for the old paths, walking in them to find rest for your souls.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 6:16 and the warning against apostate Israel.

Resist governmental overreach and tyranny

Do not submit to unconstitutional mandates; recognize that breaking a tyrant's law is sometimes necessary.

Lecture support: The example of the American colonists and Davis's defense of secession.

Cultivate personal virtue and holiness

A just cause requires a virtuous people; pursue righteousness and obedience to God's law.

Lecture support: Davis's quote and the definition of virtuous from Webster's 1828 Dictionary.

Do not apologize for biblical and constitutional principles

Refuse to treat the principles of liberty and self-government as dead issues; defend them unapologetically.

Lecture support: Davis's sadness over Southern men apologizing and Weaver's insistence that principles do not die.

Develop a fighting spirit through Christian faith

Be strong in the Lord and in the knowledge of His Word to resist wickedness and stand for truth.

Lecture support: Daniel 11:32 and the example of Lee and Jackson.

Reject the welfare state mentality

Do not look to government for provision; those who do deserve to be slaves, as Davis said.

Lecture support: Davis: 'Those who submit to such consequences without resistance are not worthy of the liberties...and deserve to be made slaves.'

Study history and Scripture to understand the times

Ignorance of history and the Bible leads to apathy; know God's truth to be strong and do exploits.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'the reason people think you're crazy...is, number one, they don't know the Scripture, and number two, they do not know history.'

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 7

Keeping Your Heart

December 11, 2013

Read Chapter 7 in the companion book, pages 99-117.

Major Themes

The Heart as the Mind

The heart in Scripture refers to the mind, understanding, and reasoning faculty, not the physical organ.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Genesis 6:5, Daniel 4, and the Hebrew word 'leb' to show the heart thinks, imagines, and reasons.

Personal Responsibility in Sanctification

Each believer is personally responsible to keep their own heart and cannot blame others for their sins.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes 'you keep your heart' and illustrates with blame-shifting examples.

The Connection Between Heart and Actions

All actions and words flow from the heart; therefore, keeping the heart is essential for godly living.

Lecture support: Proverbs 4:24-27 and Matthew 15:19 show that mouth, eyes, and feet are directed by the heart.

The Necessity of Heart-Keeping for Worship and Obedience

Without keeping the heart, believers cannot properly worship, pray, or grow in grace.

Lecture support: Weaver states that fussing on the way to church hinders worship, and Psalm 66:18 shows God does not hear if we regard iniquity.

Dependence on God to Open the Heart

While we have responsibility, only God can open the heart to understand and obey; we must pray for this.

Lecture support: Weaver references Lydia (Acts 16) and the Emmaus road disciples (Luke 24) to show God opens hearts.

Key Arguments

The heart is the mind, not the physical organ.

Weaver argues from multiple Scriptures that the heart refers to the understanding and reasoning faculty.

Lecture support: Genesis 6:5 shows the heart imagines; Daniel 4 equates heart with understanding; 'leb' is translated 'mind' 11 times.

There are no sudden sins; all sin originates in the heart.

Sins like adultery or theft are premeditated in the mind before they are committed.

Lecture support: Weaver refutes the idea that sins 'just happen' by pointing to the thought life preceding actions.

You can control what stays in your mind.

While thoughts may enter unbidden, believers can refuse to dwell on them and replace them with godly thoughts.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the bird/nest analogy and Philippians 4:8 to show the responsibility to think on pure things.

Others cannot make you sin; you are responsible for your own reactions.

Anger, jealousy, and vindictiveness are choices; ruling one's spirit is a mark of strength.

Lecture support: Proverbs 25:28 and 16:32 are cited to show that lack of self-control makes one vulnerable.

Actions reveal the condition of the heart.

Peter discerned Simon's heart by his words and actions; similarly, we can evaluate hearts by what people do.

Lecture support: Acts 8:20-23 shows Peter perceiving Simon's bitterness and iniquity through his offer of money.

Keeping the heart is essential for spiritual growth and worship.

Failure to keep the heart results in stagnation and inability to worship; God gives more truth only to those who obey.

Lecture support: Mark 4:24-25 and Psalm 66:18 are used to show that obedience and heart-purity are prerequisites for receiving from God.

Scripture References

Proverbs 4:23

The central text: 'Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.'

Proverbs 4:24-27

Verses following the command, showing that keeping the heart affects mouth, eyes, and feet.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God's eyes run to and fro to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him.

Genesis 6:5

First mention of 'heart' in the Bible; shows the heart imagines and thinks evil.

Genesis 27:41

Esau said in his heart that he would slay Jacob, showing the heart speaks.

Proverbs 5:12

The heart can despise reproof, showing it receives or rejects instruction.

Matthew 5:28

Looking with lust is adultery in the heart, showing the connection between eyes and heart.

Daniel 4:16, 34

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's, and his understanding returned, equating heart with mind.

Acts 24:16

Paul exercised himself to have a conscience void of offense; conscience is linked to understanding.

1 Peter 4:1

Arm yourselves with the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:2

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:5

Bringing every thought into captivity to Christ.

Matthew 15:16-20

Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc.

Jude 20-21

Keep yourselves in the love of God; the love of God is keeping His commandments (1 John 5:3).

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man are from the Lord.

Hosea 10:12

Break up your fallow ground; seek the Lord till He comes and rains righteousness.

Proverbs 23:12, 19, 26

Apply/govern/guide your heart; give your heart to God.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take heed lest there be an evil heart of unbelief in departing from God.

Proverbs 25:28

He that has no rule over his spirit is like a city broken down without walls.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding the heart as the mind change the way you approach Proverbs 4:23?

Consider: Weaver spent significant time defining the heart biblically as the mind and understanding.

2. What are some practical ways you can 'set double guards' about your heart in daily life?

Consider: The Hebrew emphasis is 'keep with all keeping' or set double guards.

3. Why is it important to recognize that there are no 'sudden sins'? How does this affect our view of temptation?

Consider: Weaver argued that all sins are premeditated in the heart.

4. How can we replace ungodly thoughts with godly ones according to Philippians 4:8?

Consider: Weaver emphasized the responsibility to think on what is true, honest, just, pure, etc.

5. In what ways do we tend to blame-shift like Adam and Eve, and how can we take ownership of our heart attitudes?

Consider: Weaver discussed blame-shifting and the need to assume responsibility for our own reactions.

6. How does keeping the heart serve as evidence of genuine salvation?

Consider: Weaver contrasted Pharisees' external cleanliness with the internal focus of true believers.

7. Why is it impossible to worship God properly if we have not kept our hearts?

Consider: Weaver gave examples of marital conflict on the way to church hindering worship.

8. What is the balance between God's sovereignty in opening hearts and our responsibility to keep them?

Consider: Weaver cited Lydia and the Emmaus road disciples, then called for prayer for lost loved ones.

Applications

Make heart-keeping a daily, fundamental exercise.

Believers must prioritize keeping their hearts in every situation as the most basic Christian duty.

Lecture support: Weaver states that keeping the heart is the greatest business of the Christian life and an absolute requirement for obedience.

Refuse to dwell on ungodly thoughts.

When sinful thoughts enter, immediately reject them and replace them with Scripture or prayer.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that you can't stop thoughts from entering but can control what stays, using the bird/nest analogy.

Take responsibility for your own reactions.

Do not blame others for your anger or sin; rule your own spirit by God's grace.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Proverbs 25:28 and 16:32 to show that self-control is a mark of strength and that others cannot make you sin.

Guard what you watch and hear.

Avoid media and influences that are contrary to Scripture to protect your heart.

Lecture support: Weaver personally refuses to watch anything contrary to Scripture, including supposedly biblical movies that misrepresent truth.

Examine your heart before worship.

Resolve conflicts and confess sin before attempting to worship or serve God.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates with couples fighting on the way to church and cites Psalm 66:18.

Pray for God to open hearts.

Recognize that only God can open the understanding of lost loved ones; pray for His mercy.

Lecture support: Weaver references Lydia and the Emmaus road disciples, urging prayer for God to open hearts.

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 8

Turning Love Into Hate

July 07, 2015

Read Chapter 8 in the companion book, pages 119-139.

Major Themes

Love as an Act of the Will

Love is commanded by God and therefore must be a decision of the will, not merely an emotion. Spouses choose to love or not love their mates.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Love is an act of the will... you will to love your mate. And people who do not love their husbands or wives actually will not to love them.'

The Danger of a Critical Spirit

Michal's contempt began in her mind as she focused on David's perceived faults, illustrating how a critical attitude can destroy love.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Instead of keeping their heart towards each other, they become critical of each other, emphasize each other's faults, accentuate the negatives, and they build up a case in their minds.'

God's Hierarchical Order in Marriage

God has established the husband as the head of the wife, and wives are commanded to reverence their husbands, recognizing their God-given position.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 11:3 and Ephesians 5:23,33, emphasizing that the wife is to reverence her husband as her head.

The Heart as the Mind

Biblically, the heart refers to the mind, understanding, and reasoning. Michal despised David in her mind, showing that sin begins in the thought life.

Lecture support: Weaver traces the Hebrew word 'leb' and uses Daniel 4 to show that the heart is the mind or understanding.

The Consequences of Pride and Rebellion

Michal's pride, inherited from Saul, led to her contempt for David and resulted in God's judgment of childlessness, demonstrating the destructive end of such attitudes.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'She's displaying the pride and the arrogance and rebellion of Saul, her father,' and points to the judgment in 2 Samuel 6:23.

Contentment with God's Provision in a Spouse

Believers must be thankful for their spouses, focusing on their good points rather than faults, and recognizing that no one is perfect.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must learn to be thankful for our spouses and think upon and dwell upon their good points and not dwell upon their faults.'

Key Arguments

Michal's love turned to hate because she despised David in her heart.

Michal allowed a critical, contemptuous attitude to develop in her mind, which replaced her earlier love with disdain.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'She allowed her love to be turned into hate... she despised him in her heart... her attitude toward David became one that David was a despicable, vile, worthless person.'

Saul's manipulation and deceit set a tragic example for Michal.

Saul's pride, deception, and use of his daughters as bait influenced Michal's own prideful and rebellious attitude.

Lecture support: Weaver notes that Michal is called 'Saul's daughter' in 2 Samuel 6:16 because 'she's displaying the pride and the arrogance and rebellion of Saul, her father.'

Spouses build a case in their minds that justifies unloving behavior.

People interpret facts negatively and construct mental arguments against their mates, leading to bitterness and divorce.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'They slowly and surely build up a case in their minds against their mate... and then they actually justify that case based upon their interpretation of the facts.'

Love is commanded and therefore must be an act of the will.

Since God commands husbands and wives to love each other, love cannot be based solely on feelings but must be a deliberate choice.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Since love is commanded in the Bible, it has to be an act of the will. You can't command feelings, you can't command emotions, but you can command an act of the will.'

Reverencing one's spouse is a biblical mandate that prevents contempt.

Wives are specifically commanded to reverence their husbands, which means recognizing their God-given headship and treating them with honor.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Ephesians 5:33 and explains that 'reverence' means 'to have a reverence for, to venerate, to respect or to treat with deference.'

Bitterness arises from unmet expectations.

Resentment often stems from spouses not meeting our expectations, but we must accept that we cannot change our mate's God-given personality.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You know where most bitterness and resentfulness comes from? Because our mates do not fit and fulfill our expectations.'

Scripture References

2 Samuel 6:16-23

The primary text of the sermon, describing Michal's contempt for David and God's judgment of childlessness.

1 Samuel 18:5-11

David's success and Saul's jealousy, leading to Saul's attempts to kill David.

1 Samuel 18:12, 15, 29

Saul's fear of David because the Lord was with him.

1 Samuel 18:17-19

Saul's offer of Merab to David as a trap, and his failure to keep his word.

1 Samuel 18:20-27

Michal's love for David and Saul's use of her as a snare, requiring a dowry of Philistine foreskins.

1 Samuel 19:1-7

Saul's command to kill David, Jonathan's intercession, and Saul's false oath.

1 Samuel 19:8-10

Saul's renewed attempt to kill David with a javelin.

1 Samuel 19:11-17

Michal's deception to save David's life, demonstrating her love.

1 Samuel 25:44

Saul gives Michal to Palti while David is in exile.

2 Samuel 3:6-16

Abner's defection and David's demand for Michal's return.

Genesis 6:5

The first mention of 'heart' in the Bible, showing it involves thoughts and imagination.

Genesis 27:41

Esau spoke in his heart, indicating the heart can speak.

Proverbs 5:12

The heart can despise instruction, showing its role in moral choices.

Matthew 5:27-28

Adultery in the heart connects the eyes and the mind.

Daniel 4:16, 28-34, 36

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's, and his understanding returned, equating heart with mind.

1 Corinthians 11:3

The head of the woman is the man, establishing God's order.

Ephesians 5:23

The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is head of the church.

Ephesians 5:33

Wives are to reverence their husbands.

Colossians 3:19

Husbands are to love their wives and not be bitter against them.

1 Peter 4:8

Love covers a multitude of sins, applied to marriage.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'despise someone in your heart,' and how can we guard against such an attitude in marriage?

Consider: Weaver explains that the heart is the mind, and Michal's contempt began with her thoughts.

2. How does Saul's manipulation of his daughters illustrate the danger of using people for selfish ends?

Consider: Saul used Merab and Michal as bait to kill David, showing his deceitful character.

3. In what ways can spouses 'build a case' against each other in their minds, and how can this be prevented?

Consider: Weaver warns that people interpret facts negatively and justify unloving attitudes.

4. Why is love described as an act of the will, and what practical steps can we take to choose love daily?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that love is commanded and therefore must be a decision.

5. How does the biblical command for wives to reverence their husbands apply in a modern context?

Consider: Weaver teaches from Ephesians 5:33 that reverence means respect and deference to God-given headship.

6. What can we learn from David's humility in worship, and how might pride hinder our relationship with God and others?

Consider: David laid aside his royal robes to worship, while Michal despised him for it.

7. How can focusing on a spouse's good points rather than faults transform a marriage?

Consider: Weaver urges thankfulness and dwelling on positive qualities.

8. What does Michal's childlessness teach us about the consequences of a bitter and contemptuous spirit?

Consider: God's judgment on Michal serves as a warning about the fruit of such attitudes.

Applications

Choose to love your spouse as an act of the will.

Love is not merely a feeling but a deliberate choice to obey God's command, even when emotions are lacking.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Love is an act of the will... you will to love your mate.'

Guard your mind against critical thoughts.

