

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Four Great Truths

Study Guide

New 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

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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

Pastor John Weaver - Four Great Truths

Part One of Two

August 17, 2021

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-19.

Major Themes

The Nature of Truth

Truth is defined by God alone; everything contrary to God and His Word is a lie. Rejecting truth leads to believing a damning lie.

Lecture support: The speaker states, 'if it is against God and His Word, it is a lie. Because God is truth... The only truth there is, is God's truth.' He cites 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 to show that those who reject truth are sent strong delusion to believe a lie.

God's Elect

God has a chosen people, an elect, who are saved by His sovereign choice. This is a biblical truth seen in both Old and New Testaments.

Lecture support: From Titus 1:1, 'according to the faith of God's elect,' and references to Elijah's 7,000 and 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, the speaker argues that God has an elect people.

Divine Faith vs. Dead and Demonic Faith

True saving faith is a divine gift from God, not mere intellectual assent (dead faith) or the belief of demons. It produces works and perseverance.

Lecture support: The speaker contrasts James 2:14-26 (dead faith) and James 2:19 (demons' faith) with the faith of God's elect, which is 'wrought by the Spirit of God' and 'enables us to come savingly to the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Human Inability and Divine Enablement in Salvation

Salvation is impossible with men; only God can save by granting repentance and faith. This is illustrated by the rich young ruler.

Lecture support: The speaker expounds Mark 10:23-27, emphasizing Jesus' words, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God,' and concludes that 'only God can give a divine faith.'

Godliness as the Fruit of True Faith

The faith of God's elect always leads to the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness - a life of holiness, reverence, and obedience.

Lecture support: From Titus 1:1, the speaker explains that 'acknowledging' (epignosis) means full, precise knowledge that results in a godly life. He ties this to 2 Peter 1:3-7 and 1 Timothy 4:7-8.

Spiritual Exercise and Diligence in Godliness

Godliness requires continual spiritual exercise, discipline, and effort, akin to physical gymnastics. Believers must actively train themselves in holiness.

Lecture support: The speaker expounds 1 Timothy 4:7, 'exercise thyself rather unto godliness,' using the Greek *gumnadzo* (gymnastics) to illustrate the need for constant training and refusal of 'old wives' fables.'

Key Arguments

Rejecting truth leads to believing a damning lie.

When people refuse the love of the truth, God sends them strong delusion to believe a lie, resulting in damnation.

Lecture support: The speaker cites 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12: 'because they received not the love of the truth... God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned.'

Intellectual assent is not saving faith.

Mere mental agreement with gospel facts does not save; such faith is dead and produces no works.

Lecture support: Using James 2:14-17, the speaker argues that faith without works is dead, and asks, 'can that kind of faith save him?'

Demons have a kind of faith that does not save.

Demons believe in God and tremble, but their faith is not saving faith. A person who does not even tremble before God has less than demonic faith.

Lecture support: James 2:19: 'Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.'

Salvation is a divine work, impossible for man alone.

No one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him; salvation is a work of God, not human effort.

Lecture support: John 6:44: 'No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.' Also Mark 10:27: 'With men it is impossible, but not with God.'

True faith always produces godliness.

The faith of God's elect leads to a full, precise knowledge of the truth that results in a godly life; a lack of godliness indicates a dead faith.

Lecture support: Titus 1:1 connects 'the faith of God's elect' with 'the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness.' The speaker argues that if someone is unconcerned about godliness, they should examine their faith.

Believers have no excuse for ungodliness.

God has given believers all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of Christ, so there is no excuse for not living a godly life.

Lecture support: 2 Peter 1:3: 'According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.'

Godliness requires intentional, continual exercise.

Spiritual growth in godliness demands diligent exercise, like physical training, and the refusal of false, easy-believism notions.

Lecture support: 1 Timothy 4:7: 'exercise thyself rather unto godliness.' The speaker emphasizes the Greek *gumnadzo* and the need to 'gymnasticize' oneself unto godliness, rejecting 'old wives' fables.'

Scripture References

Titus 1:1-3

The primary text of the sermon, introducing Paul's apostleship, the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth after godliness.

Romans 1:25

Cited to show that some change the truth of God into a lie.

James 3:14

Command not to lie against the truth.

