

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Do You Possess Eternal Life?

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 1

Do You Possess Eternal Life? - 1

December 12, 2004

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23.

Major Themes

Eternal Life as a Present Possession

Eternal life must be possessed before death; it is not something obtained only after dying.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if one does not possess eternal life before he dies, he will never have it after he dies.'

Inability of Works to Earn Salvation

Keeping the law cannot save because it requires perfect, personal, perpetual obedience, and all have sinned.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that the law demands 'a personal obedience, a perfect obedience, and a perpetual obedience' and that no one can meet this standard.

The Everlasting Covenant

Before the world began, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit entered a covenant in which the Father gave a people to the Son, the Son redeemed them, and the Spirit regenerates them.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 17:6, Galatians 4:4-6, and Ephesians 1:4-7 to show the roles of each Person in the covenant.

Eternal Life as a Gift

Eternal life is a gift of grace, not a reward for works, and is found only in Jesus Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes John 10:28 ('I give unto them eternal life') and 1 John 5:11 ('God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son').

Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility

God's election does not negate human responsibility to repent and believe; those who come to Christ will not be cast out.

Lecture support: Weaver uses John 6:37 ('All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out') and the lepers' story to illustrate this balance.

Key Arguments

Uncertainty about eternal life indicates its absence

If one answers 'I think so' or 'I hope so' to the question of possessing eternal life, they likely do not have it.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If your answer is one of the following, "I think so," "I hope so," "maybe so," "we will see," or "I'm working on it," in all probability, you do not possess eternal life.'

Eternal life is not merely living forever

Since the unsaved will live forever in torment, eternal life must be more than endless existence.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'if eternal life can be defined that simply, then you could also say that the unsaved have eternal life because they're going to live forever in torments.'

Jesus' command to keep the law was to expose sin, not to save

When Jesus told the rich young ruler to keep the commandments, He was demonstrating the impossibility of earning salvation by works.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that Jesus applied the law to show the ruler he had not kept even the first commandment, because his money was his god.

The promise of eternal life was made before the world began

Titus 1:2 shows that God promised eternal life before the world began, indicating it is part of His eternal purpose and grace.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Titus 1:2: 'In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.'

Christ gives eternal life only to those given to Him by the Father

John 17:2 limits the recipients of eternal life to 'as many as thou hast given him,' implying a definite number.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 17:2 and Acts 13:48 to show that 'as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.'

Coming to Christ in repentance and faith is the evidence of election

The Thessalonians' conversion, endurance, and transformed lives demonstrated they were God's elect.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10, showing how Paul knew their election by their reception of the word and turning from idols.

Seeking Christ is the only rational response for the lost

Like the lepers who reasoned they had nothing to lose by going to the Syrians, sinners have nothing to lose by seeking Christ and everything to gain.

Lecture support: Weaver applies 2 Kings 7:3-4: 'If they save us alive, we shall live; if they kill us, we shall but die.'

Scripture References

Matthew 19:16

The rich young ruler asks, 'Good master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?'

Mark 10:17

The rich young ruler asks, 'Good master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?'

Luke 10:25

A lawyer asks, 'Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'

Luke 18:18

A certain ruler asks, 'Good master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'

Galatians 3:10

Those who rely on works of the law are under a curse, for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them.'

Titus 1:1-2

Paul speaks of 'hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.'

Hebrews 13:20

The God of peace brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus through the blood of the everlasting covenant.

John 17:6, 11, 24

Jesus speaks of the men the Father gave Him out of the world, and prays for them.

Galatians 4:4-6

God sent forth His Son to redeem those under the law, and the Spirit of His Son into our hearts.

Ephesians 1:4-7, 12-13

God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, predestined us to adoption, and sealed us with the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:9

God saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace given us in Christ before the world began.

Titus 1:3

God has in due times manifested His word through preaching.

John 10:27-28

Jesus says, 'My sheep hear my voice... and I give unto them eternal life.'

Romans 5:21

Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 John 2:25

This is the promise that He promised us, even eternal life.

1 John 5:11-13

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son; he that hath the Son hath life.

