**WEAVER STUDY GUIDES**

# The Fear of God

*Study Guide*

Biblical Worldview

---

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: Christians Who Despised God . . . . . 4**

Major Themes . . . . . 4
Key Arguments . . . . . 5
Scripture References . . . . . 6
Discussion Questions . . . . . 8
Applications . . . . . 11
Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 12

**Lesson 2: Christians That Despise God . . . . . 13**

Major Themes . . . . . 13
Key Arguments . . . . . 14
Scripture References . . . . . 15
Discussion Questions . . . . . 18
Applications . . . . . 21
Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 22

**Lesson 3: Despising God . . . . . 23**

Major Themes . . . . . 23
Key Arguments . . . . . 24
Scripture References . . . . . 25
Discussion Questions . . . . . 27
Applications . . . . . 29
Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 30

**Lesson 4: Perfecting Holiness Part 5 of 5 - In The Fear of God . . . . . 31**

Major Themes . . . . . 31
Key Arguments . . . . . 32
Scripture References . . . . . 33
Discussion Questions . . . . . 35

Applications . . . . . 37
Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 38

**Lesson 5: Pastor John Weaver - Learning to Fear the Lord . . . . . 39**
Major Themes . . . . . 39
Key Arguments . . . . . 40
Scripture References . . . . . 41
Discussion Questions . . . . . 44
Applications . . . . . 47
Personal Application and Notes . . . . . 48

**Online Lecture Resources . . . . . 49**

---

# Using this guide

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 1

# Christians Who Despised God

August 21, 2016

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-20 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

---

## Major Themes

### The Inseparability of God and His Word

To despise God's commandments is to despise God Himself; one cannot claim to love God while rejecting His Word.

**Lecture support:** In 2 Samuel 12:9-10, God equates David's despising of the commandment with despising Him. John 12:48 shows Christ and His Word are one.

### Actions Reveal the Heart

A person's walk and conduct demonstrate whether they truly fear God or despise Him, regardless of profession.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2 contrasts walking in uprightness with perverse ways; Matthew 7:16,20 teach that fruits reveal the real person.

### The Possibility of Believers Despising God

Even genuine Christians, like David, can despise God through disobedience and disregard for His commandments.

**Lecture support:** David, a man after God's own heart, despised God by committing adultery and murder (2 Samuel 12:9-10).

### Old Testament Examples as Warnings

The sins and judgments of Israel serve as admonitions for New Testament believers to avoid despising God.

**Lecture support:** 1 Corinthians 10:11 states that these things happened as examples and were written for our admonition.

### Consequences of Despising God

Despising God leads to destruction, being lightly esteemed, and severe judgment, as seen in Israel's history and Hebrews 10.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 13:13 warns destruction; 1 Samuel 2:30 says those who despise God will be lightly esteemed; Hebrews 10:28-29 speaks of sorer punishment.

### Despising God Through Rejecting His Messengers

Refusing to hear and obey the preaching of God's Word is equivalent to despising God Himself.

**Lecture support:** 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 shows Israel mocked messengers and despised God's words; Luke 10:16 says he that despises the messenger despises Christ.

---

## Key Arguments

### Profession is not enough; actions reveal true fear or despising of God.

One's walk demonstrates whether they fear the Lord or are perverse and despise Him.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2 and Matthew 7:16,20 are cited to show that fruits, not words, reveal the heart.

### Despising God's law is despising God.

Because God and His Word are one, disobedience to His commandments constitutes despising Him.

**Lecture support:** 2 Samuel 12:9-10 shows God equating despising the commandment with despising Him; John 12:48 shows Christ and His Word are one.

### David, a man after God's own heart, despised God.

David's sin with Bathsheba and Uriah is presented as proof that a genuine believer can despise God.

**Lecture support:** 2 Samuel 12:9-10 records God's words: 'thou hast despised me.'

### Esau's example warns against despising spiritual blessings.

Esau is called a fornicator and profane person for despising his birthright, illustrating the danger of treating holy things as common.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 12:16-17 describes Esau selling his birthright for one morsel of meat.

### Israel's history is a warning for Christians.

The Old Testament accounts of Israel despising God's statutes were written for our admonition.

**Lecture support:** 1 Corinthians 10:11 says these things happened for ensamples and are written for our admonition.

### Despising God brings reciprocal despising and judgment.

God honors those who honor Him and lightly esteems those who despise Him; despising His Word leads to destruction.

**Lecture support:** 1 Samuel 2:30; Proverbs 13:13; Hebrews 10:28-29.

**Rejecting God's messengers is rejecting God.**

When people mock or refuse to hear God's preachers, they are despising God's words and thus despising God.