Avoid building a mental case against your spouse by focusing on their faults; instead, dwell on their good points.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'Instead of keeping their heart towards each other, they become critical... and they build up a case in their minds.'

Reverence and honor your spouse as God commands.

Wives are to reverence their husbands, and husbands are to love their wives without bitterness, recognizing God's order.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Ephesians 5:33 and Colossians 3:19, emphasizing mutual respect.

Be thankful for your spouse and content with God's provision.

Recognize that no spouse is perfect, and thank God for the mate He has given you, focusing on their strengths.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must learn to be thankful for our spouses and think upon and dwell upon their good points.'

Refuse to become bitter or resentful.

Bitterness often stems from unmet expectations; accept your spouse's God-given personality and refuse to hold grudges.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'You know where most bitterness and resentfulness comes from? Because our mates do not fit and fulfill our expectations.'

Treat your spouse with love, respect, and admiration.

Actively demonstrate honor and affection to prevent love from turning into hate, as Michal's example warns.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'We must refuse to act unbiblically and to keep our hearts and to treat each other with love and respect and honor and admiration.'

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 9

Pastor John Weaver - Has The Lord Spoken To You?

November 21, 2018

Read Chapter 9 in the companion book, pages 141-159.

Major Themes

Finality of Revelation in Christ and Scripture

God's full and final revelation is in Jesus Christ and the Bible; any claim of new revelation beyond them denies their sufficiency.

Lecture support: Hebrews 1:1-5 is cited to show God has spoken finally by His Son. Weaver states, 'when God then gave us His Word, He gave it to us fully and finally.'

God Speaks Through Preaching

The ordinary means by which God speaks is through His Word as expounded by preachers, not through spectacular personal experiences.

Lecture support: Multiple passages (2 Kings 21:10, Jeremiah 25:4, etc.) show God spoke 'by his servants the prophets.' Weaver says, 'the usual way that God spoke... was through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.'

The Danger of the Naaman Complex

Like Naaman, many reject God's simple means of speaking because they expect something extraordinary, revealing pride and a refusal to submit to God's chosen method.

Lecture support: Weaver uses 2 Kings 5 to illustrate Naaman's rage when told to simply wash in the Jordan, applying it to Christians who want 'something unusual... spectacular.'

The Bible as God's Voice

Scripture is God-breathed and carries His authority; to hear the Bible preached is to hear God Himself speaking.

Lecture support: 2 Timothy 3:16 is explained as 'God-breathed.' Weaver says, 'It is my breath that carries my voice. God's Word is His voice.'

Rejecting Preachers is Rejecting God

When people mock or ignore God's messengers, they are despising God's words and inviting judgment.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 shows the people 'mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words.' Weaver says, 'Turning away from the reading of Scripture and turning away from the preaching of the Scripture is turning away from God.'

The Vessel is Nothing, the Power is God's

Preachers are merely earthen vessels; any effectiveness comes from God alone, so He receives all glory.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 4:5-7 is cited: 'we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.' Weaver illustrates with a mud cup.

Key Arguments

God's final revelation precludes new extra-biblical words

Since God has spoken fully in Christ and Scripture, any claim to receive direct, new revelation from God is a denial of that finality and a form of pride.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Hebrews 1:1-2 that God 'hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,' and that claiming information 'over and above and beyond the Bible' is 'a denial that the Bible is the full and final revelation of God.'

God's normal speech is through preachers, not private revelations

Throughout Scripture, God's consistent pattern is to speak through His appointed messengers; the expectation of private, spectacular communication is unbiblical and rooted in pride.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Kings 21:10, Jeremiah 25:4, and others to show God 'spoke by his servants the prophets,' and states, 'If you will not hear God's voice through His Word and through the exposition... you will not hear God.'

The still small voice is God's chosen method, not dramatic signs

Elijah's encounter in 1 Kings 19 demonstrates that God is not in the wind, earthquake, or fire, but in the still small voice; believers must learn to listen for God in the ordinary means of grace.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts the spectacular with the 'still small voice' in 1 Kings 19:11-13 and applies it: 'most people want to concentrate on the externals... and they refuse to hear the still small voice.'

Rejecting the preached Word is rejecting God's voice

When people mock or disregard preachers, they are actually despising God's words, leading to judgment without remedy.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 36:16 says they 'mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words.' Weaver comments, 'Turning away from the reading of Scripture and turning away from the preaching of the Scripture is turning away from God.'

Preachers are ambassadors in Christ's place

In the New Testament, preachers serve as Christ's representatives, beseeching people to be reconciled to God; their authority is derived from the Word they carry, not from themselves.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 5:20 says, 'we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.' Weaver explains the Greek *huper* means 'in the place of,' so preachers speak 'in His place.'

The power is God's, not the preacher's

Preachers are mere earthen vessels; any spiritual effect comes from God, ensuring He alone is glorified.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 4:7: 'we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.' Weaver illustrates with a mud cup carrying water.

Scripture References

2 Chronicles 33:10

The central text: 'And the Lord spake to Manasseh and to his people, but they would not hearken.' Weaver uses it to introduce the theme of God speaking and human refusal to listen.

1 Corinthians 14:33

Cited to affirm that God is not the author of confusion, countering chaotic claims of divine speech.

Hebrews 1:1-5

Read to show that God spoke in the past through prophets but has now spoken finally by His Son, establishing the finality of revelation.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Quoted to emphasize that secret things belong to God, but revealed things are for us to obey, warning against seeking hidden knowledge.

Luke 19:10

Used to show that Jesus came to save sinners, supporting the point that no one, not even Manasseh, is too wicked for God to address.

1 Kings 19:11-13

Elijah's encounter with the still small voice, illustrating that God often speaks quietly rather than through dramatic phenomena.

2 Kings 5:9-14

Naaman's healing from leprosy; he expected a spectacular act but was told to simply wash in the Jordan, illustrating the 'Naaman complex.'

2 Kings 21:9-16

Details Manasseh's wickedness and God's judgment, showing that God spoke 'by his servants the prophets' and the people refused to listen.

2 Kings 17:23

Shows God spoke 'by all his servants the prophets' in the context of Israel's exile.

2 Kings 24:2

Another instance where God's word came 'by his servants the prophets' regarding judgment on Judah.

Jeremiah 25:4

God sent His servants the prophets, but the people did not listen or incline their ear.

Jeremiah 35:15

God sent prophets calling for repentance, but the people did not hearken.

Daniel 9:10

Daniel confesses that Israel did not obey God's laws set before them by His servants the prophets.

Amos 3:7

Cited to affirm that God reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets, underscoring the prophetic office.

1 Samuel 12:14

Equates obeying God's voice with not rebelling against His commandment, linking voice and written Word.

2 Kings 18:12

Shows that not obeying God's voice is transgressing His covenant and commandments.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed, profitable for doctrine and instruction, establishing the Bible as God's voice.

2 Peter 1:21

Prophecy came not by human will but as holy men spoke moved by the Holy Spirit.

Mark 12:36

David spoke by the Holy Ghost, showing divine inspiration of Scripture.

Acts 1:16

The Holy Ghost spoke by the mouth of David concerning Judas, affirming inspiration.

Study notes

[illegible]

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that Jesus Christ and the Bible are the 'full and final revelation' of God, and how should that affect our expectations of hearing from God?

Consider: Weaver argues from Hebrews 1:1-2 that God has spoken finally in His Son, and that seeking extra-biblical revelation denies this.

2. How does the 'Naaman complex' manifest in modern Christianity, and what are its dangers?

Consider: Using 2 Kings 5, Weaver describes Naaman's rage when told to do something simple, applying it to those who want spectacular signs instead of ordinary means.

3. Why does God often choose to speak through the 'still small voice' of preaching rather than through dramatic signs?

Consider: From 1 Kings 19, Weaver contrasts the wind, earthquake, and fire with the still small voice, suggesting God's method humbles human pride.

- 4.** In what ways might we be 'mocking the messengers of God' today, and what are the consequences?

Consider: 2 Chronicles 36:16 describes the people mocking God's messengers and despising His words, leading to judgment without remedy.

- 5.** How does understanding preachers as 'ambassadors in Christ's stead' change the way we listen to sermons?

Consider: 2 Corinthians 5:20 says preachers beseech in Christ's place; Weaver explains the Greek *huper* means 'in the place of.'

- 6.** What does it mean that preachers are 'earthen vessels,' and how should that affect both preachers and hearers?

Consider: 2 Corinthians 4:7 teaches that the treasure is in jars of clay to show the power belongs to God; Weaver illustrates with a mud cup.

7. How can we cultivate 'circumcised ears' that delight in God's Word rather than finding it a reproach?

Consider: Jeremiah 6:10 warns of uncircumcised ears that cannot hear; Weaver uses this to call for valuing Scripture.

8. Why did God send a prophet instead of a military leader when Israel cried out under Midianite oppression, and what does that teach us about God's priorities?

Consider: Judges 6 shows God's response to Israel's cry was a prophetic word reminding them of His commands, not immediate deliverance.

Applications

Value the Preached Word as God's Voice

Recognize that when Scripture is faithfully expounded, God is speaking; therefore, prioritize hearing and obeying the preached Word.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If you will not hear God's voice through His Word and through the exposition... you will not hear God.'

Reject the Naaman Complex

Do not demand spectacular signs or personal revelations; instead, humbly receive God's Word through ordinary means like preaching and Bible reading.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you expect God to do something extraordinarily phenomenal for you... you're going to be highly disappointed.'

Delight in Scripture

Cultivate a love for God's Word so that it is not a reproach but a delight, enabling you to hear and obey His voice.

Lecture support: Citing Jeremiah 6:10, Weaver says, 'If you do not value the Word of God... God is not going to speak to you.'

Submit to God's Chosen Messengers

Receive the message of faithful preachers as from God, not mocking or despising them, lest you invite judgment.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 36:16 shows the people 'mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words,' leading to wrath without remedy.

Acknowledge Human Weakness, Divine Power

Remember that preachers are mere vessels; look past the messenger to the God who speaks, giving Him all glory for any spiritual impact.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The vessel is nothing. The vessel is nothing but the message boy... It is God who makes the message effectual.'

Listen for the Still Small Voice

In a world craving dramatic experiences, train yourself to hear God in the quiet, consistent teaching of His Word.

Lecture support: From 1 Kings 19, Weaver notes, 'most people want to concentrate on the externals... and they refuse to hear the still small voice.'

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 10

Keeping the Heart

December 05, 2018

Read Chapter 10 in the companion book, pages 161-180.

Major Themes

The Heart as the Mind and Understanding

The biblical heart is not the physical organ but the mind, reasoning, and understanding. This is proven through various Scriptures showing the heart thinks, imagines, speaks, and is connected to the eyes.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'What is the heart? The heart is your understanding. The heart is your reasoning ability. The heart is your thinking ability.' He cites Genesis 6:5, Genesis 27:41, Proverbs 5:12, Matthew 5:27-28, and Daniel 4.

Personal Responsibility in Keeping the Heart

Each believer is personally responsible to guard their own mind and thoughts. No one else can do it, and blaming others for one's reactions is a failure to keep the heart.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'You're the only one that really can have the responsibility to keep it... It's your responsibility.' He illustrates with people blaming others for leaving church or getting angry.

The Connection Between Heart and Conduct

All actions and words flow from the heart. Keeping the heart results in godly conduct; neglecting it leads to sin. The heart is revealed by what a person says and does.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Out of the heart are the issues of life... if you keep your heart, your conduct is going to follow.' He uses Proverbs 4:24-27 and Acts 8 to show that Peter knew Simon's heart by his words and actions.

The Necessity of Heart-Keeping for Christian Living

Keeping the heart is essential for obedience, sincerity, worship, prayer, and witness. Without it, believers cannot fulfill basic Christian duties.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Keeping the heart is an absolute requirement for obedience... One of the greatest proofs that you're not a Pharisee... is that you are trying to keep your heart right when no one else sees.' He cites Psalm 66:18.

God's Sovereignty in Opening the Heart

While man has responsibility, only God can open the heart and give understanding. This refutes Arminian calls to 'open your heart to Jesus.'

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The preparations of the heart in man are from the Lord... If we're going to pray for our lost loved ones, we better learn to pray, Lord, You open their heart.' He cites Acts 16:14 and Luke 24.

Key Arguments

The heart is the mind, not the physical organ

Weaver argues from multiple Scriptures that the heart refers to the understanding and reasoning, not the physical heart. He uses the law of first mention and Daniel 4 to prove this.

Lecture support: He says, 'The heart then is the understanding... the Hebrew word there for heart is the word lev... translated mind 11 times and understanding 20 times.'

There is no such thing as a sudden sin

All sinful actions are preceded by sinful thoughts. Therefore, keeping the heart prevents sin.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'You can't act without thinking... There's no such thing as a sudden sin.'

Believers must actively reject wicked thoughts

While thoughts may enter the mind unbidden, sin occurs when one dwells on them. Believers must purposely replace them with godly thoughts.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You have to say, I'm not going to think like that... you have to purposely put your mind on that truth of God.'

Keeping the heart involves keeping God's commandments

To keep oneself in the love of God means to obey His law. This is how believers govern their hearts.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Keeping myself in the love of God means I'm keeping myself in His law. I'm keeping myself in His word.' He cites Jude 20-21 and 1 John 5:3.

The heart is revealed by words and actions

Though only God knows the heart perfectly, others can discern its condition by what a person says and does, as Peter did with Simon in Acts 8.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'All I have to do is watch you and listen to you, and I can tell you what's in your heart.' He cites Acts 8:20-23.

God must open the heart for salvation

Contrary to Arminian teaching, sinners cannot open their own hearts; God must do it. This is seen in Lydia's conversion and the disciples' understanding.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The Lord opened her heart... It was the Lord who opened the understanding of His disciples.' He cites Acts 16:14 and Luke 24.

Scripture References

Proverbs 4:23-27

The primary text of the sermon, commanding to keep the heart with all diligence and describing the resulting conduct.

2 Chronicles 16:9

God's eyes run to and fro to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is perfect toward Him.

Genesis 6:5

First mention of 'heart' in the Bible, showing the heart imagines and thinks.

Genesis 27:41

Esau said in his heart, showing the heart can speak.

Proverbs 5:12

The heart can despise instruction.

Matthew 5:27-28

Adultery in the heart is connected to looking with lust, showing the heart's link to the eyes.

Daniel 4:16, 34-36

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's heart, and his understanding returned, proving the heart is the understanding.