John 17:2

The Father gave Christ power over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as the Father has given Him.

John 6:37, 39

All that the Father gives Christ will come to Him, and He will lose none but raise them up at the last day.

Acts 13:48

As many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Weaver say that uncertain answers like 'I think so' or 'I'm working on it' indicate a lack of eternal life?

Consider: Weaver introduces the question of possessing eternal life and warns against uncertain answers.

2. How does the requirement of perfect, personal, perpetual obedience to the law demonstrate the impossibility of earning salvation?

Consider: Weaver explains why Jesus told the rich young ruler to keep the commandments.

3. What is the significance of the promise of eternal life being made before the world began?

Consider: Weaver discusses Titus 1:2 and the everlasting covenant.

4. How does the everlasting covenant between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit relate to the gift of eternal life?

Consider: Weaver outlines the roles of each Person in the covenant.

5. In what sense is eternal life a gift, and why is it found only in Jesus Christ?

Consider: Weaver cites several passages showing eternal life is a gift and that Christ is eternal life.

6. How does the phrase 'as many as' in John 17:2 and Acts 13:48 imply a limitation on who receives eternal life?

Consider: Weaver argues that Christ gives eternal life only to those given to Him by the Father.

7. How did Paul know the Thessalonians were elect, and what does this teach about the evidence of election?

Consider: Weaver examines 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10.

8. How does the story of the four lepers in 2 Kings 7 illustrate the proper response of a sinner to the offer of salvation?

Consider: Weaver applies the lepers' reasoning to the unconverted.

Applications

Examine your assurance of eternal life

Weaver challenges listeners to honestly answer whether they possess eternal life, warning that uncertain answers likely indicate its absence.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If your answer is one of the following, "I think so," "I hope so," "maybe so," "we will see," or "I'm working on it," in all probability, you do not possess eternal life.'

Abandon reliance on works for salvation

Since the law demands perfect obedience and all have sinned, no one can earn eternal life; it must be received as a gift.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that the law requires personal, perfect, perpetual obedience, which no one can fulfill.

Seek Christ in repentance and faith

The unconverted are urged to come to Christ, begging for repentance and faith, with the assurance that He will not cast them out.

Lecture support: Weaver uses John 6:37 and the lepers' story to encourage seeking Christ: 'If you went to Christ and begged him for mercy... would you be any more damned than you already are? The answer is no.'

Find assurance in a transformed life

Evidence of election is seen in a life of repentance, faith, and obedience, as demonstrated by the Thessalonians.

Lecture support: Weaver points to 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10, where Paul knew their election by their reception of the word and turning from idols.

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

Do You Possess Eternal Life? - 2

December 19, 2004

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-43.

Major Themes

Eternal Life as Present Reality

Eternal life is not merely a future state after death but a present possession and experience for believers, to be actively laid hold of now.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from 1 Timothy 6:12,19 that the command to 'lay hold on eternal life' implies it is a present phenomenon, and from John 6:54 that the Greek present tense indicates 'is having eternal life' now.

Intimate Knowledge of God as the Essence of Eternal Life

Eternal life is defined as an intimate, personal, and experiential knowledge of God the Father and Jesus Christ, not mere intellectual or historical knowledge.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds John 17:3, 'And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent,' and explains the Greek word *ginōskō* as denoting deep, personal intimacy.

Participation in Christ Through His Word

Believers sustain eternal life by continually feeding on Christ, which is done by devouring His Word and being conformed to His image through the Spirit.

Lecture support: Weaver interprets John 6:54-58, 63, 68 to show that eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood means living by His words, and cites 2 Corinthians 3:18 on being transformed into His image.

The Necessity of Christ's Active Obedience

Salvation requires not only Christ's death for forgiveness but His perfect law-keeping to provide a righteousness imputed to believers, enabling them to stand before God.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Galatians 4:4 and 2 Corinthians 5:21, stating that Christ was made under the law to obey it perfectly for His people, and that believers are made the righteousness of God in Him.