**Lecture support:** 2 Chronicles 36:15-16; Luke 10:16.

---

## Scripture References

**Proverbs 14:2**

The main text: 'He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.'

**Matthew 7:16**

Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

**Matthew 7:20**

Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

**Proverbs 4:23**

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

**Matthew 15:18-19**

For out of the heart the mouth speaketh.

**Isaiah 49:7**

Thus saith the Lord... to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth...

**Isaiah 53:3**

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows... we esteemed him not.

**Matthew 6:24**

No man can serve two masters... Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

**Acts 13:22**

I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart...

**2 Samuel 11:26-27**

But the thing that David had done displeased the Lord.

**2 Samuel 12:7-12**

Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord… because thou hast despised me…

**Psalm 138:2**

God and His Word are one (alluded to).

**John 12:48**

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

**Hebrews 12:15-17**

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

**Leviticus 26:14-16, 43**

If ye shall despise my statutes… I will appoint over you terror…

**Numbers 11:20**

Because that ye have despised the Lord which is among you…

**Numbers 14:31**

They shall know the land which ye have despised.

**Numbers 15:29-31**

Because he hath despised the word of the Lord… that soul shall utterly be cut off.

**Isaiah 5:24**

Because they have cast away the law of the Lord of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

**Romans 15:4**

For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning…

## Discussion Questions

**1.** How does Proverbs 14:2 challenge the common assumption that a Christian would never despise God?

**Consider:** The sermon argues that actions, not words, reveal whether we fear or despise God.

**2.** In what ways might a believer today 'despise the commandment of the Lord' as David did?

**Consider:** David's sin is used as an example of a genuine believer despising God through disobedience.

**3.** Why is it impossible to separate God from His Word, and what are the practical implications?

**Consider:** The sermon emphasizes that God and His law are one, so rejecting His Word is rejecting Him.

**4.** How does the example of Esau serve as a warning for Christians today?

**Consider:** Esau is called a fornicator and profane person for despising his birthright.

**5.** What can we learn from Israel's repeated despising of God's statutes, and how does 1 Corinthians 10 apply this to us?

**Consider:** Old Testament examples are given as admonitions for New Testament believers.

**6.** How might we be guilty of despising God in the context of hearing preaching?

**Consider:** 2 Chronicles 36 and Luke 10:16 show that rejecting God's messengers is despising God.

**7.** What does Hebrews 10:28-29 teach about the seriousness of despising Christ?

**Consider:** The passage warns of sorer punishment for treading under foot the Son of God.

**8.** How can we guard against the subtle ways we might despise God in our daily lives?

**Consider:** The sermon calls for sober self-examination of attitudes and actions.

# Applications

### Examine your walk

Evaluate whether your conduct demonstrates fear of the Lord or reveals a despising heart.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2 contrasts walking in uprightness with perverse ways.

### Obey God's commandments

Recognize that disobedience to God's Word is despising God; commit to obeying His commands.

**Lecture support:** David's sin was called despising the commandment and despising God (2 Samuel 12:9-10).

### Honor God's messengers

Receive the preaching and teaching of God's Word with reverence, knowing that to reject it is to reject God.

**Lecture support:** Luke 10:16 and 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 show that despising messengers is despising God.

### Avoid profane attitudes

Do not treat spiritual duties and blessings as common or worthless, like Esau.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 12:16-17 warns against being a profane person like Esau.

### Handle matters God's way

Instead of following your own methods, submit to God's instructions in all areas of life.

**Lecture support:** The deacon's tragic story illustrates the danger of handling things in one's own way.

### Live soberly and righteously

Measure your thoughts, actions, and conduct by the standard of God's Word.

**Lecture support:** The sermon concludes with a call to consider our actions in light of the possibility of despising God.

## 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

# Christians That Despise God

November 16, 2016

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-40 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

---

## Major Themes

### Actions reveal true regard for God

Profession of love for God is meaningless if one's walk is perverse; conduct demonstrates whether one fears or despises the Lord.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2; Matthew 7:16-20; the contrast between profession and action is emphasized throughout.

### Inseparability of God and His Word

One cannot love God and despise His commandments; to reject God's law is to reject God Himself.

**Lecture support:** John 12:48; Psalm 138:2; the argument that a king rules by his law.

### Believers can despise God

David, a man after God's own heart, despised God through his sin, proving that genuine Christians can hold God in contempt.

**Lecture support:** 2 Samuel 12:9-10; Acts 13:22.

### Despising God brings severe consequences

Scripture repeatedly warns that those who despise God and His Word will be destroyed, lightly esteemed, or face sorer punishment.

**Lecture support:** 1 Samuel 2:30; Proverbs 13:13; Hebrews 10:28-29; Isaiah 5:24-25.

### Spiritual fornication and profanity

Using one's body unlawfully by despising God's will is spiritual fornication; treating holy things as common is profanity, as seen in Esau.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 12:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:13-20.