Acts 24:16

Paul exercised to have a conscience void of offense, with conscience meaning 'that which you know with,' i.e., the mind.

1 Peter 4:1

Arm yourselves with the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus.

Romans 12:1-2

Be transformed by the renewing of your mind.

Ephesians 4:23

Be renewed in the spirit of your mind.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Matthew 15:15-20

Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc., defiling the man.

Jude 20-21

Keep yourselves in the love of God.

1 John 5:3

This is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man are from the Lord.

Hosea 10:12

Break up your fallow ground; sow to yourselves in righteousness.

Proverbs 23:12, 19, 26

Apply/govern your heart to instruction; guide your heart; give Me your heart.

Hebrews 3:12-13

Take heed lest there be an evil heart of unbelief; exhort one another daily.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding the heart as the mind and understanding change the way you approach Proverbs 4:23?

Consider: Weaver spent significant time defining the heart biblically, showing it is not the physical organ but the reasoning and thinking faculty.

2. Why is there no such thing as a sudden sin, and how should this truth affect our daily vigilance?

Consider: Weaver argued that all actions stem from prior thoughts, so sin is never truly sudden. This challenges the common excuse that sin 'just happened.'

3. What practical steps can you take to 'stop the bird from building a nest in your hair' when ungodly thoughts enter your mind?

Consider: Weaver used the proverb about birds to illustrate the need to reject wicked thoughts immediately and replace them with godly ones.

4. How does keeping yourself in the love of God (Jude 21) relate to obeying God's commandments (1 John 5:3)?

Consider: Weaver connected these verses to show that keeping the heart involves active obedience to God's law.

5. In what ways do our words and actions reveal the condition of our hearts, and how can we use this to examine ourselves?

Consider: Weaver used the example of Simon in Acts 8 to show that the heart is made visible through conduct.

6. How does the truth that God must open the heart affect your prayers for unbelievers?

Consider: Weaver emphasized God's sovereignty in opening hearts, countering the idea that sinners can open their own hearts.

7. Why is it a failure to keep your heart when you become angry or offended by others?

Consider: Weaver argued that getting mad is a personal sin of not ruling one's spirit, regardless of provocation.

8. How can keeping the heart promote unity in the church, and what happens when it is neglected?

Consider: Weaver concluded with an illustration of church division over carpet color, showing that heart issues lead to conflict.

Applications

Actively guard your thoughts

Believers must reject ungodly thoughts immediately and replace them with biblical truth, recognizing that dwelling on sin leads to sinful actions.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You have to say, I'm not going to think like that... you have to purposely put your mind on that truth of God.'

Take personal responsibility for your reactions

Instead of blaming others for making you angry or upset, recognize that your response is your own sin and a failure to keep your heart.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If Brother Ashwood comes up and makes me angry, that's my sin. It's not his sin because I have not controlled my spirit.'

Obey God's commandments to keep yourself in His love

Keeping the heart involves meditating on and obeying God's law, which is the practical outworking of abiding in His love.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Keeping myself in the love of God means I'm keeping myself in His law. I'm keeping myself in His word.'

Examine your heart by your words and actions

Since the heart is revealed through conduct, regularly evaluate what your speech and behavior say about your inner spiritual condition.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'All I have to do is watch you and listen to you, and I can tell you what's in your heart.'

Pray for God to open hearts

Recognize that only God can open the understanding of unbelievers; pray specifically for Him to do this work in your loved ones.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If we're going to pray for our lost loved ones, we better learn to pray, Lord, You open their heart.'

Prioritize heart-keeping for effective Christian living

Without keeping the heart, you cannot pray, worship, or witness effectively. Make heart-keeping a daily discipline.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You cannot even fulfill the most basic fundamental Christian duties... unless you learn to keep your heart.'

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 11

Pastor John Weaver - Lessons Learned From The Omnipotence Of God

January 06, 2019

Read Chapter 11 in the companion book, pages 181-198.

Major Themes

God's Omnipotence

God is all-powerful, unable to be hindered or thwarted, and does whatever He pleases.

Lecture support: The speaker defines omnipotence and cites Job 42:2, Daniel 4:35, and Isaiah 46:10.

God's Hatred of Pride

Pride is an abomination to God, and He actively humbles the proud.

Lecture support: Proverbs 6:16-19, 8:13, 16:5, and the example of Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4.

Divine Deliverance

God delivers His people from danger in unique and powerful ways.

Lecture support: Daniel in the lions' den (Daniel 6) and prayers for deliverance in Psalms.

Perseverance by God's Power

Believers stand and persevere only because God upholds them.

Lecture support: Romans 14:4, Jude 24-25, and Galatians 6:1.

Christ's Succor in Temptation

Jesus, having been tempted, is able to comfort and help those who are tempted.

Lecture support: Hebrews 2:17-18 and 4:14-16.

Complete Salvation

Christ saves completely and keeps believers secure through His intercession.

Lecture support: Hebrews 7:25, Philippians 1:6, and 2 Timothy 1:12.

Final Subjugation of All Enemies

God will ultimately subdue all things to Christ, defeating all wickedness.

Lecture support: Philippians 3:21, Psalm 110, Psalm 21, and Psalm 37.

Bold Prayer and Trust

Understanding God's omnipotence should lead believers to ask for great things and trust Him more.

Lecture support: Ephesians 3:20-21 and the warning from Psalm 78 about limiting God.

Key Arguments

God's omnipotence means He cannot be stopped or questioned.

Scripture declares that no one can stay God's hand or say 'What doest thou?'

Lecture support: Daniel 4:35 and Isaiah 46:10 are quoted to show God's absolute sovereignty.

Pride leads to destruction because God actively abases the proud.

Nebuchadnezzar's humbling demonstrates that God will bring down those who exalt themselves.

Lecture support: The narrative of Daniel 4 and Proverbs 16:18 are used.

God delivers His people in ways that display His power.

Daniel's deliverance from the lions shows God's ability to save from impossible circumstances.

Lecture support: Daniel 6 is recounted, emphasizing God's angel shutting the lions' mouths.

Believers stand only by God's enabling power.

Without God's upholding, all would fall into sin; He is able to keep us from falling.

Lecture support: Romans 14:4 and Jude 24-25 are cited.

Jesus' temptation qualifies Him to help the tempted.

Because Christ suffered being tempted, He can succor those who are tempted.

Lecture support: Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16 are explained.

Christ's salvation is complete and eternal.

He saves to the uttermost and keeps what is committed to Him.

Lecture support: Hebrews 7:25 and 2 Timothy 1:12 are quoted.

All enemies will be subdued under Christ's feet.

God's power guarantees the ultimate defeat of all wickedness and rebellion.

Lecture support: Philippians 3:21, Psalm 110:1, and Psalm 37 are referenced.

Unbelief limits our experience of God's power.

Like Israel in the wilderness, we fail to ask and trust because we doubt God's ability.

Lecture support: Psalm 78:19 and Ephesians 3:20-21 are contrasted.

Scripture References

1 Samuel 2:1-10

Hannah's prayer, the primary text for the sermon, listing God's sovereign acts.

Job 42:2

Cited to show God can do everything and no thought can be withheld from Him.

Daniel 4:35

Quoted to demonstrate that none can stay God's hand or question Him.

Isaiah 46:10

Used to affirm that God's counsel shall stand and He will do all His pleasure.

Psalms 62:11

Referenced to state that power belongs to God.

Proverbs 6:16-19

Listed to show that a proud look is first among things God hates.

Proverbs 8:13

Quoted to emphasize that the fear of the Lord is to hate pride and arrogance.

Proverbs 16:5

Cited to warn that everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord.

Proverbs 16:18

Quoted to show that pride goes before destruction.

Daniel 4:19-37

The account of Nebuchadnezzar's pride and humbling, illustrating God's ability to abase the proud.

Psalms 31:15

David's prayer for deliverance, quoted as an example.

Psalms 43:1

David's prayer for deliverance from an ungodly nation and deceitful man.

Psalms 82:4

Prayer to deliver the poor and needy from the wicked.

Daniel 6:3-23

The story of Daniel in the lions' den, demonstrating God's unique deliverance.

Romans 14:4

Quoted to show God is able to make His servants stand.

Galatians 6:1

Referenced to warn that anyone could be tempted and fall without God's grace.

Jude 24-25

Quoted to affirm God's ability to keep believers from falling.

James 1:13-15

Explained to show temptation comes from one's own lust, not God.

Hebrews 2:17-18

Quoted to show Christ is able to succor the tempted because He suffered being tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Quoted to encourage coming boldly to the throne of grace for help in temptation.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding God's omnipotence change the way you pray about seemingly impossible situations?

Consider: Based on the application from Ephesians 3:20-21 and the warning from Psalm 78.

2. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to pride, and how can Nebuchadnezzar's example warn you?

Consider: From the first lesson on God abasing the proud, using Daniel 4.

3. Can you share a time when God delivered you in a unique way? How did that experience strengthen your faith?

Consider: From the second lesson on God's deliverance, illustrated by Daniel in the lions' den.

- 4.** Why is it important to remember that God is the one who enables us to stand, rather than our own strength?

Consider: From the third lesson on God upholding faltering servants, citing Romans 14:4 and Jude 24-25.

- 5.** How does knowing that Jesus was tempted in all points yet without sin help you when you face temptation?

Consider: From the fourth lesson on Christ's succor, based on Hebrews 2:18 and 4:15-16.

- 6.** What does it mean that Christ saves 'to the uttermost,' and how does that give you assurance?

Consider: From the fifth lesson on complete salvation, using Hebrews 7:25.

7. How should the promise that God will subdue all things to Himself affect your response to current events and wickedness?

Consider: From the sixth lesson on final subjugation, referencing Philippians 3:21 and Psalm 37.

8. What are some practical ways we can avoid limiting God by unbelief in our daily lives?

Consider: From the application section, contrasting Psalm 78:19 with Ephesians 3:20-21.

Applications

Humble Yourself Before God

Recognize that pride is an abomination to God and that He will abase the proud; therefore, walk in humility.

Lecture support: The example of Nebuchadnezzar and Proverbs 16:18 are used to warn against pride.

Trust God for Deliverance

In times of trouble, trust that God is able to deliver in unique ways, as He did for Daniel.

Lecture support: Daniel's deliverance from the lions' den demonstrates God's power to save.

Rely on God to Stand Firm

Acknowledge that you stand only by God's power, not your own, and depend on Him to keep you from falling.

Lecture support: Romans 14:4 and Jude 24-25 teach that God is able to make you stand.

Seek Christ's Help in Temptation

Instead of turning to worldly comforts, come boldly to the throne of grace for mercy and help in temptation.

Lecture support: Hebrews 2:18 and 4:16 show Christ's ability to succor the tempted.

Rest in the Completeness of Salvation

Have confidence that Christ saves completely and will keep you secure to the end.

Lecture support: Hebrews 7:25 and 2 Timothy 1:12 assure of salvation to the uttermost.

Wait Patiently for God's Justice

Do not fret over evildoers; trust that God will subdue all enemies in His time.

Lecture support: Psalm 37 and Philippians 3:21 promise the ultimate subjugation of all things to Christ.

Pray Boldly According to God's Will

Ask God for great things - such as the overthrow of wickedness - believing He is able to do exceeding abundantly.

Lecture support: Ephesians 3:20-21 encourages asking beyond what we can think, based on His power.

Do Not Limit God by Unbelief

Avoid the error of Israel in the wilderness by trusting God's ability to provide and act.

Lecture support: Psalm 78:19 is cited as a warning against questioning God's power.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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 12

Why You Are Still Alive

January 23, 2020

Read Chapter 12 in the companion book, pages 199-215.

Major Themes

God's Mercies Prevent Destruction

The sole reason anyone remains alive is God's tender mercies and compassions, which are renewed every morning.

Lecture support: Weaver repeatedly emphasizes Lamentations 3:22-23: 'It is of the Lord's mercies that we're not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They're new every morning.'

Human Forgetfulness of Sin and Ingratitude

People overlook their sins and take God's daily blessings for granted, rarely thanking Him for basic provisions.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Most folks have a peace of mind that comes from their own forgetfulness' and asks when listeners last thanked God for a hot bath or good bed.

Suffering as a Means to Recognize Mercy

Often only after great suffering do people begin to grasp how merciful God has been.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Unhappily, we only begin to acknowledge God's gracious mercies... after that we have suffered greatly.'

God's Sovereignty in Withdrawing Mercy

God is not obligated to show mercy and can withdraw it from individuals and nations, resulting in death and destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Chronicles 17:13, Isaiah 27:11, Jeremiah 13:14, and Hosea 2:4 to show God removed mercy from Saul and Israel.

Daily Thanksgiving and Remembrance

Believers should cultivate a habit of praising God for His mercies every morning and evening, quoting Lamentations 3:22-23.

Lecture support: Weaver shares his personal practice of quoting the passage upon waking and before sleep, and urges listeners to do the same.

Key Arguments

One sin is enough to condemn us

Even small, forgotten sins are sufficient for damnation, yet people rarely meditate on God's justice.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There's enough sin in our prayers to damn us. There's enough sin in our good deeds to destroy us.'

Suffering may be God's mercy, not judgment

The Babylonian captives were taken for their good, while those left behind were reserved for destruction, showing that hard circumstances can be merciful.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Jeremiah 24, where God calls the captives 'good figs' and says He sent them to Babylon 'for their good.'

Recalling past mercies gives hope

When discouraged, believers should remember God's past works rather than focus on present troubles.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 77:10-14, where David corrects his despair by remembering God's wonders of old.

God can and does withdraw mercy

Scripture records instances where God removed mercy from individuals and nations, proving He is not obligated to be merciful.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 Chronicles 17:13 (Saul), Isaiah 27:11, Jeremiah 13:14, and Jeremiah 16:5 to show God taking away mercy.

Death for believers is not a withdrawal of mercy

The righteous are taken away from evil to come and enter into peace; their death is precious to the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Isaiah 57:1-2 and Psalm 116:15 to show that death for the righteous is an act of mercy, not abandonment.

Scripture References

Lamentations 3:22-23

The central text: God's mercies prevent consumption; His compassions are new every morning.

Genesis 32:10

Jacob's confession of unworthiness of the least of God's mercies.

Lamentations 3:1-20

Jeremiah's description of his intense affliction and suffering.

Jeremiah 24:1-10

The vision of good and bad figs, showing the captives were taken for their good.

Psalms 145:9

The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works.