Deuteronomy 32:4

God is called a God of truth, without iniquity.

John 14:6

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

John 1:17

Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Psalms 25:10

All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth.

John 5:43

Jesus said He came in His Father's name and was not received, but another coming in his own name would be received.

2 Thessalonians 2:10-12

Those who perish do so because they received not the love of the truth; God sends them strong delusion to believe a lie and be damned.

Proverbs 27:6

Faithful are the wounds of a friend; the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

Galatians 4:16

Paul asks if he has become their enemy because he tells them the truth.

2 Timothy 2:10

Paul endures all things for the elect's sakes, that they may obtain salvation.

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

God has from the beginning chosen believers to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.

James 2:14-26

Faith without works is dead; a man is justified by works and not by faith only. Used to illustrate dead faith vs. living faith.

Ephesians 2:8-10

Saved by grace through faith, not of works; but created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.

James 2:19

Thou believest that there is one God; the devils also believe and tremble. Used to show demonic faith is not saving.

John 6:44-45

No man can come to Christ except the Father draw him; they shall be all taught of God.

Philippians 2:13

It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

1 Corinthians 1:9

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the sermon define truth, and why is it important that truth is rooted in God rather than human opinion?

Consider: The speaker argues that God is truth and everything contrary to His Word is a lie. This raises the question of how we determine truth in a relativistic culture.

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2. What is the difference between intellectual assent, demonic faith, and the divine faith of God's elect? How can a person examine which kind of faith they have?

Consider: The sermon distinguishes three types of faith using James 2 and other passages. This question encourages self-examination based on the biblical criteria given.

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3. Why did Jesus tell the rich young ruler to sell all he had, and what does this teach us about the impossibility of self-salvation?

Consider: The speaker uses Mark 10 to show that salvation is impossible with men. This question probes the purpose of the law in revealing human inability.

- 4.** According to 2 Peter 1:3, God has given us all things pertaining to life and godliness. What are some of those things, and how do we access them?

Consider: The sermon emphasizes that there is no excuse for ungodliness because God has provided everything needed. This question explores the resources God has given.

- 5.** What does it mean to 'exercise yourself unto godliness'? What are some practical ways to engage in spiritual gymnastics?

Consider: The speaker uses the Greek word *gumnadzo* to illustrate the need for disciplined training in godliness. This question seeks practical application.

- 6.** How does the flesh war against the Spirit in the pursuit of godliness, and what strategies can believers use to overcome?

Consider: Referencing Galatians 5:17, the sermon highlights the internal conflict. This question addresses the reality of spiritual warfare and victory.

7. The sermon states that if someone is unconcerned about being godly, they should examine their faith. Why is godliness a necessary evidence of true faith?

Consider: The speaker ties the faith of God's elect directly to the acknowledging of truth after godliness. This question challenges listeners to evaluate their spiritual condition.

Applications

Examine your faith to see if it is divine, dead, or demonic.

Listeners are urged to test whether their faith produces godliness and obedience, or is merely intellectual assent or superficial belief.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'if someone is unconcerned about being godly... you need to be checking your faith, because you're probably still lost and in your sins.' He references 2 Corinthians 13:5.

Pursue godliness through spiritual exercise and discipline.

Believers must actively train themselves in holiness, refusing false ideas and continually exercising their minds and wills toward godly living.

Lecture support: The speaker expounds 1 Timothy 4:7, 'exercise thyself rather unto godliness,' and emphasizes the need to 'gymnasticize' oneself, adding that it requires 'continually exercising to have godly thoughts.'

Add godliness and other virtues to your faith with all diligence.

Based on 2 Peter 1:5-7, believers are to make every effort to supplement their faith with virtue, knowledge, self-control, steadfastness, godliness, brotherly affection, and love.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge... and to patience godliness.' He stresses that these must be added intentionally.

Reject profane and old wives' fables that hinder godliness.

Believers must refuse false, easy-believism notions that suggest spiritual growth happens without ongoing effort and discipline.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'You will never exercise yourself unto godliness until and unless you refuse profane and old wives' fables,' giving examples like 'all I got to do is go forward in a church service.'

Lay aside every weight and sin that hinders your spiritual race.