### Despising God's messengers is despising God

Mocking or rejecting those who bring God's Word is equivalent to despising God and His Word.

**Lecture support:** 2 Chronicles 36:15-16; Luke 10:16.

---

## Key Arguments

### Profession is not proof of fearing God

Many professing Christians would deny despising God, but their actions often reveal contempt for His commandments.

**Lecture support:** The adage 'I can't hear what you're saying for the way that you're acting' and Matthew 7:16-20.

### David's sin was despising God

God explicitly charged David with despising His commandment and despising Him, showing that a true believer can despise God.

**Lecture support:** 2 Samuel 12:9-10.

### Violating any commandment violates the first

When one disobeys any of God's laws, they have dethroned God and enthroned themselves, breaking the first commandment.

**Lecture support:** David's adultery, murder, and coveting all stemmed from setting himself up as God.

### God and His law are inseparable

A king rules by his law; to have no regard for God's law is to have no regard for God. Jesus said rejecting His words is rejecting Him.

**Lecture support:** John 12:48; Psalm 138:2.

### Esau's example of despising holy things

Esau despised his birthright, which was a holy responsibility, and is called a fornicator and profane person for treating it as worthless.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 12:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:13-20.

### Old Testament examples are warnings for us

The Old Testament accounts of Israel despising God were written for our admonition, as stated in Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11.

**Lecture support:** Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:1-11.

### New Testament confirms despising God's commands is despising God

1 Thessalonians 4:8 states that he who despises God's commands regarding sanctification despises not man but God.

**Lecture support:** 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8.

### Despising God's messengers is despising God

When Israel mocked the prophets, they despised God's words and God Himself; Jesus said despising His disciples is despising Him.

**Lecture support:** 2 Chronicles 36:15-16; Luke 10:16.

---

## Scripture References

### Proverbs 14:2

The main text: walking in uprightness fears the Lord, but being perverse in one's ways despises Him.

### Matthew 7:16

Jesus said you shall know them by their fruits; actions reveal the heart.

### Matthew 7:20

By their fruits you shall know them.

### Proverbs 4:23

Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life.

### Isaiah 49:7

The Messiah is described as one whom man despises and the nation abhors.

### Isaiah 53:3

Christ was despised and rejected of men; we esteemed Him not.

### Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters; he will hate one and love the other, or hold to one and despise the other.

### Acts 13:22

God's testimony that David was a man after His own heart.

**2 Samuel 11:26-27**

David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah displeased the Lord.

**2 Samuel 12:7-10**

Nathan confronts David: 'Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the Lord... because thou hast despised me.'

**Psalm 138:2**

God has magnified His Word above all His name.

**John 12:48**

He that rejects Christ and receives not His words has one that judges him: the word spoken will judge him.

**Hebrews 12:16-17**

Esau is called a fornicator and profane person for selling his birthright for one morsel of meat.

**1 Corinthians 6:13-20**

The body is not for fornication but for the Lord; your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost.

**Leviticus 26:14-16, 43**

If you despise my statutes and abhor my judgments, I will appoint terror over you; they despised my judgments.

**Numbers 11:20**

Israel despised the Lord by weeping and complaining about leaving Egypt.

**Numbers 14:31**

The land which they despised by refusing to enter will be given to their little ones.

**Numbers 15:30-31**

The soul that sins presumptuously despises the word of the Lord and shall be cut off.

**Isaiah 5:20-24**

Woe to those who call evil good; they have cast away the law of the Lord and despised the word of the Holy One.

**Romans 15:4**

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** In what ways might a professing Christian's actions reveal that they despise God, even if they verbally deny it?

**Consider:** Based on the contrast between profession and action in Proverbs 14:2 and Matthew 7:16-20.

**2.** How does David's sin illustrate that a genuine believer can despise God, and what can we learn from his example?

**Consider:** From the account in 2 Samuel 11-12 and God's charge in 2 Samuel 12:9-10.

**3.** Why is it impossible to separate one's attitude toward God from one's attitude toward His Word?

**Consider:** Based on John 12:48 and the principle that a king rules by his law.

**4.** In what ways might Christians today be guilty of 'spiritual fornication' or 'profanity' like Esau?

**Consider:** From Hebrews 12:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 6:13-20 regarding using our bodies unlawfully and treating holy things as common.

**5.** How should the Old Testament warnings about despising God impact our daily walk as New Testament believers?

**Consider:** Considering Romans 15:4 and 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11 that these things were written for our admonition.