Psalms 77:7-14

David's struggle with despair and his correction by remembering God's past works.

Daniel 9:9

To the Lord belong mercies and forgiveness, though we have rebelled.

2 Corinthians 1:3

God is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

Psalms 25:6

David prays for God to remember His tender mercies and lovingkindness.

Psalms 40:11

David asks God not to withhold His tender mercies.

Psalms 119:58, 76-77, 156

David entreates God's favor and tender mercies according to His word.

Psalms 103:8

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

Psalm 116:5

Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is merciful.

1 Chronicles 17:11-14

God promises not to take mercy from David's seed as He did from Saul.

Isaiah 27:11

God will not have mercy on a people of no understanding.

Jeremiah 13:13-14

God declares He will not pity, spare, or have mercy but destroy.

Hosea 2:4

God will not have mercy on the children of whoredoms.

Jeremiah 16:1-13

God removes peace, lovingkindness, and mercies from His people due to their sin.

Psalm 92:2

To show forth lovingkindness every morning and faithfulness every night.

Psalm 103:1-14

A list of benefits to praise God for, including forgiveness, healing, and tender mercies.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why do we tend to forget our sins and take God's daily blessings for granted?

Consider: Weaver notes that most people have a peace of mind from forgetfulness and rarely thank God for basic provisions.

2. How can suffering be an expression of God's mercy rather than His judgment?

Consider: Using Jeremiah 24, Weaver shows that the Babylonian captivity was for the good of those taken.

3. What does it mean that God can withdraw His mercy, and what are the implications for individuals and nations?

Consider: Weaver cites multiple Scriptures where God removed mercy, leading to destruction.

4. How can recalling God's past mercies give us hope in present trials?

Consider: David in Psalm 77 corrected his despair by remembering God's works of old.

5. What practical habits can help us cultivate daily gratitude for God's mercies?

Consider: Weaver shares his practice of quoting Lamentations 3:22-23 morning and night.

6. How does the death of a believer demonstrate God's mercy rather than its withdrawal?

Consider: Isaiah 57:1-2 shows the righteous are taken away from evil to come and enter peace.

Applications

Daily Thanksgiving for Mercies

Begin each morning by quoting Lamentations 3:22-23 and thanking God for His tender mercies, compassions, and faithfulness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When I open my eyes every morning before I ever get out of bed, I lie there and I quote, "It is the Lord's mercies that we're not consumed..."'

Evening Reflection on God's Faithfulness

End each day by quoting the same passage and thanking God for bringing you through the day.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'And when I lie down at night, you know what I do? I quote this passage.'

Praise God for Specific Blessings

Use Psalm 103 as a model to thank God for forgiveness, healing, redemption, and daily provisions.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Psalm 103:1-14 and says, 'There are a multitude of things in this brief passage that we could praise him for.'

Avoid Hard Thoughts of God in Suffering

Whatever hard things we suffer, we must never have hard thoughts concerning God, because His mercies do not fail even in chastening.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Whatever hard things we suffer... we must never have hard thoughts concerning God.'

Urge the Unsaved to Seek Mercy

If someone is unsaved, the best thing he can do is run to the Lord Jesus Christ and beg for mercy while there is still hope.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If someone is unsaved, the best thing he can do is run to the Lord Jesus Christ and beg for mercy.'

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 13

Pastor John Weaver - Are You Praising The Wrong God?

April 11, 2020

Read Chapter 13 in the companion book, pages 217-234.

Major Themes

The Danger of False Worship

Many people praise a god of their own imagination rather than the God of the Bible, which is equivalent to idolatry and sacrificing to devils.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Unhappily, I believe today that a vast majority of professing Christians are worshiping the God of their imagination and not the God of Holy Scripture.' He cites Deuteronomy 32:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:20-21.

Learning from Biblical History

Believers are obligated to learn from God's judgments in history, such as Nebuchadnezzar's humbling, to avoid similar judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Belshazzar was obligated to learn from what happened to Nebuchadnezzar.' He references Matthew 21:32 and 2 Peter 2:4-9.

The Sin of Pride

Pride is a root sin that leads people to lift themselves against God, and God actively resists the proud.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Pride is a root sin. Pride is the foundation of practically every other sin.' He cites James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5.

The Certainty of Divine Judgment

God's judgment is as sure as the resurrection of Christ, and all will be weighed and found wanting if they do not repent.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God's judgment is just as sure as the resurrection of Jesus Christ is from the dead.' He cites Acts 17:30-31.

The Necessity of Praising the True God

Believers must actively praise the one true God through Jesus Christ in all aspects of life, not just in formal worship.

Lecture support: Weaver urges, 'We need to make sure that we praise the one true and the living God through Jesus Christ.' He shares a personal story about giving glory to God rather than luck.

Key Arguments

Ignorance of God leads to false worship

If you do not know the God of the Bible, you cannot praise Him; instead, you praise a false god of your imagination.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'How in the world can you praise someone that you do not know? And the answer is you cannot.'

Idolatry is sacrificing to devils

Worshiping any god other than the biblical God is not neutral but is demonic, as taught in Deuteronomy 32:17 and 1 Corinthians 10:20.

Lecture support: Weaver reads, 'They sacrificed unto devils, not to God' and 'the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils.'

Rejecting Scripture is walking after imagination

Those who refuse to hear God's Word and follow their own hearts are walking after their imagination, which is evil.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Jeremiah 13:10: 'This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart.'

Belshazzar should have learned from Nebuchadnezzar

Belshazzar knew of Nebuchadnezzar's humbling but did not humble himself, making him more guilty.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Belshazzar was obligated to learn from the work of God in the life of Nebuchadnezzar.'

Pride leads to lifting oneself against God

Belshazzar's pride was demonstrated by profaning holy vessels and praising false gods, which was a direct affront to God.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'He profaned and dishonored that which was holy... praised and honored that which was dishonorable... refused to praise the one true the living God.'

God resists the proud

God actively fights against those who are proud, as stated in James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes, 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.'

Judgment is certain and public

The writing on the wall was plain and public, just as God's judgment is plainly revealed in Scripture and will be executed through Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The judgment written against Belshazzar was not only plain, it was public. And it was done supernaturally.'

Our lives are always praising some god

Every attitude and action is an act of worship to something, whether the true God, self, or false gods like luck.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Our attitudes, our actions, our lives, ever how we live, we're praising someone or something every day.'

Scripture References

Daniel 5:1-4

Read at the beginning to introduce Belshazzar's feast and idolatry.

Daniel 5:5-9

Describes the handwriting on the wall and the king's fear.

Daniel 5:10-12

The queen recommends Daniel to interpret the writing.

Daniel 5:13-17

Belshazzar offers Daniel rewards, but Daniel refuses them.

Deuteronomy 32:17

Used to show that sacrificing to false gods is sacrificing to devils.

1 Corinthians 10:20-21

Paul's teaching that Gentile sacrifices are to devils, not God.

Jeremiah 13:10

Shows that walking after imagination is evil and leads to idolatry.

Jeremiah 16:12

Further evidence that walking after imagination is rebellion.

Jeremiah 18:12

The people's declaration to walk after their own devices.

Psalms 115:1-8

Contrasts the living God with lifeless idols.

Isaiah 42:8

God will not give His glory to another or His praise to graven images.

Ezekiel 33:11

God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked but desires repentance.

Daniel 5:6

Belshazzar's fear at the handwriting.

Daniel 5:30

Belshazzar is slain that night.

Daniel 5:18-21

Daniel recounts Nebuchadnezzar's humbling to Belshazzar.

Matthew 21:32

Jesus rebukes the Pharisees for not repenting after seeing others believe.

Daniel 4:27-37

Nebuchadnezzar's pride, insanity, and restoration.

Psalms 46:10

God will be exalted among the heathen.

Psalms 47:8

God reigns over the heathen.

Proverbs 21:1

The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to worship a 'God of your imagination' rather than the God of the Bible?

Consider: Weaver argues that many professing Christians do this unknowingly.

2. How can we ensure that our understanding of God is based on Scripture and not on personal preference or cultural ideas?

Consider: The sermon emphasizes the need to know God as He has revealed Himself.

3. In what ways might we be guilty of 'walking after the imagination of our own heart' as described in Jeremiah?

Consider: Weaver connects this to refusing to hear God's Word.

4. Why is pride considered the root of so many other sins, and how did it manifest in Belshazzar's life?

Consider: Weaver identifies pride as the foundation of Belshazzar's rebellion.

5. What historical examples from the Bible or from our own lives should we learn from to avoid God's judgment?

Consider: Weaver stresses the importance of learning from history, such as Nebuchadnezzar and the flood.

6. How does the certainty of God's judgment through Jesus Christ affect the way we live and share the gospel?

Consider: Weaver cites Acts 17:30-31 to show that judgment is as sure as the resurrection.

7. What are some practical ways we can praise God daily, not just in formal worship?

Consider: Weaver encourages praising God for life, health, and daily blessings.

8. How can we examine our lives to see which 'god' we are truly praising through our attitudes and actions?

Consider: Weaver concludes that our lives are always praising something.

Applications

Examine your view of God

Ensure that your understanding of God comes from Scripture, not from imagination or cultural assumptions.

Lecture support: Weaver warns against worshiping a God of imagination and tells the story of the secretary who rejected biblical election.

Learn from biblical history

Study the examples of God's judgment in the Bible to avoid repeating the same sins.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We need to learn from history. We need to learn from the experience of God and the works of God in the people that we know.'

Humble yourself before God

Recognize pride in your life and repent, knowing that God resists the proud.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes that Belshazzar 'hast not humbled thine heart' and quotes James 4:6.

Praise God continually

Make it a daily practice to praise God for His blessings, rather than attributing them to luck or self.

Lecture support: Weaver shares the tornado story and says, 'I'm not interested in praising luck, chance, fate, or fortune.'

Repent and believe the gospel

Turn from sin and trust in Christ, because judgment is certain for those who do not repent.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Acts 17:30-31 and Ezekiel 33:11, urging repentance.

Evaluate what you are truly worshiping

Consider whether your attitudes and actions are praising the true God or an idol.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Our attitudes, our actions, our lives, ever how we live, we're praising someone or something every day.'

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 14

Pastor John Weaver - The Rise And Fall Of A Tyrant

July 11, 2020

Read Chapter 14 in the companion book, pages 235-250.

Major Themes

Definition of Tyranny

Tyranny is the unlawful use of lawful authority; a tyrant rules without submission to God and law.

Lecture support: Weaver defines tyranny using dictionary definitions and explains that a tyrant may be a usurper or one who ignores the law, emphasizing that only God is sovereign.

God's Sovereignty Over Rulers

God alone raises up and puts down rulers; all authority is delegated and accountable to Him.

Lecture support: Citing Psalm 75:5-7 and Daniel 2:20-21, Weaver argues that God removes and sets up kings, and rulers are His ministers.

Persecution and Suffering

Persecution is inevitable for believers and often escalates from mild to severe.

Lecture support: Weaver references John 15:18-20 and 2 Timothy 3:12, and uses Jeremiah 12:5 to show that if we fail under light persecution, we will not stand under severe.

God's Deliverance and Sovereignty in Death

God sovereignly delivers some from death and ordains the time and manner of death for all.

Lecture support: Peter's escape and James's martyrdom illustrate that God determines the bounds of our days (Job 14:5) and the manner of death (John 21:18-19).

Judgment on Pride

God actively humbles the proud and judges those who steal His glory.

Lecture support: Herod's death by worms for accepting divine praise exemplifies Proverbs 16:5 and Nebuchadnezzar's humbling in Daniel 4.

The Unstoppable Word of God

Persecution cannot stop the growth of God's Word and kingdom.

Lecture support: Acts 12:24 shows the Word grew after Herod's death; Voltaire's failed prediction illustrates God's mockery of tyrants.

Key Arguments

Tyranny is not limited to cruel oppression; it includes any unlawful use of authority.

Weaver argues that a tyrant can be benevolent but still rule unlawfully, ignoring constitutional and divine law.

Lecture support: He cites the U.S. Constitution and states that when lawful power is used unlawfully, the ruler becomes a tyrant.

A tyrant is one who rules without God.

Since all authority comes from God, rulers who do not submit to Him are tyrants.

Lecture support: Romans 13 describes rulers as God's ministers; Psalm 75 and Daniel 2 show God's control over rulers.

Persecution often targets leaders to destroy the movement.

Herod killed James, the church leader, understanding the principle of striking the shepherd to scatter the sheep.

Lecture support: Zechariah 13:7 and its quotation in Matthew 26:31 and Mark 14:27 illustrate this principle.

God's sovereign plan determines who lives and who dies in persecution.

James was martyred, but Peter was delivered because God had ordained different deaths for them.

Lecture support: Job 14:5 shows God appoints our days; John 21:18-19 foretells Peter's crucifixion.

God judges tyrants by humbling their pride, often in humiliating ways.

Herod's death by worms is a pattern of God's judgment on proud rulers.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:5 says the proud are an abomination; Nebuchadnezzar was made to eat grass.

The Word of God ultimately triumphs over all persecution.

Despite Herod's efforts, the Word grew and multiplied; history shows the failure of tyrants like Voltaire.

Lecture support: Acts 12:24 and the account of Voltaire's house becoming a Bible repository.

Scripture References

Acts 12:1-2

Herod stretches forth his hand to vex the church and kills James.

Acts 12:3-4

Herod imprisons Peter, intending to bring him out after Passover.

Psalms 75:5-7

God puts down one ruler and sets up another.

Daniel 2:20-21

God removes kings and sets up kings.

Romans 13:4,6

Rulers are God's ministers, deacons, and public worshippers.

Proverbs 28:15

A wicked ruler is like a roaring lion and a raging bear.

Acts 8:1-3

Saul's persecution scattered the church.

Acts 9:31

After Saul's conversion, the churches had rest.

Acts 26:10

Paul voted for the death of saints.

Jeremiah 12:5

If you stumble with footmen, how will you contend with horses?

John 15:18-20

The world hates believers because it hated Christ first.

2 Timothy 3:12

All who live godly will suffer persecution.

Zechariah 13:7

Smite the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered.

Matthew 26:31

Jesus quotes Zechariah about smiting the shepherd.

Mark 14:27

Jesus again quotes Zechariah about smiting the shepherd.

Acts 12:5

The church prayed without ceasing for Peter.

Acts 12:6-11

An angel frees Peter from prison.

Job 14:1-5

Man's days are determined; God has appointed his bounds.