The Inseparability of Knowing the Father and the Son

True saving knowledge involves both the Father and the Son; one cannot know one without the other, and to dishonor one is to dishonor both.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Peter 3:18 ('that he might bring us to God') and John 5:23 to argue that Christ brings us to the Father, and that honoring the Son is essential to honoring the Father.

Eternal Life as a Foretaste of Glory

The present experience of eternal life is a foretaste of the perfect, unending communion with God in glory, where believers will forever learn of and worship Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states that what we have now is 'just a foretaste of what we are to have in glory' and describes eternity as 'loving, serving, worshipping, adoring, and praising' God.

Key Arguments

Eternal life must be a present reality because believers are commanded to lay hold of it now.

If eternal life were only a future state after death, the command in 1 Timothy 6:12,19 to 'lay hold on eternal life' would be meaningless for living believers.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'If eternal life is only living forever and you only get it when you die, how can there be a command given in the Bible to lay hold of eternal life?'

The Greek present tense in John 6:54 indicates a continuous, present possession of eternal life.

The phrase 'hath eternal life' in John 6:54 is in the present tense, meaning 'is having eternal life,' showing it is a current experience for those who feed on Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'In the Greek, it is in the present tense... Whoso is continually eating my flesh and continually drinking my blood is having eternal life.'

Eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood is a metaphor for continually receiving His Word.

Jesus explains in John 6:63 that His words are spirit and life, so feeding on Christ means devouring Scripture and applying it to one's life.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'How do we eat and drink Jesus Christ? By devouring His word as the Holy Spirit of God makes that word real to us.'

The biblical word 'know' denotes intimate, personal relationship, not mere intellectual awareness.

In passages like Genesis 4:1 and Matthew 1:25, 'know' refers to sexual intimacy, illustrating that knowing God in John 17:3 is a deep, personal communion.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The word 'know' in the Bible... is an idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and his wife,' and applies this to knowing God.

One cannot know the Father without knowing the Son, and vice versa.

Christ's work brings us to the Father (1 Peter 3:18), and honoring the Son is equated with honoring the Father (John 5:23), so saving knowledge of one requires knowledge of the other.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'If one does not know Jesus Christ, then one does not know the Father. Likewise, if one does not know the Father, then he does not know Jesus Christ savingly.'

Christ's active obedience to the law is necessary for our salvation, not just His death.

Forgiveness alone would keep us out of hell but not gain us entrance into God's presence; we need Christ's perfect righteousness imputed to us.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Suppose all that Jesus Christ did for you was to die as your substitute... Would that be enough to get you into the presence of God the Father? ... The answer is no.'

Present enjoyment of communion with God is a prerequisite for enjoying eternal life in glory.

If a person detests communion with God now, they will not enjoy the eternal state, which consists of worship and adoration, not worldly pleasures.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you detest and despise communion with the Father now, you're not going to like the eternal state at all.'

Scripture References

Matthew 19:16

The rich young ruler asks Jesus what good thing he must do to inherit eternal life.

Mark 10:17

The rich young ruler runs to Jesus, kneels, and asks what he must do to inherit eternal life.

Luke 10:25

A lawyer stands up to test Jesus, asking what he must do to inherit eternal life.

Luke 18:18

A certain ruler asks Jesus, 'Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?'

1 Timothy 6:12

Paul commands Timothy, a man of God, to 'lay hold on eternal life,' implying it is a present pursuit.

1 Timothy 6:19

Believers are charged to lay hold on eternal life, showing it is not merely a future inheritance.

John 6:54-58

Jesus teaches that whoever eats His flesh and drinks His blood has eternal life, and He will raise them up at the last day.

John 6:63

Jesus says His words are spirit and life, indicating that feeding on Him is through His Word.

John 6:68

Peter confesses that Jesus has the words of eternal life, linking eternal life to Christ's words.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

Believers beholding the glory of the Lord in the mirror of His Word are transformed into His image by the Spirit.

John 17:1-3

Jesus prays that the Father would glorify Him so that He may give eternal life to those given Him, defining eternal life as knowing God and Christ.

Genesis 4:1

Adam knew his wife, and she conceived, illustrating the intimate meaning of 'know.'