Using Hebrews 12:1, believers are to remove anything that slows their progress in holiness, especially besetting sins.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'lay aside every weight. Lay aside every sin that does so easily beset us, and let us run the race with patience.'

Engage in constant combat against the flesh to live a godly life.

Because the flesh lusts against the Spirit, believers must maintain a combat mentality, refusing to give in to fleshly desires.

Lecture support: The speaker says, 'it requires a constant combat mentality to be holy and to be godly and to be pure. We cannot give in to our flesh if we're going to live a godly 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 2

Pastor John Weaver - Four Great Truths

Part Two of Two

August 17, 2021

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-37.

Major Themes

The Nature of Biblical Hope

Biblical hope is not a wishful contingency but a joyful, confident expectation based on God's unchangeable promise and the finished work of Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts modern usage of 'hope' with the Greek *elpis*, meaning a confident expectation, and ties it to the eternal covenant and God's inability to lie.

The Eternal Covenant

Before creation, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made a covenant in which the Father gave an elect people to the Son, who agreed to redeem them, and the Spirit agreed to apply that redemption.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the covenant using Hebrews 13:20-21 and 2 Timothy 1:8-9, describing the roles of each Person of the Trinity.

The Primacy of Preaching

God has ordained preaching as the primary means to manifest His truth, edify the church, and bring believers to maturity; some truths are only learned through preaching.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Titus 1:3, Ephesians 4:11-16, and Colossians 1:28, emphasizing that preaching, warning, and teaching are necessary for growth.

Spiritual Growth Requires Faithful Hearing

Just as physical growth requires consistent nourishment, spiritual growth requires regular attendance to the preaching of God's Word; missing meals leads to spiritual anemia.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the analogy of missing meals and references Hebrews 5 to warn against regression, and 2 Timothy 2:2 to stress faithfulness.

Attitude Toward Preaching Reflects Attitude Toward God

Rejecting or despising the preached Word is equivalent to rejecting God and Christ, as Jesus is the living Word and Scripture is the written Word.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 12:48 and Acts 13 to show that responses to preaching reveal one's heart toward God.

Key Arguments

The hope of eternal life is not a maybe-so salvation but a know-so salvation.

Because the works of the Father, Son, and Spirit are perfect and God cannot lie, the hope given in the eternal covenant is absolutely certain for those with divine faith.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Titus 3:3-7 that the triune work produces a sure hope, and from Hebrews 6:13-20 that God's oath and immutability make hope an anchor sure and steadfast.

Preaching is the divinely appointed means to reveal and apply the truths of the gospel.

Titus 1:3 states that God manifests His word through preaching; this is not optional but commanded, and through it believers learn doctrines like election, sanctification, and glorification.

Lecture support: Weaver points to the phrase 'in due times manifested his word through preaching' and connects it to God's timing in Galatians 4:4-5 and Acts 2:1.

Without preaching, warning, and teaching, believers cannot reach maturity.

Colossians 1:28 lists preaching, warning (nuthetic confrontation), and teaching as essential to present every man perfect in Christ; rejecting these stunts growth.

Lecture support: Weaver exegetes Colossians 1:28 and explains nuthetic confrontation, arguing that refusal to hear these leads to perpetual immaturity.

Faithfulness to preaching is a mark of a true disciple.

2 Timothy 2:2 instructs Timothy to commit truth to faithful men; faithful men are dependable, present, and eager to receive truth, not sporadic or slothful.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts faithful men with those who are lackadaisical and undependable, emphasizing that God does not call preachers to chase down the unfaithful.

Scripture References

Titus 1:1-3

The primary text of the sermon, containing the four great truths: faith of God's elect, acknowledging truth after godliness, hope of eternal life, and manifestation through preaching.

Romans 1:25

Referenced to show that some change the truth of God into a lie, illustrating that many prefer lies over truth.

James 2:19, 26

Used to describe dead faith and demonic faith, contrasting them with the divine faith of God's elect.

Titus 1:16

Cited to show that some profess to know God but deny Him by their works, exemplifying dead faith.

2 Peter 1:3-7

Referenced to show that godliness must be added to faith and that God has given all things for life and godliness.

1 Timothy 4:7-8

Used to explain that godliness requires exercise (gymnasticize), just as physical exercise profits little but godliness profits all things.