John 21:18-19

Jesus foretells Peter's death by crucifixion.

Acts 12:20-24

Herod is struck by an angel and eaten of worms; the Word grows.

Discussion Questions

1. How does Weaver's definition of tyranny as 'the unlawful use of lawful authority' apply to current events?

Consider: Weaver discusses constitutional limits and modern examples of governmental overreach.

2. In what ways can Christians discern when civil rulers are acting as God's ministers versus when they become tyrants?

Consider: The sermon explains Romans 13 and the role of rulers as God's deacons.

3. Why does God allow some believers to be martyred while miraculously delivering others?

Consider: Weaver contrasts the deaths of James and Peter, citing God's sovereign ordination of death.

4. How should the church respond when prayers seem unanswered, as in the case of Peter's release?

Consider: The church prayed for Peter but was astonished when he was freed.

5. What does Herod's death by worms teach us about God's judgment on pride?

Consider: Weaver connects Herod's fate to the eternal judgment described as 'where the worm dieth not.'

6. How can believers maintain confidence in the growth of God's Word amid increasing persecution?

Consider: The sermon concludes with Acts 12:24 and the example of Voltaire's failed prediction.

Applications

Recognize and resist tyranny

Believers should understand that tyranny can be benevolent and often arises from the unlawful use of lawful authority, and they should not passively accept it.

Lecture support: Weaver defines tyranny broadly and cites constitutional principles and modern examples to urge discernment.

Submit to God's sovereignty in persecution

Christians should trust God's plan for life and death, knowing that He ordains the time and manner of our departure.

Lecture support: The contrasting fates of James and Peter illustrate that God's will determines outcomes, not tyrants.

Pray persistently and believe God answers

The church prayed without ceasing for Peter, yet struggled to believe when he was delivered; believers should pray in faith.

Lecture support: Acts 12:5 and the humorous account of Rhoda and the praying church show the need for expectant faith.

Guard against pride

Pride is an abomination to God and leads to humiliating judgment, as seen in Herod's death.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:5 and the examples of Pharaoh, Nebuchadnezzar, and Herod warn against stealing God's glory.

Trust in the unstoppable advance of God's Word

Despite persecution and tyrants, the Word of God will grow and multiply; believers should not fear.

Lecture support: Acts 12:24 and the historical failure of Voltaire's prediction demonstrate God's triumph.

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 15

It's The Mind, Stupid

March 09, 2021

Read Chapter 15 in the companion book, pages 251-267.

Major Themes

The Mind as the Source of Sin and Idolatry

All sin, including idolatry, originates in the mind. The 'chambers of imagery' in Ezekiel 8:12 represent the mind where imaginations occur before outward actions.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'Idolatry does not begin with statues, paintings, sculptures, or anything material. Idolatry and every sin actually begins in the mind.'

The Heart Is the Mind

The biblical term 'heart' often refers to the mind, the seat of thoughts, imaginations, and understanding.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'The heart is the mind... God saw the imaginations of the hearts of man... How do you think? In your mind. How do you imagine? In your mind.'

Imagination Precedes the Image

Before any idol or sinful act is created, it is first imagined in the mind. The imagination is the faculty of forming mental images.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'The imagination always precedes the image. You cannot build, you cannot mold, you cannot sculpt, you cannot paint, you cannot draw something until first you imagine it in your mind.'

Wrong Thoughts About God Are Idolatry

Entertaining ideas about God that are unworthy of or contrary to His revelation is itself idolatry, even without physical idols.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'The essence of idolatry is the entertainment of thoughts about God that are unworthy of God... Wrong ideas about God are not only the fountain from which the polluted waters of idolatry flow, they are idolatrous in and of themselves.'

God's Knowledge of Human Thoughts

God knows every thought and imagination of the heart; there is no privacy in the mind. His Word discerns thoughts and intents.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Hebrews 4:12-13 and says: 'Our thoughts are not our own... God knows every thought that enters our mind. He knows the intent of every thought.'

The Necessity of Controlling the Mind

Believers must actively control their thoughts, reject vain imaginations, and focus on what is true, pure, and lovely according to Philippians 4:8.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'We have to learn to control our minds. We have to learn to control our thoughts. We have to learn to control our imaginations.'

Key Arguments

Idolatry begins in the mind, not with physical objects.

Ezekiel 8:12 shows that the elders' idolatry was in the 'chambers of his imagery,' meaning their minds. The imagination precedes any physical idol.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Idolatry does not begin with statues, paintings, sculptures, or anything material. Idolatry and every sin actually begins in the mind.'

The heart in Scripture is the mind.

Genesis 6:5, Daniel 4, and other passages show that the heart imagines, thinks, and understands, proving it is the mind.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'God saw the imagination of the thoughts of his heart... How do you think? In your mind. How do you imagine? In your mind. So whatever the heart is, according to Genesis 6 and verse 5, it can imagine.'

Wrong thinking about God is idolatry.

Romans 1:21-23 shows that vain imaginations lead to idolatry. Thinking of God in ways contrary to Scripture is building an idol in the mind.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'If we insist upon thinking about God in any way other than that which is revealed in the Bible, we're guilty of idolatry. We're not building an idol of physical materials. We're building an idol with thoughts.'

Walking after one's own imagination leads to disobedience.

Jeremiah repeatedly condemns Israel for walking after the imagination of their evil heart instead of obeying God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Jeremiah 7:24: 'But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward.'

All actions, good or evil, begin in the mind.

Jesus taught in Matthew 15 that evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc., proceed from the heart. Covetousness, which is idolatry, starts with seeing and desiring.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Everything that we do, whether good or evil, right or wrong, holy or unholy, begins in our minds. All of our sins begin in our minds.'

God knows all thoughts and will judge them.

Scripture declares that God knows the thoughts of man; Hebrews 4:12-13 says the Word discerns thoughts and intents, and all things are naked before Him.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes: 'Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.'

Believers must control their thoughts and reject vain imaginations.

Philippians 4:8 commands thinking on things true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report. Psalm 119:113 expresses hatred for vain thoughts.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'We have to learn to control our minds... David said it in Psalm 119 in verse 113. He said, "I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love."'

Scripture References

Ezekiel 8:12

The foundational text: the ancients of Israel do abominations in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery, saying the Lord does not see.

Ezekiel 1:3

Ezekiel was a priest called to be a prophet to the captives in Babylon.

Ezekiel 8:3

Ezekiel is taken in a vision to Jerusalem to see the image of jealousy.

2 Kings 21:7

Manasseh set a graven image of the grove (Ashtaroth) in the house of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 4:16

Warning against making graven images, the similitude of any figure.

Isaiah 42:8

God will not share His glory or give His praise to graven images.

Ezekiel 8:6-11

God shows Ezekiel greater abominations: seventy elders offering incense to idols portrayed on the wall.

Isaiah 29:15

Woe to those who seek to hide their counsel from the Lord, whose works are in the dark, saying 'Who seeth us?'

Proverbs 7:9-10

The harlot meets a man in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night.

Romans 1:21-23

Men became vain in their imaginations, their foolish heart was darkened, and they changed the glory of God into images of corruptible things.

Genesis 6:5

God saw that every imagination of the thoughts of man's heart was only evil continually.

Daniel 4:34, 36

Nebuchadnezzar's understanding and reason returned when his heart (mind) was changed back from a beast's.

Ezekiel 14:1-8

Elders set up idols in their heart (mind) and put a stumblingblock before their face; God will answer them according to their idols.

Proverbs 6:18

God hates a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations.

Jeremiah 7:23-24

Israel walked in the counsels and imagination of their evil heart, going backward and not forward.

Jeremiah 9:13-14

They walked after the imagination of their own heart and after Baalim.

Jeremiah 11:8

They walked every one in the imagination of their evil heart; therefore God will bring judgment.

Jeremiah 13:10

This evil people walk in the imagination of their heart and after other gods.

Jeremiah 16:12

They walk after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto God.

Jeremiah 18:12

They said, 'We will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.'

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding that the 'heart' in Scripture often means the mind change the way you read passages about the heart?

Consider: Weaver spent time proving that the heart is the mind, using Genesis 6:5 and Daniel 4.

-
-
-
-
2. In what ways might we be guilty of idolatry simply by entertaining wrong thoughts about God?

Consider: Weaver argued that any thought about God contrary to Scripture is idolatry.

-
-
-
-
3. What practical steps can you take to 'mortify' covetousness and other sins that begin in the mind?

Consider: Colossians 3:5 commands mortifying covetousness, which is idolatry.

4. How does the truth that God knows every thought affect your sense of accountability and your prayer life?

Consider: Weaver emphasized that God discerns thoughts and intents, citing Hebrews 4:12-13.

5. What are some 'vain thoughts' that commonly invade your mind, and how can you apply Psalm 119:113 to combat them?

Consider: Weaver quoted David's hatred of vain thoughts and love for God's law.

6. How can Philippians 4:8 serve as a filter for what you allow into your mind through media and entertainment?

Consider: Weaver urged thinking on things true, honest, just, pure, lovely, and of good report.

Applications

Guard your mind by saturating it with Scripture.

To be holy and obedient, you must concentrate on Christ and saturate your mind with God's Word, not allowing anything contrary to God.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'If you wish to be holy, if you wish to be obedient and righteous, it begins in the mind. You must concentrate on the Lord Jesus Christ. You must saturate yourself with the Word of God.'

Reject vain and evil thoughts immediately.

When vain thoughts invade, reject them and declare love for God's law, following Psalm 119:113.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'We have to reject it. We have to put it out. And you just have to say, "Lord, I hate vain thoughts. I don't want that. I refuse that. But thy law do I love."'

Be careful what you see and hear.

Since the eyes are portals to the mind, avoid media that introduces sinful images or language, and turn off content that dishonors God.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'You better watch carefully what appears on TV. You also need to watch carefully what appears on the Internet. Once you see things, you cannot erase them from your minds.'

Think on things that are true, pure, and praiseworthy.

Obey Philippians 4:8 by deliberately focusing your mind on virtuous and commendable things rather than evil.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'I don't have to think about evil things. There are too many good things to think about. I don't have to think about wrong and wicked things. There are too many holy and righteous things to think about.'

Recognize that your thoughts are known by God and will be judged.

Live with the awareness that God discerns every thought and intent, and that entertaining sinful imaginations brings judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'Don't be stupid and think that your thinking is not known by the Lord. Don't be stupid and think, "I can think these things and get away with it." You cannot. And you will not.'

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 16

One More Time

October 24, 2021

Read Chapter 16 in the companion book, pages 269-288.

Major Themes

The Heart as the Mind

The biblical heart is not the physical organ but the mind, thoughts, and reasoning; it controls one's life and conduct.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Proverbs 23:7, Genesis 6:5, Daniel 4, and other passages to show that the heart thinks, imagines, and reasons.

Keeping the Heart

Believers are commanded to guard their minds diligently, which results in godly speech, focused eyes, and established ways.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Proverbs 4:23-27, linking heart-keeping to outward conduct.

Cognitive Warfare

Governments and NATO are developing cognitive warfare to manipulate how people think and act, targeting the human brain as a battlefield.

Lecture support: Weaver reads extensively from a report on NATO's cognitive warfare, including quotes from officials and articles.

The Necessity of Knowing Truth

Knowing God and His truth is the only defense against deception; truth acts as a shield and buckler.

Lecture support: Weaver references Daniel 11:32, John 8:32, and Psalm 91:4 to show that truth brings strength and protection.

Spiritual Warfare for the Mind

Believers must actively fight to bring every thought into obedience to Christ, using spiritual weapons to tear down mental strongholds.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, emphasizing the battle over thoughts and imaginations.

Resisting Propaganda and Control

Christians must turn off TV, avoid propaganda-laden movies, and be aware of technological surveillance to protect their minds.

Lecture support: Weaver cites articles on Pentagon influence in Hollywood and Moderna's patent claims, urging vigilance.

Key Arguments

The mind controls the life

Because the heart (mind) determines thoughts and beliefs, whoever controls the mind controls the person's actions and destiny.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'whoever controls the mind controls the life' and supports this with Proverbs 23:7 and examples from Scripture.

Cognitive warfare is a real and escalating threat

NATO and governments are openly discussing and developing cognitive warfare to manipulate populations, making the mind a battlefield.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes NATO reports and officials describing cognitive warfare as 'the weaponization of brain sciences' and 'the most advanced form of manipulation.'

Knowing God is the only escape

Those who truly know God will be strong and resist deception, while those who do not know the truth will fall for lies.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Daniel 11:32 and John Gill's commentary, emphasizing that knowledge of God produces steadfastness.

Believers must actively guard their thoughts

Keeping the heart is a daily, hourly task that requires immersing in Scripture and rejecting any thought contrary to God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You must keep your heart in line with the Word of God. You must immerse yourself in Scripture.'

Everyone is a slave to something

People are either slaves to sin or slaves to Christ; being 'brainwashed' by truth is far better than being controlled by the world's systems.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'Everybody is brainwashed. You're either brainwashed with truth or you're brainwashed with error.'

Scripture References

Mark 10:1

Weaver uses this verse to introduce the idea of teaching the same truths again, as Jesus did.

Proverbs 23:7

Weaver cites this verse to establish that the heart is the mind and that thinking determines one's being.

Psalms 116:10

Weaver quotes David to show that belief leads to speech and action.

Jonah 3:5

Weaver uses the repentance of Nineveh to illustrate that belief (thinking) leads to changed behavior.

John 12:37

Weaver cites the unbelief of the religious leaders to show that lack of belief prevented them from coming to Christ.

Proverbs 4:23-27

Weaver expounds this passage to teach that keeping the heart results in godly conduct, while neglecting it leads to sin.

Genesis 6:5

Weaver notes that the first mention of 'heart' in the Bible refers to thoughts and imaginations.

Genesis 27:41

Weaver uses Esau's speaking in his heart to show that the heart can plan and determine.

Proverbs 5:12

Weaver cites this verse to show that the heart can despise instruction.

Matthew 5:28

Weaver references Jesus' words to show the connection between the eyes and the heart (mind) in committing adultery.

Daniel 4:16, 34, 36

Weaver uses Nebuchadnezzar's experience to prove that the heart is the mind, understanding, and reason.

1 Corinthians 10:13

Weaver quotes this verse to show that God provides a way of escape from every trial, including cognitive warfare.

Daniel 11:32

Weaver cites this verse to emphasize that knowing God produces strength and exploits.

Philippians 2:5

Weaver references this verse to call believers to have the mind of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

Weaver expounds this passage to describe spiritual warfare as bringing every thought captive to Christ.