**6.** What does it mean to 'despise God's messengers' today, and how can we avoid this sin?

**Consider:** From 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 and Luke 10:16.

**7.** How does the warning in Hebrews 10:28-29 about a 'sorer punishment' affect your understanding of the seriousness of despising God?

**Consider:** The contrast between the punishment under Moses' law and the punishment for trampling the Son of God.

**8.** What practical steps can we take to examine our lives and ensure we are not despising God in our attitudes and actions?

**Consider:** From the application to examine our lives and bring them into conformity to God's Word.

# Applications

### Examine your life for evidence of despising God

Christians must examine their attitudes, actions, and conduct to ensure they are not treating God with contempt by disobeying His Word.

**Lecture support:** The call to examine our lives in light of Proverbs 14:2 and the example of David.

### Bring your life into conformity with God's Word

To avoid despising God, believers must align their lives with Scripture, not act contrary to it.

**Lecture support:** The application that acting against God's Word is despising Him.

### Recognize the seriousness of despising God

Understand that despising God's commands is trampling the Son of God underfoot and counting His blood as unholy, leading to severe judgment.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 10:28-29 and the warning of sorer punishment.

### Repent of despising God

Confess times of despising God and seek His forgiveness, determining to serve Him acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**Lecture support:** The closing prayer confessing that we have despised God and asking for grace to serve Him.

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 3

# Despising God

February 22, 2026

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 41-57 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

---

## Major Themes

### Despising God through disobedience

Walking perversely, or living in disobedience to God's commands, is equivalent to despising God Himself.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2: 'He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.'

### Lex Talionis (Law of Retribution)

God makes the punishment fit the crime: those who despise Him will be despised by Him.

**Lecture support:** 1 Samuel 2:30: 'For them that honor me, will I honor. And they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'

### Despising God's Word

Refusing to read, study, obey, or apply God's Word is a direct way of despising God.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 19:16: 'He that despiseth his ways shall die.'

### Despising God's Promises

Ignoring or failing to claim God's promises is a form of despising Him.

**Lecture support:** Numbers 14: Israel's unbelief in the promised land.

### Despising God's Providence

Complaining about circumstances is despising God's sovereign providence.

**Lecture support:** Numbers 11: Israel's lusting for meat and despising the Lord.

### The Foolishness of Man

Foolishness is refusing instruction and correction, which perverts one's way and leads to fretting against the Lord.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 19:3: 'The foolishness of man perverteth his way, and his heart fretteth against the Lord.'

### Unanswered Prayer as Judgment

When we turn away from hearing God's law, our prayers become an abomination to Him.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 28:9: 'He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination.'

### Learning from Old Testament Examples

Old Testament events were written for our admonition to warn us against sin.

**Lecture support:** 1 Corinthians 10:11: 'Now all these things happened unto them for examples and they're written for our admonition.'

---

## Key Arguments

### Christians can despise God

It is possible for genuine believers to despise God by despising His Word, promises, and providence.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states: 'It is possible that a real, genuine Christian, a true believer, can despise his Heavenly Father.'

### Despising God's Word equals despising God

You cannot separate God from His Word; despising His commandments is despising Him.

**Lecture support:** 2 Samuel 12: God said to David, 'Thou hast despised my commandments' and 'Thou hast despised me.'

### Lex talionis in prayer

If we refuse to hear God's Word, He will refuse to hear our prayers.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 28:9: 'He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination.'

### Complaining is despising God's providence

Murmuring against circumstances is despising the Lord who ordains them.

**Lecture support:** Numbers 11:20: 'Because that you have despised the Lord which is among you.'

### God's retributive justice is certain

Those who permanently despise God will be despised by Him for eternity.

**Lecture support:** Psalm 73:20: 'So when thou awakenest, thou shalt despise their image.'

## Scripture References

**Proverbs 14:2**

The main text: 'He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.'

**1 Samuel 2:22-30**

Eli's sons' wickedness and God's judgment: 'For them that honor me, will I honor. And they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'

**Psalm 1:6**

The Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

**Proverbs 19:3**

The foolishness of man perverteth his way, and his heart fretteth against the Lord.

**Proverbs 15:5**

A fool despises his father's instruction.

**Proverbs 18:2**

A fool hath no delight in understanding.

**Proverbs 27:22**

Though you bray a fool in a mortar, his foolishness will not depart.

**Isaiah 47:10**

Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee.

**Proverbs 19:16**

He that despiseth his ways shall die.

**Leviticus 26:13-16**

If you despise my statutes, I will appoint terror over you.

**Proverbs 28:9**

He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination.

**Psalm 119:127**

Therefore I love thy commandments above gold.

**Psalm 138:2**

Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

**2 Samuel 12**

Nathan tells David: 'Thou hast despised my commandments' and 'Thou hast despised me.'