2 Timothy 1:8-9

Shows that grace was given in Christ Jesus before the world began, supporting the eternal covenant.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Mentions the blood of the everlasting covenant, confirming the eternal covenant made in eternity past.

Titus 3:3-7

Demonstrates the triune work of salvation leading to the hope of eternal life, a know-so salvation.

Hebrews 6:13-20

Explains that God's oath and immutability make the believer's hope an anchor sure and steadfast.

1 Peter 1:3-5

Describes the living hope through Christ's resurrection and the inheritance kept by God's power.

Galatians 4:4-5

Used to illustrate that Christ came in the fullness of time, paralleling the 'due times' of Titus 1:3.

Acts 2:1

Referenced to show that Pentecost came at the exact appointed time, supporting the concept of 'due times'.

Mark 1:15

Jesus declared the time is fulfilled, indicating the appointed time for the gospel.

Ephesians 4:11-16

Explains that Christ gave pastor-teachers for the perfecting of the saints and edifying of the body until we reach unity and maturity.

Colossians 1:28

States that preaching, warning, and teaching are necessary to present every man perfect in Christ.

1 Thessalonians 2:13

Shows that the Thessalonians received the preached word not as man's word but as God's Word, which works in believers.

John 12:48

Jesus ties rejection of His words to rejection of Himself, showing that attitude toward preaching reflects attitude toward God.

Jeremiah 3:15

God promises to give pastors according to His heart who feed with knowledge and understanding, a test of true calling.

Amos 3:7

Cited to show that God reveals His secrets to His servants the prophets, supporting the role of preaching.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How does the biblical definition of hope differ from the common modern usage, and why is this distinction important for assurance of salvation?

Consider: Weaver contrasts contingent hope with the confident expectation based on God's promise.

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2. What is the eternal covenant, and how does it provide a foundation for the certainty of our hope?

Consider: Weaver explains the covenant among the Trinity before the world began.

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3. Why does Weaver insist that some truths can only be learned through preaching, and how does this challenge the idea that personal Bible study alone is sufficient?

Consider: Weaver argues from Titus 1:3 and Ephesians 4 that preaching is a divinely ordained means of revelation and edification.

- 4.** In what ways does missing the preaching of God's Word lead to spiritual anemia and regression, according to the sermon?

Consider: Weaver uses the analogy of missing meals and references Hebrews 5 to warn against backsliding.

- 5.** How can we discern whether a pastor is truly called by God, based on Jeremiah 3:15 and the sermon's teaching?

Consider: Weaver states that God-called pastors feed the sheep with knowledge and understanding of the Word.

- 6.** What does it mean to receive preaching 'not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the Word of God,' and how should this affect our listening?

Consider: Weaver expounds 1 Thessalonians 2:13, emphasizing that scriptural preaching carries divine authority.

Applications

Examine your hope

Evaluate whether your hope of eternal life is a biblical, confident expectation rooted in God's promise, or a mere wishful thinking based on contingencies.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts the two types of hope and urges believers to embrace the sure hope anchored in Christ.

Prioritize faithful attendance to preaching

Recognize that spiritual growth requires consistent nourishment from the preached Word; make it a priority to be present and attentive when God's Word is proclaimed.

Lecture support: Weaver warns that missing preaching leads to spiritual anemia and uses the analogy of missing meals.

Receive preaching as God's Word

When a preacher expounds Scripture, receive it not as human opinion but as the authoritative Word of God, allowing it to work effectually in your life.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Thessalonians 2:13 and emphasizes that scriptural preaching is God's truth, not man's.

Submit to nuthetic confrontation

Be willing to receive warning and admonishment from Scripture and from fellow believers, as this is essential for maturity in Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver explains Colossians 1:28 and the necessity of warning (nuthetic confrontation) alongside preaching and teaching.

Test teachers by their feeding

Evaluate pastors and teachers by whether they feed the flock with knowledge and understanding of God's Word, not by entertainment or personal charisma.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Jeremiah 3:15 as the biblical standard for God-called pastors.

Personal Application and Notes

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

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

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

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

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Four Great Truths - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01627

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01627&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Four Great Truths - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01628

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01628&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.