Proverbs 23:23

Weaver quotes this verse to urge believers to buy the truth and never sell it.

John 8:32

Weaver cites Jesus' promise that knowing the truth brings freedom.

Psalms 91:4

Weaver uses this verse to show that God's truth is a shield and buckler for protection.

Ephesians 6:16

Weaver connects the shield of faith with the shield of truth, emphasizing faith is based on truth.

John 8:34

Weaver quotes Jesus to show that everyone is a slave to sin or to Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding that the biblical 'heart' is the mind change the way you approach Proverbs 4:23 and the command to 'keep your heart'?

Consider: Weaver spent significant time proving that the heart is the mind, thoughts, and reasoning.

-
-
-
-
2. In what ways have you seen psychological operations or cognitive warfare at work in media, government mandates, or technology?

Consider: Weaver gave examples from COVID policies, Hollywood, and smartphone apps.

-
-
-
-
3. What practical steps can you take to 'bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ' in your daily life?

Consider: Weaver emphasized the need to actively fight for the mind using Scripture.

4. Why is knowing the truth essential for freedom, and how can we ensure we are 'buying the truth and selling it not'?

Consider: Weaver cited John 8:32 and Proverbs 23:23 to stress the value of truth.

5. How does the concept of being a 'slave' to Christ differ from being a slave to sin or to worldly systems?

Consider: Weaver argued that everyone is a slave, but slavery to Christ is liberating.

6. What are some subtle ways that entertainment (TV, movies, social media) can shape our thinking away from biblical truth?

Consider: Weaver warned about propaganda in media and urged turning off the TV.

7. How can we cultivate the 'mind of Christ' (Philippians 2:5) in a culture that is increasingly hostile to biblical thinking?

Consider: Weaver called believers to have the mind of Christ as the ultimate defense.

Applications

Guard your mind diligently

Believers must actively monitor and control their thoughts, rejecting anything contrary to Scripture, because the mind determines conduct.

Lecture support: Weaver expounded Proverbs 4:23-27 and urged, 'You must keep your heart in line with the Word of God.'

Immerse yourself in Scripture

To withstand cognitive warfare and deception, Christians must not just read but study the Bible to know truth deeply.

Lecture support: Weaver said, 'We must submerge ourselves in the Scripture. We must not just read our Bibles. We must study them.'

Reject propaganda and limit media consumption

Turn off the TV, avoid propaganda-laden movies, and be skeptical of news media to protect your mind from manipulation.

Lecture support: Weaver advised, 'Turn off the TV set. Don't watch it. The only thing a TV set is good for basically is propaganda.'

Fight for your sanity and hold fast to truth

In a world gone crazy, believers must consciously reject insane cultural narratives and cling to biblical truth as their shield.

Lecture support: Weaver exhorted, 'You better be prepared to fight for your sanity. You better be prepared to fight for truth.'

Bring every thought captive to Christ

Actively identify and reject thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God, making obedience to Christ the standard.

Lecture support: Weaver explained 2 Corinthians 10:5, saying we are to 'bring every thought into captivity to the Lord Jesus Christ.'

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 17

Pastor John Weaver - The Cure For The Sin Of Pride

July 05, 2022

Read Chapter 17 in the companion book, pages 289-307.

Major Themes

Pride as a Root Sin

Pride is a foundational sin that produces many other sins, like a tree from a mustard seed.

Lecture support: Pride is a root sin. Every individual... by nature is proud... it grows and flourishes into a much larger plant or tree, and it produces much fruit.

Pride Originates in the Heart

Pride is a sin of the heart or mind, leading to outward actions.

Lecture support: Pride is a sin of the heart... the heart and the mind are synonymous... if pride is in our mind... ultimately it's going to be revealed in our conduct.

God's Opposition to Pride

God actively resists and fights against the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Lecture support: God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble... the word resisteth... means to resist, to oppose, to fight against, and to rage in battle against.

Pride Leads to Envy and Strife

Pride naturally produces envy, contention, and other destructive sins.

Lecture support: Only by pride cometh contention... the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph... all these sins are connected with pride, and envy is leading the way.

Everything Is a Gift from God

All abilities, successes, and possessions are gifts from God, leaving no room for pride.

Lecture support: A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven... what hast thou that thou didst not receive?

Humility Exemplified by John the Baptist

John the Baptist's recognition of his role and his joy in Christ's increase provide the cure for pride.

Lecture support: He must increase, but I must decrease... the friend of the bridegroom... rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice.

Rejoicing in Others' Blessings

A humble heart rejoices in the successes of others rather than being envious.

Lecture support: Have you ever prayed for a heart that would rejoice in the successes and blessings of others?

Living by Grace and for God's Glory

We must use our gifts for God's glory, acknowledging that we are what we are by His grace.

Lecture support: By the grace of God I am what I am... that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.

Key Arguments

Pride is a root sin that produces many other sins.

Pride grows like a mustard seed into a tree, allowing other sins to flourish.

Lecture support: Pride is a root sin... it grows and flourishes into a much larger plant or tree, and it produces much fruit.

Pride originates in the heart and leads to outward sin.

Since pride is a sin of the heart, it inevitably manifests in conduct.

Lecture support: Pride is a sin of the heart... if pride is in our mind... ultimately it's going to be revealed in our conduct.

God actively opposes the proud.

God resists and fights against pride, but gives grace to the humble.

Lecture support: God resisteth the proud... the word resisteth... means to resist, to oppose, to fight against, and to rage in battle against.

Pride leads to envy and contention.

Envy and strife are direct results of pride, as seen in biblical examples.

Lecture support: Only by pride cometh contention... the patriarchs, moved with envy, sold Joseph.

Everything we have is a gift from God.

All abilities and successes are received from God, so there is no basis for pride.

Lecture support: A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven... what hast thou that thou didst not receive?

John the Baptist's humility is the cure for pride.

John's acknowledgment of his role and joy in Christ's increase demonstrates how to overcome pride.

Lecture support: He must increase, but I must decrease... I am not the Christ... the friend of the bridegroom... rejoiceth greatly.

We should rejoice in others' successes.

A humble heart rejoices in the blessings of others rather than being envious.

Lecture support: Have you ever prayed for a heart that would rejoice in the successes and blessings of others?

Seeking man's praise makes faith impossible.

Pride and desire for human recognition hinder true faith in God.

Lecture support: How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Scripture References

John 3:22-36

The main passage read, describing John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus.

Luke 13:19

Illustration of the mustard seed growing into a tree, used to describe how pride grows.

Proverbs 11:2

When pride cometh, then cometh shame.

1 Samuel 17:28

Eliab accuses David of pride, revealing his own pride.

2 Chronicles 32:25-26

Hezekiah's heart was lifted up with pride, but he humbled himself.

Daniel 5:20

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was lifted up and mind hardened in pride.

Mark 7:21-23

Jesus teaches that pride comes from the heart.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

1 Timothy 3:6

Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

Exodus 5:1-2

Pharaoh's prideful refusal to acknowledge the Lord.

Psalms 10:2,4

The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor; through pride he will not seek God.

Proverbs 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Proverbs 29:23

A man's pride shall bring him low.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy.

James 4:5-6

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

Proverbs 14:30

Envy is the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 27:4

Who is able to stand before envy?

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways have you seen pride act as a 'root sin' producing other sins in your life?

Consider: The sermon describes pride as a root that grows into a tree with many branches of sin.

2. How does recognizing that everything we have is a gift from God help combat pride?

Consider: John the Baptist's statement that a man can receive nothing except it be given from heaven.

3. Why is it difficult to rejoice in the successes of others, and how can we cultivate a heart like John the Baptist's?

Consider: John rejoiced that Jesus was increasing, even as his own ministry decreased.

4. What does it practically mean for Christ to increase and for us to decrease in daily life?

Consider: John's declaration, 'He must increase, but I must decrease.'

5. How does seeking honor from people hinder our faith, according to John 5:44?

Consider: Jesus' question about receiving honor from one another.

6. In what areas of your life are you most tempted to compare yourself to others and become envious?

Consider: The sermon discusses envy as a product of pride, seen in the patriarchs and the Jews in Acts.

7. How can we use our God-given gifts for His glory without falling into pride?

Consider: 1 Peter 4:11 instructs us to minister with the ability God supplies so that He may be glorified.

8. What does it mean that God 'rages in battle' against pride, and how should that affect our view of this sin?

Consider: The Greek word antitassomai means to fight against and rage in battle.

Applications

Cultivate Thankfulness

Overcome pride by being thankful for every gift God gives, whether life, abilities, or opportunities.

Lecture support: The way to overcome pride, envy, and jealousy is learn to be thankful for any and everything that God gives us.

Use Gifts for God's Glory

Improve and use the gifts God has given to honor Him, recognizing they are not our own.

Lecture support: If any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified.

Reject Seeking Human Praise

Desire for recognition from people makes faith impossible; seek honor from God alone.

Lecture support: How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

Acknowledge Dependence on Grace

Regularly confess that we are what we are only by the grace of God, leaving no room for pride.

Lecture support: By the grace of God I am what I am... without me ye can do nothing.

Rejoice in Others' Successes

Pray for a heart that rejoices in the blessings and successes of others rather than being envious.

Lecture support: Have you ever prayed for a heart that would rejoice in the successes and blessings of others?

Embrace Your God-Given Bounds

Accept the limits God has set for your life and ministry, and be faithful within them without comparing to others.

Lecture support: God has set our bounds... I'm never going beyond those bounds... we must improve our talents until we reach that bound.

Decrease Self, Increase Christ

Actively seek to decrease self-importance and promote Christ's honor in all areas of life.

Lecture support: He must increase, but I must decrease.

Guard Your Heart

Diligently watch over your heart, since pride originates there and leads to outward sin.

Lecture support: Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Study notes

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 18

The Earthly Comprehensiveness of Christ's Prayer

August 25, 2022

Read Chapter 18 in the companion book, pages 309-325.

Major Themes

The Necessity of Prayer

Christ, though sinless, prayed, setting an example that believers must follow; prayer is essential and must be learned.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'if he, the sinless Son of God, prayed, how much more do you and I really and truly need to pray?' and cites 1 Peter 2:21.

Hallowing God's Name

The first petition prioritizes God's glory; hallowing His name means giving Him first place in all aspects of life.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Hallowing God's name means that we give him first place in our lives, first place in our thoughts, first place in our desires.'

The Kingdom of God

Praying 'Thy kingdom come' seeks the advance of God's reign externally, internally, and in future glory.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Pink on the threefold application: external sphere of grace, internal reign in hearts, and future glory.

Obedience to God's Will

The third petition focuses on personal obedience; doing God's will demonstrates His kingdom in us and should mirror angelic obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'it is our obedience then that is going to demonstrate the fact that God's kingdom is in our heart' and references Psalm 103:20.

God's Will Revealed in His Law

God's will is not hidden but revealed in Scripture; praying for His will means praying for obedience to His commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'The will of God is revealed in his word. The will of God is revealed in his law.' and cites Deuteronomy 29:29 and Psalm 40:8.

The Comprehensiveness of Christ's Prayer

The prayer extends to every sphere of life - personal, familial, societal, and governmental - because all belongs to God.

Lecture support: Weaver asserts: 'This prayer is all inclusive... in every sphere of existence. Why? Because God is sovereign.'

Repentance and Zeal

Believers must avoid lukewarmness and ease; Christ calls for remembrance, repentance, and return to first works.

Lecture support: Weaver references Revelation 2:5 and Amos 6:1, warning: 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.'

Key Arguments

Christ's example mandates our prayer

Since the sinless Son of God prayed, believers have an even greater need to pray, following His example.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'if he, the sinless Son of God, prayed, how much more do you and I really and truly need to pray?'

Prayer must be taught and learned

Prayer is not merely instinctive; disciples asked to be taught, indicating that correct prayer requires instruction.

Lecture support: Weaver notes: 'We must be taught to pray. Our Lord is here teaching his disciples to pray.'

The first three petitions are interconnected

Hallowing God's name leads to desiring His kingdom, which is manifested by doing His will; they form a logical sequence.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'the very first petition... concerns God's glory. The second and third petition have respect to the means whereby God's glory is manifested.'

Obedience proves kingdom citizenship

A submissive, obedient spirit demonstrates that God's kingdom has come to one's heart, as seen in Saul's conversion.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'it is our obedience then that is going to demonstrate the fact that the kingdom of God has indeed come in our hearts.'

God's will equals His law

The will of God is synonymous with His revealed law; praying for His will means praying for obedience to His commandments.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'The will of God is revealed in his word. The will of God is revealed in his law.'

Heaven's standard is not lowered for earth

God does not lower His standard of obedience; believers, having experienced grace, should obey even more readily than angels.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'God is not going to lower his standard... how much more should we obey willingly, promptly, joyfully, and gladly?'

The prayer demands comprehensive application

The prayer covers all areas of life and all believers; no one is exempt from seeking God's will in every sphere.

Lecture support: Weaver asserts: 'The comprehensiveness of this prayer demonstrates that it extends to every part, every area, every sphere of our lives.'

Scripture References

Luke 11:1-4

The primary text; Jesus teaches the disciples the model prayer.

1 Peter 2:21

Christ is our example in suffering and prayer.

John 18:2

Judas knew the garden where Jesus often prayed, indicating a regular place of prayer.

Daniel 6:11

Daniel was found praying, illustrating that believers should be known for prayer.

Matthew 6:6

Jesus instructs on private prayer in a closet.

John 1:45-48

Nathanael under the fig tree suggests a personal place of prayer.

Ephesians 2:18

Access to the Father is through Christ by the Spirit.

John 3:16

Used as an example of a verse that is not simple but deep in theology.

1 Kings 8:27

Solomon acknowledges heaven cannot contain God.

Hebrews 12:16

Esau as a profane person who despised his birthright.

Matthew 6:33

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

Psalms 103:20

Angels obey God's commandments promptly and willingly.

Luke 6:46

Why call ye me Lord and do not what I say; obedience is required.

Acts 9:10-16

Saul's conversion; his praying indicates a tamed heart.

1 Peter 1:13-16

As obedient children, be holy because God is holy.

Malachi 1:6

A son honors his father; God asks where His honor is if He is Father.

Deuteronomy 29:29

Revealed things belong to us that we may do all the words of the law.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

This is the will of God, your sanctification.

Psalms 40:8

Messiah delights to do God's will; His law is within His heart.