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

All the promises of God in him are yea, and in him amen.

**1 Kings 8:56**

There hath not failed one word of all his good promise.

**Ephesians 1:3**

Blessed be God who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings.

**2 Peter 1:4**

Exceeding great and precious promises are given unto us.

**Numbers 11:4-23**

Israel lusts for meat and despises the Lord; God promises to give them flesh until it comes out their nostrils.

**Romans 15:4**

Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** In what ways might a genuine Christian unknowingly despise God in daily life?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that Christians can despise God by despising His Word, promises, and providence.

**2.** How does the principle of lex talionis (law of retribution) affect your understanding of God's justice?

**Consider:** God makes the punishment fit the crime: those who despise Him are lightly esteemed.

**3.** Why is refusing to hear God's Word equated with despising God Himself?

**Consider:** Weaver states that you cannot separate God from His Word.

**4.** How can we guard against despising God's providence when circumstances are difficult?

**Consider:** Complaining about circumstances is a form of despising God's sovereign control.

**5.** What does Proverbs 28:9 teach about the relationship between obedience and prayer?

**Consider:** Turning away from hearing the law makes one's prayer an abomination.

**6.** How should the Old Testament examples of Israel's rebellion serve as warnings for us today?

**Consider:** 1 Corinthians 10 says these things were written for our admonition.

**7.** What does it mean to 'despise prophesying' (1 Thessalonians 5:20) in a modern context?

**Consider:** Weaver warns against despising preaching and teaching of God's Word.

# Applications

### Examine your walk

Evaluate whether you are walking in uprightness fearing God or walking perversely despising Him.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 14:2 presents two mutually exclusive ways of living.

### Treasure God's Word

Do not despise God's Word by neglecting to read, study, obey, and apply it.

**Lecture support:** Despising God's commandments is despising God Himself (2 Samuel 12).

### Claim God's promises

Actively trust and claim the promises of God rather than ignoring them.

**Lecture support:** All God's promises are yea and amen in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20).

### Stop complaining

Recognize that murmuring about circumstances is despising God's providence.

**Lecture support:** Israel's complaining in Numbers 11 was despising the Lord.

### Receive correction

Do not be a fool who despises instruction; instead, be prudent and accept reproof.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 15:5: A fool despises his father's instruction.

### Pray with humility

Ensure your prayers are not hindered by a refusal to hear and obey God's Word.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 28:9: Turning away from the law makes prayer an abomination.

### Learn from biblical examples

Study Old Testament narratives as warnings to avoid the same sins.

**Lecture support:** 1 Corinthians 10:11: These things were written for our admonition.

### Do not despise chastening

Accept God's discipline as a sign of His love, not as something to despise.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 12:5: Despise not the chastening of the Lord.

## 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 4

# Perfecting Holiness Part 5 of 5 - In The Fear of God

November 28, 2012

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 59-74 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

---

## Major Themes

### Perfecting Holiness as a Continuous Process

Holiness is not a static state but an active, ongoing progression toward maturity and Christlikeness. Believers are to constantly and continually grow in practical holiness.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains the Greek present active participle: 'It means you are in the process of becoming perfect or becoming mature or becoming complete.' He states, 'We should be more holy today, practically speaking, than we were yesterday.'

### The Fear of God as the Sphere for Holiness

True holiness can only be cultivated within a proper fear of God - a reverential, filial fear that acknowledges His authority, power, and fatherly discipline, leading to obedience and departure from evil.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The only sphere in which we're going to be able to perfect holiness is in the fear of God.' He cites Proverbs 16:6: 'by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.'

### Obedience and Chastisement

God disciplines His children for their profit, to make them partakers of His holiness. Obedient children avoid chastisement by living holy lives, while disobedience invites God's corrective discipline.

**Lecture support:** Weaver references Hebrews 12:9-10: 'he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.' He states, 'If you don't want to be chastised, be an obedient child.'

### The Necessity of Practical Holiness

Positional holiness in Christ is perfect, but believers are responsible for practical holiness. Without practical holiness, no one will see the Lord. True holiness involves hating evil and conforming to God's character.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Hebrews 12:14: 'Without holiness no man shall see the Lord.' He summarizes Ryle's list of holy characteristics, including shunning sin and pursuing Christlikeness.

## Key Arguments

### Perfecting holiness is a present, active, and continuous duty, not an attained state.

The Greek participle indicates an ongoing process of maturing and completing holiness, not a claim of sinless perfection. Believers must daily progress in holiness.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states: 'It means you are presently and actively engaged in doing something... you are in the process of becoming perfect.' He adds, 'We should be more holy this year than we were last year.'