Matthew 1:25

Joseph knew Mary not until she had brought forth Jesus, showing 'know' refers to sexual intimacy.

Luke 1:34

Mary asks how she can conceive since she knows not a man, using 'know' for sexual relations.

Amos 3:2

God says to Israel, 'You only have I known of all the families of the earth,' indicating a special, intimate relationship.

Matthew 7:21-23

Jesus warns that many will call Him Lord but He will profess, 'I never knew you,' showing that mere profession without intimate knowledge is insufficient.

1 Corinthians 8:5-6

Paul acknowledges many so-called gods but affirms there is one God, the Father, and one Lord, Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:18

Christ suffered for sins to bring us to God, showing that knowing Christ leads to knowing the Father.

2 Peter 1:3

God's divine power has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made Christ, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'lay hold on eternal life' as a present command, and how does this challenge the common view that eternal life is only a future inheritance?

Consider: Weaver argues from 1 Timothy 6:12,19 that believers are commanded to actively take hold of eternal life now, not just wait for it after death.

2. How does the metaphor of eating Christ's flesh and drinking His blood in John 6 relate to our daily practice of reading Scripture and prayer?

Consider: Weaver explains that feeding on Christ means continually devouring His Word and applying it, making it as essential as daily food.

3. In what ways is the biblical concept of 'knowing' God deeper than intellectual belief, and how can we cultivate that intimate knowledge?

Consider: Weaver shows from Genesis and the Gospels that 'know' implies intimate union, and applies this to our relationship with God.

4. Why is it impossible to truly know God the Father without knowing Jesus Christ, and vice versa?

Consider: Weaver argues from 1 Peter 3:18 and John 5:23 that Christ brings us to the Father, and honoring one requires honoring the other.

5. How does the doctrine of Christ's active obedience (His perfect law-keeping) impact our assurance of salvation?

Consider: Weaver explains that we need Christ's imputed righteousness, not just forgiveness, to stand before God.

6. What does it mean to enjoy eternal life now as a foretaste of glory, and how should that shape our daily worship and priorities?

Consider: Weaver concludes that present communion with God is a foretaste of eternal worship, and warns that despising it now means we won't enjoy heaven.

7. How does the warning of Matthew 7:21-23 ('I never knew you') challenge our understanding of what it means to be a genuine Christian?

Consider: Weaver uses this passage to show that many who profess Christ lack the intimate knowledge that constitutes eternal life.

Applications

Actively pursue eternal life now

Believers are commanded to 'lay hold on eternal life' as a present reality, not passively wait for it after death. This involves actively engaging in the means of grace.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'There is an application, there is an apprehension, a laying hold of eternal life now in time and history, but the fullness of it will only come in glory.'

Feed on Christ daily through His Word

Just as we need physical food daily, we must continually feed on Christ by reading, meditating on, and obeying Scripture, which is His flesh and blood.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'How do we eat and drink Jesus Christ? By devouring His word as the Holy Spirit of God makes that word real to us as we apply it to our lives.'

Cultivate intimate knowledge of God

Eternal life is knowing God personally and intimately, not just knowing about Him. This requires a relationship marked by love, reverence, and obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Eternal life consists in knowing, living upon, having communion with, enjoying endless satisfaction in and with a triune God through the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Be conformed to Christ's image

As we behold Christ in Scripture, the Spirit transforms us into His likeness. This progressive sanctification is part of participating in eternal life.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Corinthians 3:18: 'But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory.'

Rest in Christ's imputed righteousness

Our standing before God depends not on our own law-keeping but on Christ's perfect obedience credited to us. This should give us assurance and humility.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God took our sin and imputed it to Jesus Christ. And then God took the perfect righteousness of Jesus Christ and imputed it... and gave it to us.'

Examine your present communion with God

If you do not enjoy communion with God now, you will not enjoy eternity, which is centered on worship. Use this as a test of genuine faith.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If you detest and despise communion with the Father now, you're not going to like the eternal state at all.'

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: Do You Possess Eternal Life? - 1

Lecture JW00994

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00994&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00994&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Do You Possess Eternal Life? - 2

Lecture JW00993

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00993&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

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

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