John 6:38

Christ came not to do His own will but the will of the Father.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to hallow God's name in our daily lives, and how can we practically give Him first place?

Consider: Weaver explains that hallowing God's name involves utmost respect and priority in thoughts and desires.

2. How does praying 'Thy kingdom come' apply to our personal hearts, our churches, and the world?

Consider: Weaver discusses the threefold application of the kingdom petition: external, internal, and future.

3. In what ways does our obedience (or lack thereof) demonstrate whether God's kingdom has come in our hearts?

Consider: Weaver argues that obedience is the evidence of God's reign in us, using Saul's conversion as an example.

4. Why is it important to connect God's will with His law, and how does this shape our understanding of obedience?

Consider: Weaver states that God's will is revealed in His Word and law, and Christ magnified the law.

5. How should the reality that angels obey God perfectly and instantly challenge our own obedience as redeemed people?

Consider: Weaver contrasts angelic obedience with believers who have experienced grace, urging greater willingness.

6. What are some areas of life (family, work, society) where we struggle to pray 'Thy will be done,' and how can we grow in submission?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes the comprehensive scope of the prayer over every sphere of existence.

7. How can we avoid the lukewarmness and ease that Weaver warns against, and instead cultivate zeal for God's will?

Consider: Weaver references Revelation 3:16 and Amos 6:1, calling for remembrance and repentance.

Applications

Cultivate a regular place of prayer

Believers should have a specific, consistent place for prayer, following Christ's example of resorting to the garden.

Lecture support: Weaver asks: 'Do you have a special or regular place to pray?' and notes Jesus 'ofttimes resorted thither.'

Learn to pray correctly

Prayer is not merely instinctive; we must be taught to pray according to Christ's pattern, focusing on God's glory first.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'We must be taught to pray. Our Lord is here teaching his disciples to pray.'

Prioritize God's glory in prayer

Begin prayers by hallowing God's name, seeking His kingdom and will before personal requests.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes: 'Our primary duty in prayer is to disregard ourselves and to give to God the preeminence.'

Submit to God's will in all areas

Actively seek to obey God's revealed will in Scripture in every sphere: personal, familial, ecclesiastical, and societal.

Lecture support: Weaver says: 'This prayer is all inclusive... in every sphere of existence.'

Obey God promptly and joyfully

Imitate the angels' instant, delighted obedience, especially since we have experienced redeeming grace.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'how much more should we obey willingly, promptly, joyfully, and gladly?'

Repent of lukewarmness

Examine your heart for complacency; remember your first love, repent, and return to zealous works for God.

Lecture support: Weaver warns from Revelation 2:5: 'Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works.'

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 19

Pastor John Weaver - The Power Of The Mind

June 27, 2023

Read Chapter 19 in the companion book, pages 327-342.

Major Themes

The Mind as the Control Center of Life

The mind (heart) is the source of all actions; as a man thinks, so he is. Controlling thoughts is essential for godly living.

Lecture support: Proverbs 23:7 'For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.' Weaver states, 'We are a product of our thinking.'

Perception and Interpretation Shape Reality

People interpret facts based on their own perspective, which can be flawed. Michal's perception of David's worship was wrong, leading to despisement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There is a great difference between facts and the interpretation of facts... We see things the way we want to see them.'

Love and Honor as Acts of the Will

Biblical commands to love and honor are acts of the will, not dependent on feelings. Feelings should follow actions, not lead them.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Love, honor, obedience, reverence are acts of the will. God does not command our feelings.'

The Destructive Power of Wrong Thinking in Marriage

Wrong thinking can turn love into hate and honor into despise, leading to marital breakdown. Michal's example shows how a wife's failure to honor her husband stems from wrong thinking.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Wrong thinking has the power to turn love into hate, honor into despise, respect into disgust, and desire into revulsion.'

Biblical Roles and Particular Sins

Wives are to reverence husbands; husbands are to love without bitterness. These particular sins arise from wrong thinking.

Lecture support: Ephesians 5:33 and Colossians 3:19 are cited. Weaver says, 'The particular sin of the wife is a failure to honor her husband. The particular sin of the husband is a failure to love his wife.'

Daily Resolution of Conflict

Anger and bitterness must be resolved daily to prevent buildup. The focus should be on what was done and the biblical solution, not on why.

Lecture support: Ephesians 4:27 is cited. Weaver says, 'The way to avoid bitterness and anger is to resolve it daily.'

Key Arguments

Christians should be guided by biblical principles, not the flesh

Despite being sinners, Christians are to be controlled by truth and convictions, which should prevent the high divorce rate among believers.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Christians are supposed to be guided and controlled by biblical principles, by truth, by convictions.'

The mind is the battleground; thoughts determine actions

Since the fall, the mind is depraved. Actions proceed from thoughts, so controlling the mind is crucial for godly living.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The mind of man was affected in the fall... We act out, we live out, we move in regards to our thinking.'

Heart and mind are used interchangeably in Scripture

The Bible uses 'heart' to refer to the mind, understanding, and rational faculty, as seen in Genesis 6:5, Daniel 4, and other passages.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I've proven in that message that the heart is indeed the mind.' He cites Daniel 4 where heart change affected understanding.

Michal's despisement of David resulted from wrong perception

Michal interpreted David's worship as shameful, but it was honorable. Her wrong thinking led to contempt and God's judgment of barrenness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'That was her interpretation of what was happening... Was her perception and interpretation correct? No.'

Love and honor are commanded acts of the will, not feelings

God commands husbands to love and wives to reverence; these are choices, not emotions. Feelings follow actions.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When He said, Wives, honor your husbands, that's an act of the will... God has designed our feelings to follow.'

Wrong thinking can transform love into hate

Allowing negative interpretations to build up in the mind can turn initial love into despisement, leading to divorce.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Wrong thinking has the power to turn love into hate, honor into despise.'

Irreconcilable differences only exist when someone refuses to reconcile

If both parties are willing to work biblically, reconciliation is possible. Divorce often stems from reaching a point of despisement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There is no such thing as an irreconcilable difference unless someone's not willing to reconcile.'

Dwelling on the positive in spouses prevents bitterness

Instead of focusing on irritations, believers should concentrate on the good in their spouses and thank God for them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must remember to learn to dwell on the positive, the good, and the blessed side of our spouses.'

Scripture References

2 Samuel 6:12-23

The main passage read at the beginning, describing David bringing the ark to Jerusalem, Michal's despisement, and her barrenness.

Ephesians 4:17-19

Cited to show the depravity of the mind, walking in vanity of mind, darkened understanding, and alienation from God.

Colossians 1:21

Mentioned to show that believers were once alienated and enemies in their mind, but now reconciled.

Proverbs 23:7

Quoted to establish that as a man thinks in his heart, so is he; actions flow from thoughts.

Matthew 15:18-20

Jesus teaches that evil thoughts proceed from the heart and defile a man, listing various sins.

Luke 6:45

A good man brings forth good from the treasure of his heart; out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

Psalms 116:10

David said, 'I believed, therefore have I spoken,' illustrating that belief precedes speech and action.

Genesis 6:5

The first occurrence of 'heart' in the Bible, showing that the heart thinks and imagines evil continually.

Genesis 27:41

Esau said in his heart, demonstrating that the heart can speak.

Proverbs 5:12

The heart can despise reproof, showing it can receive or refuse instruction.

Matthew 5:27-28

Jesus teaches that looking with lust is adultery in the heart, connecting eyes and heart.

Daniel 4:16, 28-36

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's heart, and his understanding returned when his heart was restored, proving heart equals mind.

1 Samuel 18:17-21, 28

Saul's plot to use his daughters as snares; Michal's love for David is stated twice.

1 Samuel 19:9-17

Michal helps David escape from Saul, proving her love through protective actions.

2 Samuel 3:12-13

David demands Michal's return as a condition for Abner's league, showing his love for her.

Isaiah 53:1-3

The word 'despised' used of Christ is the same Hebrew word as in 2 Samuel 6:16, illustrating the severity of Michal's contempt.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life; the heart (mind) is the source of all actions.

Ephesians 5:33

Husbands are to love their wives as themselves, and wives are to reverence their husbands.

Colossians 3:19

Husbands are commanded to love their wives and not be bitter against them.

Ephesians 4:27

Be angry and sin not; do not let the sun go down on your wrath, emphasizing daily resolution of anger.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical concept of the 'heart' as the mind challenge or affirm your understanding of thoughts and actions?

Consider: Weaver spent time proving that heart and mind are interchangeable in Scripture, using Genesis 6:5, Daniel 4, and other passages.

2. In what ways can our perceptions of a spouse's actions be distorted, and how can we guard against misinterpreting their motives?

Consider: Michal perceived David's worship as shameful, but it was honorable. Weaver emphasized the difference between facts and interpretation.

3. Why is it significant that love and honor are commanded as acts of the will rather than feelings? How does this affect marital commitment?

Consider: Weaver argued that God commands the will, not emotions, and that feelings follow actions. He cited Ephesians 5:33 and Colossians 3:19.

4. What practical steps can couples take to resolve anger and bitterness daily, as instructed in Ephesians 4:27?

Consider: Weaver stressed not letting the sun go down on wrath and focusing on 'what' was done rather than 'why'.

5. How can dwelling on the positive aspects of a spouse prevent the buildup of contempt, as seen in Michal's case?

Consider: Weaver advised concentrating on the good and blessed side of spouses, noting that no one is as bad as they can be.

6. What does Michal's judgment of barrenness teach about God's view of dishonoring one's spouse?

Consider: God judged Michal with perpetual reproach for despising David's devotion. Weaver connected this to the command for wives to reverence husbands.

7. How can Christians avoid living by feelings and instead live by biblical principles in their relationships?

Consider: Weaver stated that most people, including Christians, live by emotions rather than controlling their thoughts according to Scripture.

8. In what ways can the power of the mind be harnessed for good in marriage, rather than allowing it to turn love into hate?

Consider: The sermon's title and conclusion emphasize that thinking right leads to acting right, and the mind must be guarded.

Applications

Live by biblical principles, not feelings

Christians must control their thoughts and not be enslaved to emotions. Instead of asking 'How do I feel?', ask 'What does God's Word say?'

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Most people, including most Christians, live by their feelings and by their emotions and not by biblical principles.'

Choose to love and honor as an act of the will

Love and reverence in marriage are commanded choices, not dependent on feelings. Obey even when feelings are absent.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Love, honor, obedience, reverence are acts of the will... Do not ever, ever think that just because you have no feeling, you cannot obey.'

Dwell on the positive in your spouse

Instead of focusing on irritations, concentrate on the good qualities and thank God for your spouse. No one is as bad as they can be.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must remember to learn to dwell on the positive, the good, and the blessed side of our spouses.'

Resolve anger and bitterness daily

Do not let the sun go down on wrath. Address problems immediately by focusing on what was done and the biblical solution, not on why.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The way to avoid bitterness and anger is to resolve it daily.' He cites Ephesians 4:27.

Guard your mind to think biblically

Since actions flow from thoughts, keep your heart (mind) with diligence. Think right to act right, especially toward your spouse.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If we wish to live right, we must think right in order to act right... Keep thy heart; for out of it are the issues of life.'

Wives, reverence your husbands; husbands, love without bitterness

Specifically apply Ephesians 5:33 and Colossians 3:19 by honoring and loving your spouse consistently, avoiding the particular sins of dishonor and bitterness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The particular sin of the wife is a failure to honor her husband. The particular sin of the husband is a failure to love his wife.'

Reject irreconcilable differences; choose reconciliation

Recognize that reconciliation is always possible if both parties are willing to work biblically. Divorce often stems from a heart of despisement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There is no such thing as an irreconcilable difference unless someone's not willing to reconcile.'

Interpret your spouse's actions charitably

Avoid assuming the worst; remember that perceptions can be wrong. Seek to understand rather than despise.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We see things the way we want to see them... An eyewitness is not always accurate.'

Study notes

[illegible]

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 20

Pastor John Weaver - Pride - The Particular Sin of Rulers

August 10, 2025

Read Chapter 20 in the companion book, pages 343-361.

Major Themes

Pride as a Root Sin

Pride is a foundational sin that produces many other sins such as theft, fraud, and immorality.

Lecture support: The speaker states, 'I call pride a root sin, and so does the Bible, because a root sin is a sin that produces other sins.' He cites Deuteronomy 29:18 and gives examples of sins stemming from pride.

Pride in Rulers and Politicians

Rulers are especially prone to pride due to power and authority, leading to corruption and immorality.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'politicians are prone to pride because of their sense of power and authority and control.' He references modern scandals and Nebuchadnezzar's boasting.

God's Sovereignty Over Kingdoms

God rules in the kingdom of men and gives authority to whomever He wills, a lesson Nebuchadnezzar learned through judgment.

Lecture support: Daniel 4:17, 25, 32 are cited: 'to the intent that the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men.' The speaker emphasizes this three times.

The Deceitfulness of Pride

Pride deceives individuals into thinking they are invincible and can escape judgment.

Lecture support: Obadiah 1:3 is quoted: 'The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee.' The speaker applies this to rulers who think no one can bring them down.

The Necessity of Humility

God requires humility; believers should replace pride with thankfulness and recognize all blessings come from God.

Lecture support: Micah 6:8 is cited: 'walk humbly with thy God.' The speaker contrasts boasting with thankful acknowledgment of God's grace.

Judgment on the Proud

God will abase the proud; no ruler will escape His righteous judgment. Examples: Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, Belshazzar's death.

Lecture support: Daniel 4:37: 'those that walk in pride he is able to abase.' Isaiah 23:9: God purposes 'to stain the pride of all glory.'

Key Arguments

Pride is a root sin that produces other sins.

Pride leads to theft, fraud, fornication, and adultery because the proud person believes they deserve everything and others exist for their pleasure.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'sins such as theft and fraud stem from pride... fornication, adultery, sodomy, whatever, also stem from pride.'

Politicians are especially prone to pride and its fruits.

Modern politicians exhibit pride through corruption, scandals, and immorality, believing they can escape judgment.

Lecture support: The speaker asks, 'how is it that someone who is making \$175,000... happens to now be worth 50 to 60 to 100 million bucks?' and references scandals.

Pride deceives people into thinking they are beyond judgment.

Like Edom in Obadiah, the proud believe no one can bring them down, but God will humble them.

Lecture support: Obadiah 1:3 is quoted: 'The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee... Who shall bring me down to the ground?'

Fear and conviction alone do not produce change.