### The fear of God is essential for departing from evil and perfecting holiness.

A biblical fear of God - reverential, not slavish - motivates obedience, restrains sin, and is the only sphere in which holiness can mature. Without it, progress in holiness is impossible.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'It is impossible to make progress in holiness or in the Christian life without a biblical fear of God.' He cites Proverbs 16:6: 'by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.'

### God's chastisement is a blessing that produces holiness and proves sonship.

Divine discipline is not punitive but corrective, aimed at making believers partakers of God's holiness and preventing condemnation with the world. Those without chastisement are not true sons.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains Hebrews 12:8-10: 'if ye be without chastisement... then are ye bastards, and not sons.' He notes chastening is 'that we might be partakers of his holiness.'

### True holiness involves comprehensive moral transformation, not mere external religion.

Ryle's summary shows that holiness is not knowledge, profession, or outward conduct, but a heart conformity to God, shunning all known sin, and pursuing Christlike virtues.

**Lecture support:** Weaver lists Ryle's points: 'Holiness is the habit of being of one mind with God... a holy man will endeavor to shun every known sin... strive to be like the Lord Jesus Christ.'

## Scripture References

### 2 Corinthians 7:1

The primary text of the series: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'

### 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

The promises referred to in 7:1: God will be our God, dwell among us, and be a Father to us if we separate from uncleanness.

### Matthew 5:48

Command to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect, supporting the call to perfect holiness.

### Romans 12:1-2

Exhortation to present bodies as living sacrifices and be transformed to prove the perfect will of God.

### Philippians 3:15

'Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded' - showing the expectation of maturity.

### James 1:4

'Let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.'

### Hebrews 5:12-14

Rebuke for spiritual regression; contrast between milk and strong meat, babes and mature.

### Psalm 84:7

'They go from strength to strength' - illustrating progress in holiness.

### Philippians 3:13-14

Paul's example of forgetting the past and pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling.

### Ephesians 4:11-14

Purpose of pastor-teachers: perfecting saints, edifying the body, attaining unity and maturity, no longer children.

**Jeremiah 5:22**

God asks, 'Fear ye not me? will ye not tremble at my presence?' highlighting His power in creation.

**Exodus 20:20**

Moses says, 'Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.'

**Hebrews 12:9-13**

Comparison between earthly fathers' discipline and God's chastening for our profit, to produce holiness and righteousness.

**1 Peter 1:13-16**

Call to be holy as God is holy, as obedient children not conforming to former lusts.

**1 Corinthians 11:31-32**

If we judge ourselves, we avoid judgment; when judged, we are chastened to avoid condemnation with the world.

**Deuteronomy 6:13**

'Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him.'

**Deuteronomy 10:20**

'Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave.'

**Proverbs 8:13**

'The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way.'

**Proverbs 16:6**

'By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.'

**Job 28:28**

'Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.'

## Discussion Questions

**1.** What does it mean to 'perfect holiness' as a present active participle, and how does this differ from the idea of attaining sinless perfection?

**Consider:** Weaver explains the Greek grammar and contrasts ongoing maturation with a completed state.

**2.** How does the fear of God function as the sphere in which holiness is perfected, and what is the difference between a filial fear and a slavish fear?

**Consider:** Weaver discusses John Gill's distinction and the role of reverence versus terror.

**3.** In what ways does God's chastisement demonstrate His love and produce holiness in believers?

**Consider:** Weaver expounds Hebrews 12:9-11, showing discipline as for our profit and partaking of holiness.

**4.** According to J.C. Ryle's summary, what are some marks of true practical holiness, and how do they challenge superficial religiosity?

**Consider:** Weaver lists Ryle's 12 characteristics, contrasting them with mere knowledge, profession, or outward conduct.

**5.** Why is it impossible to make progress in holiness without a biblical fear of God, and how does Proverbs 16:6 support this?

**Consider:** Weaver states the impossibility and cites the verse that fear of the Lord causes departure from evil.

**6.** How can believers practically 'cleanse themselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit' on a daily basis?

**Consider:** Weaver emphasizes the continuous, moment-by-moment nature of purging and the need for divine enablement.

# Applications

### Pursue daily progress in practical holiness

Believers should aim to be more holy today than yesterday, constantly growing in conformity to Christ and not content with spiritual stagnation.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states: 'We should be more holy today, practically speaking, than we were yesterday. That is perfecting holiness.'

### Cultivate a reverential fear of God

Develop a filial fear that respects God's authority, loves His person, and trusts His Word, leading to obedience and departure from evil.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains: 'It is this filial fear that restrains us from committing sin... motivates us to be holy as He is holy.'

### Embrace God's discipline as a blessing

View chastisement as evidence of sonship and a means to partake of God's holiness, responding with submission rather than despising it.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says: 'God's chastening is always a blessing... to make us more holy.'

### Hate and forsake all sin

True holiness requires abhorring even small sins, repenting of them, and turning from them completely, not tolerating any known sin.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states: 'If you really, genuinely, truly want to be holy, you cannot be content with any sin in your life, no matter how small.'

### Strive for comprehensive Christlikeness

Pursue the full range of holy virtues listed by Ryle: meekness, purity, love, humility, spiritual mindedness, and faithfulness in all duties.

**Lecture support:** Weaver summarizes Ryle's 12 marks of a holy man, including being of one mind with God and shunning every known sin.

## 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

# Pastor John Weaver - Learning to Fear the Lord

January 05, 2026

Read Chapter 5 in the companion book, pages 75-93 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

---

## Major Themes

### The Nature of True Fear of the Lord

True biblical fear is not mere intellectual belief or human tradition but a reverential awe that leads to obedience, wisdom, and departure from evil.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'There is a real, genuine fear of God, and that fear always leads to obedience.' He cites Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 16:6.

### The Source of the Fear of God is Divine Regeneration

The fear of the Lord is not self-generated but implanted by God through the new birth, as promised in the New Covenant.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Jeremiah 32:39-40: 'I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me,' and Ezekiel 36:26-27.

### The Absence of Fear Produces Wickedness

Where there is no fear of God, oppression, violence, and all manner of sin flourish, as seen in biblical examples and contemporary society.

**Lecture support:** Weaver references Genesis 20:11, Leviticus 25:17,36,43, and Deuteronomy 25:17-19, and applies it to modern violence.

### Means of Increasing the Fear of the Lord

Believers can and must increase their fear of God through hearing His Word, obedience, daily Scripture reading, expository preaching, and personal application.

**Lecture support:** Weaver expounds five passages: Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 14:23; 17:18-20; 31:12-13; and Psalm 34:11.

### The Connection Between Fear, Faith, and Obedience

Increased fear of God results in increased faith, submission, obedience, and humility; these graces grow together.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'If there is an increase in the fear of the Lord in your life, there's going to be an increase of faith, there's going to be an increase of submission, there's going to be an increase of obedience, and there's also going to be an increase in humility.'

### Blessings Promised to Those Who Fear God

Scripture promises manifold blessings - protection, provision, deliverance, and God's attentive care - to those who fear Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver reads Psalm 31:19; 33:18; 34:7,9, and summarizes the blessings in Psalm 34.

---

## Key Arguments

### True fear of God is evidenced by obedience

Weaver argues that genuine fear of the Lord inevitably produces obedience; if one is disobedient, he does not truly fear God.

**Lecture support:** He states, 'If one does not really, truly, biblically fear God, he is not going to obey God.'

### The fear of God is a sovereign gift of regeneration

Man cannot produce or impart the fear of God; it is implanted by God alone when He gives a new heart.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The implantation of the fear of God comes through the act of regeneration. It is an act of God's sovereign power and authority.'

### Hearing God's voice in Scripture increases fear

Just as Israel heard God's voice at Sinai to learn fear, believers today hear His voice through the inspired Word.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'His Word is His voice... So we can hear the voice of God today, not audibly, but we can hear it as we read and study the Word of God.'

### Obedience to God's commands teaches fear

The festival tithe in Deuteronomy 14:23 shows that doing what God commands, in the way He commands, teaches us to fear Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The more obedient we are, the more we learn to fear the Lord.'

### Daily Bible reading is essential for learning fear

The king was required to read the law daily to learn to fear God; believers, as kings and priests, have the same duty.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'If you're not reading your Bible every day, you're not going to learn to fear the Lord.'

### Expository preaching is a means to learn fear

Deuteronomy 31:12-13 and Nehemiah 8:8 show that hearing the Word expounded, explained, and applied teaches the fear of the Lord.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'If you wish then to learn to fear the Lord, you must make listening to preaching a priority.'

### Sin in a believer's life indicates a lack of fear

When a Christian sins deliberately, it is because he does not fear God as he should at that moment.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'When a Christian sins, it is because of a lack of fear of God in his life.'

---

## Scripture References

### Psalm 34:11

The sermon's primary text: 'Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.'

### Isaiah 29:13

God condemns those whose fear is taught by human precepts rather than genuine.

### Matthew 15:7-9

Jesus applies Isaiah 29:13 to the Pharisees, rebuking their vain worship based on human commandments.

### Deuteronomy 29:2-4

Israel saw God's works but lacked a heart to perceive, illustrating that many professing Christians lack true fear.

### Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; those who obey have good understanding.

**Genesis 20:11**

Abraham reasoned that where there is no fear of God, people will commit murder; fear restrains sin.