Nebuchadnezzar was afraid and troubled by his dream, and Felix trembled under Paul's preaching, but neither repented immediately.

Lecture support: The speaker notes, 'Not all conviction is a saving conviction... Fearfulness is insufficient in and of itself for change.'

God's sovereignty means He raises and removes rulers.

God gave Nebuchadnezzar his kingdom and took it away to teach that He rules. Psalm 75:6-7 says promotion comes from God.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 27:5-8 and Psalm 75:5-7 are cited. The speaker says, 'God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another.'

Knowing God's judgment on others should lead to humility.

Belshazzar knew Nebuchadnezzar's fate but did not humble himself. We are accountable to learn from God's work in others' lives.

Lecture support: Daniel 5:22: 'thou... hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this.' Matthew 21:32 is used to show responsibility to learn.

The proud will ultimately bow before Christ.

Philippians 2 teaches that every knee will bow and every tongue confess Christ's lordship, bringing the proud to contempt.

Lecture support: The speaker quotes Philippians 2:5-11 and says, 'when these arrogant, pride-filled rulers... face God in judgment, they will kneel.'

Believers must actively replace pride with humility and thankfulness.

We should be aware of pride, give God glory for all things, and walk humbly as Micah 6:8 commands.

Lecture support: The speaker contrasts boasting about preaching with thanking God for enabling it, and cites Micah 6:8 and 1 John 2:15-17.

Scripture References

Daniel 4:1-5

Nebuchadnezzar's introduction and his troubling dream.

Daniel 4:28-33

Nebuchadnezzar's prideful boast and the voice from heaven pronouncing judgment.

Daniel 4:34-37

Nebuchadnezzar's restoration and praise of God's sovereignty.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction.

Proverbs 29:23

A man's pride shall bring him low.

Deuteronomy 29:18

Warning against a root bearing gall and wormwood, illustrating root sins.

Obadiah 1:3

The pride of Edom's heart deceived him, thinking none could bring him down.

Hebrews 12:15

Bitterness as a root sin that defiles many.

1 Timothy 6:10

The love of money is a root of all evil.

Psalms 10:4

The wicked through pride will not seek God.

James 3:5

The tongue boasts great things.

James 4:13-17

Boasting about tomorrow is evil; we should say 'If the Lord will.'

Proverbs 27:1

Boast not thyself of tomorrow.

Acts 24:24-25

Felix trembled at Paul's preaching but did not repent.

Daniel 4:10-17

Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the great tree and the decree of the watchers.

Daniel 4:19-27

Daniel interprets the dream and counsels repentance.

Jeremiah 27:4-8

God gave all lands into Nebuchadnezzar's hand.

Daniel 2:20-21

God changes times and seasons; He removes and sets up kings.

Psalms 75:5-7

Promotion comes from God; He puts down one and sets up another.

Matthew 21:32

The Pharisees did not repent even after seeing publicans and harlots believe.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does pride function as a 'root sin' that produces other sins in our lives?

Consider: The speaker describes pride as a root sin that blossoms into theft, fraud, and immorality.

2. Why are rulers and politicians particularly susceptible to pride, and how does this manifest today?

Consider: The sermon notes that power and authority lead to pride, seen in corruption and scandals.

3. How does pride deceive us into thinking we can escape God's judgment?

Consider: Obadiah 1:3 is cited to show pride's deception; the speaker asks what makes rulers think they can get away with sin.

4. What is the difference between being convicted by fear and experiencing true repentance?

Consider: Nebuchadnezzar and Felix were terrified but unchanged; the speaker says not all conviction is saving.

5. Why did God emphasize three times that He rules in the kingdom of men? What does this teach us about His sovereignty?

Consider: Daniel 4:17, 25, 32 repeat the lesson; the speaker highlights God's control over rulers.

6. How should knowing about God's judgment on others (like Nebuchadnezzar) affect our own hearts?

Consider: Belshazzar knew but did not humble himself; Matthew 21:32 shows we are accountable to learn.

7. What practical steps can we take to replace pride with humility and thankfulness in daily life?

Consider: The speaker contrasts boasting with thanking God, and cites Micah 6:8.

8. How does the promise that every knee will bow to Christ challenge the pride of modern rulers and individuals?

Consider: Philippians 2 is quoted; the speaker says proud rulers will confess Christ's lordship in judgment.

Applications

Examine your heart for pride.

Each person should be aware of pride in their own heart and seek to replace it with humility.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'Each one of us should be aware of the pride of our own hearts. And we should seek to displace it and to replace it with humility and thankfulness.'

Give God glory for all achievements.

Instead of boasting, acknowledge that all success, possessions, and abilities come from God.

Lecture support: The speaker contrasts saying 'I preached for 60 years' with 'I'm so thankful that Jesus Christ saved me and called me to preach... I want him to have all the honour and glory.'

Walk humbly with God.

Obey Micah 6:8 by doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with God.

Lecture support: The speaker quotes Micah 6:8 and says, 'God says he wants us to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.'

Do not love the world's pride.

Reject the pride of life, which is not from the Father, and focus on doing God's will.

Lecture support: The speaker cites 1 John 2:15-17: 'the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.'

Learn from God's judgments on others.

We are responsible to learn from God's work in the lives of others, both judgment and blessing.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'we're responsible and we're accountable to learn from the work of God in the lives of others.'

Submit to Christ to avoid judgment.

Rulers and all people should 'kiss the Son' and submit to Christ before His wrath is kindled.

Lecture support: The speaker quotes Psalm 2:11-12: 'Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way.'

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 21

Do You Need to Eat Grass?

April 05, 2026

Read Chapter 21 in the companion book, pages 363-379.

Major Themes

The Brevity and Fragility of Human Life

Scripture repeatedly compares human life to grass, emphasizing its temporary nature, weakness, and worthlessness before God.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Psalm 90:5-6, 92:5-8, 102:11, 103:15-16; Isaiah 40:6-8; James 1:10-11; 1 Peter 1:24-25, all likening life to grass that withers and fades.

The Sin and Danger of Pride

Pride is a universal sin that God hates and actively fights against; it leads to destruction and abasement.

Lecture support: Weaver references Proverbs 8:13, 11:2, 13:10, 16:18, 29:23; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5; and the examples of Nebuchadnezzar and the king of Assyria.

God's Sovereignty and Our Dependence

Everything we have and are comes from God; we have no grounds for boasting, and we must acknowledge Him as the source of all good.

Lecture support: Weaver explains 1 Corinthians 4:7 (who makes you differ, what do you have that you did not receive) and Isaiah 26:12 (God works all our works in us).

The Necessity of Humility and Obedience

Humility is the opposite of pride and is demonstrated by hearkening to, submitting to, and obeying God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Humility is hearkening unto and submitting unto and obeying the Word of God,' and cites Micah 6:8 to walk humbly with God.

God's Discipline to Break Pride

God knows exactly what it takes to humble each person and will use severe measures, like Nebuchadnezzar's insanity, to break pride if we refuse to repent.

Lecture support: Weaver references Leviticus 26:18-20 ('I will break the pride of your power') and Nebuchadnezzar's seven years of eating grass.

Key Arguments

Most people, even Christians, need to 'eat grass' spiritually.

Weaver argues that unless we learn biblical humility, we will face humbling circumstances from God, symbolized by eating grass like Nebuchadnezzar.

Lecture support: He states, 'most people, really and truly, even Christians, need to eat grass' and later, 'yes, we need to eat grass unless we learn biblical humility.'

Human life is as worthless and temporary as grass.

Scripture's repeated comparison of humanity to grass underscores our frailty and inability to please God in our flesh.

Lecture support: Weaver cites multiple passages (Psalm 90, 103; Isaiah 40; 1 Peter 1) and says, 'grass does not please God in the sense of the word and our flesh cannot please God.'

Pride is the root sin that leads to contention, shame, and destruction.

Pride causes strife, precedes a fall, and is hated by God; it is the sin of kings and all people.

Lecture support: He quotes Proverbs 13:10 ('only by pride cometh contention'), 16:18 ('pride goeth before destruction'), and notes Nebuchadnezzar's boast about Babylon.

God actively resists and makes war against the proud.

The Greek word 'antitassomai' means to rage in battle against; God fights against pride in believers and unbelievers alike.

Lecture support: Weaver explains James 4:6 and 1 Peter 5:5, defining 'resisteth' as 'to rage in battle against, to oppose, and to make war against.'

We have nothing that we did not receive from God.

All abilities, intellect, and spiritual good are gifts from God, so boasting is stealing His glory.

Lecture support: He expounds 1 Corinthians 4:7 ('what hast thou that thou didst not receive?') and Isaiah 42:8 ('my glory will I not give to another').

God will break the pride of His people if they refuse to humble themselves.

Using Leviticus 26 and Nebuchadnezzar's example, Weaver warns that God knows exactly what it takes to humble each person and will do so severely if needed.

Lecture support: He says, 'God knows exactly what it will take to break you... We may end up losing everything' and cites Leviticus 26:18-20.

Scripture References

Daniel 4:27

Daniel's counsel to Nebuchadnezzar to break off sins by righteousness and show mercy to the poor.

Psalms 90:5-6

Life likened to grass that grows up in the morning and is cut down in the evening.

Psalms 92:5-8

The wicked spring as grass and flourish but will be destroyed forever.

Psalms 102:11

The psalmist says his days are like a shadow and he is withered like grass.

Psalms 103:15-16

Man's days are as grass; the wind passes over it and it is gone.

Isaiah 40:6-8

All flesh is grass; the grass withers but the word of God stands forever.

James 1:10-11

The rich man will fade away like the flower of the grass.

1 Peter 1:24-25

All flesh is as grass; the word of the Lord endures forever.

Romans 8:6-8

The carnal mind is enmity against God; those in the flesh cannot please God.

Jeremiah 13:15-17

Jeremiah warns against pride and calls the king and queen to humble themselves.

2 Chronicles 36:11-14

Zedekiah did evil and did not humble himself before Jeremiah.

Isaiah 26:12

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

Philippians 2:12-13

Work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for God works in you to will and to do.

1 Corinthians 4:7

Who makes you differ? What do you have that you did not receive? Why boast?

Isaiah 10:5-15

God used Assyria as a rod but will punish the king's pride for boasting in his own strength.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, arrogancy, and the evil way.

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall.

Daniel 4:22-37

Nebuchadnezzar's dream interpreted, his pride, insanity, eating grass, and restoration.

James 4:6

God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.

1 Peter 5:5

Be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways might pride manifest in our lives without us realizing it?

Consider: Weaver says pride is the sin of practically every man and Christian, and we are proud of our works and accomplishments.

2. How does the biblical imagery of grass shape our view of human achievement and self-worth?

Consider: Multiple passages compare human life to grass, emphasizing brevity and fragility.

3. What does it mean that God 'resisteth' the proud, and how should that affect our daily walk?

Consider: Weaver explains the Greek word means to rage in battle against; God actively fights pride.

4. Why is it so difficult to acknowledge that everything we have is received from God?

Consider: 1 Corinthians 4:7 challenges us to recognize that all abilities and blessings are gifts.

5. How can we practically 'walk humbly with thy God' in our daily decisions and relationships?

Consider: Micah 6:8 is cited as the requirement to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly.

6. What are some 'easy ways' we can learn humility instead of facing severe discipline like Nebuchadnezzar?

Consider: Weaver contrasts learning the easy way through repentance versus the hard way through judgment.

Applications

Examine your life for pride and confess it.

Weaver urges self-examination to identify pride and actively fight against it through confession.

Lecture support: He says, 'I want to double check myself. And I want to confess pride. Fight against pride. Deny pride.'

Submit to God's Word in obedience.

Humility is demonstrated by hearkening to and obeying Scripture, recognizing God's authority as Father, Lord, Creator, and Potter.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Humility is hearkening unto and submitting unto and obeying the Word of God' and lists the four relationships.

Acknowledge God as the source of all good.

Recognize that every ability, accomplishment, and blessing comes from God, not ourselves, to avoid stealing His glory.

Lecture support: He expounds 1 Corinthians 4:7 and says, 'Everything I am, everything I have... is only by His grace, mercy, and strength.'

Repent of pride to avoid severe discipline.

Like Nebuchadnezzar, we can choose to humble ourselves or face God's war against our pride, which may involve loss and suffering.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you don't mind being abased, if you don't mind eating grass... then continue to walk in pride.'

Trust and obey as the secret of the Christian life.

The path to happiness and peace with God is simple submission, trusting, and obedience to His commands.

Lecture support: He references the hymn 'Trust and Obey' and says, 'that is the secret of the Christian life, really.'

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: Keeping the Heart

Lecture JW01096

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01096&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01096&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: The Reason for Wars

Lecture JW00894

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00894&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00894&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 3: Jefferson Davis Revisited

Lecture JW00830

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00830&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00830&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 4: Trembling at the Word of God

Lecture JW00818

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00818&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00818&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 5: The Excommunication of Christ

Lecture JW00688

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00688&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00688&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 6: Pastor John Weaver - Jefferson Davis Revisited

Lecture JW01203

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01203&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01203&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 7: Keeping Your Heart

Lecture JW00594

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00594&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00594&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 8: Turning Love Into Hate

Lecture JW01393

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01393&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01393&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 9: Pastor John Weaver - Has The Lord Spoken To You?

Lecture JW01520

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01520&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01520&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 10: Keeping the Heart

Lecture JW00392

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00392&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00392&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 11: Pastor John Weaver - Lessons Learned From The Omnipotence Of God

Lecture JW01526

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01526&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01526&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 12: Why You Are Still Alive

Lecture JW01566

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01566&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01566&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 13: Pastor John Weaver - Are You Praising The Wrong God?

Lecture JW01571

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01571&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01571&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 14: Pastor John Weaver - The Rise And Fall Of A Tyrant

Lecture JW01582

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01582&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01582&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 15: It's The Mind, Stupid

Lecture JW01609

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01609&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01609&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 16: One More Time

Lecture JW00251

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00251&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00251&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 17: Pastor John Weaver - The Cure For The Sin Of Pride

Lecture JW01666

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01666&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01666&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 18: The Earthly Comprehensiveness of Christ's Prayer

Lecture JW00204

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00204&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00204&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 19: Pastor John Weaver - The Power Of The Mind

Lecture JW01708

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01708&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01708&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 20: Pastor John Weaver - Pride - The Particular Sin of Rulers

Lecture JW01796

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01796&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01796&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 21: Do You Need to Eat Grass?

Lecture JW00007

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00007&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00007&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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.