**Leviticus 25:17, 36, 43**

Commands not to oppress, take usury, or rule with rigor are grounded in the fear of God.

**Deuteronomy 25:17-19**

Amalek attacked the weak because he feared not God; the flesh likewise does not fear God.

**Romans 3:18**

The litany of sins in Romans 3 culminates in 'no fear of God before their eyes' as the root cause.

**Proverbs 8:13; 16:6**

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; by it men depart from evil.

**Jeremiah 2:19**

Israel's backsliding and wickedness were because God's fear was not in them.

**Jeremiah 32:38-40**

God promises to give one heart and put His fear in their hearts so they will not depart from Him.

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**

God gives a new heart and spirit, causing believers to walk in His statutes.

**Deuteronomy 10:12**

What God requires: to fear Him, walk in His ways, love and serve Him with all heart and soul.

**Ecclesiastes 12:13**

The whole duty of man is to fear God and keep His commandments.

**Micah 6:8**

God requires doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with Him.

**Deuteronomy 4:9-10, 33; 5:24-25**

God gathered Israel at Horeb to hear His voice and learn to fear Him; they heard God's voice from the fire.

**Hebrews 12:18-24**

Contrasts Mount Sinai's terror with Mount Zion's grace; believers have come to a different mountain.

**Deuteronomy 30:10**

Hearkening to God's voice means keeping His commandments written in the book of the law.

**Psalm 95:7; Hebrews 4**

Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts; quoted in Hebrews to urge obedience.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** What is the difference between a fear of God taught by human precepts and a genuine, biblical fear of the Lord?

**Consider:** Weaver introduces this distinction from Isaiah 29:13 and Matthew 15:7-9.

**2.** How does the absence of the fear of God explain the prevalence of violence and oppression in the world today?

**Consider:** Weaver connects Genesis 20:11 and Leviticus 25 to modern examples of senseless violence.

**3.** In what ways can we actively increase the fear of the Lord in our lives without it becoming mere human tradition?

**Consider:** The sermon provides five biblical methods: hearing God's Word, obedience, daily reading, preaching, and heeding instruction.

**4.** Why is daily, personal Bible reading indispensable for learning to fear God, according to Deuteronomy 17:18-20?

**Consider:** Weaver emphasizes the king's duty to read the law daily and applies it to believers as kings and priests.

**5.** What role does expository preaching play in teaching the fear of the Lord, and how should we respond to it?

**Consider:** Nehemiah 8:8 shows reading, explaining, and applying Scripture; Weaver says listening to such preaching is a priority.

**6.** How can we pray for an increased fear of God, and what other graces will increase alongside it?

**Consider:** Weaver notes that increased fear brings increased faith, submission, obedience, and humility.

**7.** What are some of the specific blessings promised to those who fear the Lord, and how have you experienced them?

**Consider:** Psalm 34 and other psalms list protection, provision, deliverance, and God's attentive care.

# Applications

### Examine the nature of your fear of God

Evaluate whether your fear is merely intellectual, tradition-based, or a genuine filial fear that produces obedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver asks, 'What kind of fear do you possess?' and cites Spurgeon's four kinds of fear.

### Prioritize hearing God's voice through Scripture

Commit to reading and studying the Bible daily, recognizing it as God's voice that teaches you to fear Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'If you're not reading your Bible every day, you're not going to learn to fear the Lord.'

### Practice obedience to increase fear

Obey God's commands in the manner He prescribes, knowing that obedience itself teaches the fear of the Lord.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The more obedient we are, the more we learn to fear the Lord,' based on Deuteronomy 14:23.

### Make listening to expository preaching a priority

Regularly attend to the preaching of God's Word where it is expounded, explained, and applied, to learn the fear of the Lord.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'If you wish then to learn to fear the Lord, you must make listening to preaching a priority.'

### Pray for increased fear and protection from sin

Ask God to increase your fear of Him and to keep you from sinning, as He did for Abimelech and Jabez.

**Lecture support:** Weaver asks, 'Have you ever prayed and asked God to withhold you from sinning?'

### Apply the Word personally

After hearing Scripture expounded, take responsibility to flesh out applications in your own life.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'It's your responsibility to flesh out that which has been expounded and explained, and make it applicable to your life.'

## 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: Christians Who Despised God

Lecture JW00489

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00489&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

### Lesson 2: Christians That Despise God

Lecture JW00482

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00482&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

### Lesson 3: Despising God

Lecture JW00009

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00009&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

**Lesson 4: Perfecting Holiness Part 5 of 5 - In The Fear of God**

Lecture JW01323

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01323&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

**Lesson 5: Pastor John Weaver - Learning to Fear the Lord**

Lecture JW01817

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01817&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.