

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

# Genesis: Creation, Fall, and Dominion

*Study Guide*

Old Testament Studies

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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

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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.

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

## LESSON 1

# Should A Christian Sing the Battle Hymn?

April 30, 2006

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

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## Major Themes

### The Unbiblical Nature of the Battle Hymn

The hymn uses biblical imagery to promote a political and military agenda, perverting Scripture to justify violence against the South.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'The battle hymn is not a hymn... it takes truth out of context' and analyzes stanzas to show misuse of Isaiah 63 and Genesis 3:15.

### Julia Ward Howe's Unbelief and Heresy

Howe denied core Christian doctrines, making her unfit to write a Christian hymn; her Unitarian beliefs contradict biblical Christianity.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Howe denying hell, Christ's exclusivity, and His deity, e.g., 'I threw away once and forever the thought of that terrible hell.'

### The Hymn as a Tool of Northern Aggression and Propaganda

The hymn was written to glorify the Union cause and demonize the South, portraying the war as a holy crusade.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'She portrayed the Union Army as the coming of the glory of the Lord' and 'the South deserved to be destroyed.'

### The Importance of Doctrinal Discernment in Worship

Christians must evaluate songs by their doctrinal content, not just their tune or popularity, to avoid endorsing heresy.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'American Christians have been so dumbed down, we cannot even think... we never even think about what we're saying.'

### Southern Identity and Historical Grievance

The hymn represents an insult to Southern heritage and the memory of those who died in the War Between the States.

**Lecture support:** Weaver asks, 'How can any Southerner sing that song?' and references the 620,000 dead and Southern independence.

## Key Arguments

### **The Battle Hymn is not a Christian hymn because its author was an unbeliever.**

Julia Ward Howe denied the Trinity, deity of Christ, and biblical authority, so her song cannot express Christian faith.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'the battle hymn of the Republic was not written by a Christian, nor does it express the Christian faith.'

### **The hymn perverts Scripture by applying messianic prophecies to the Union Army.**

Howe takes passages about Christ's judgment (Isaiah 63) and the protoevangelium (Genesis 3:15) and applies them to Northern soldiers crushing the South.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'She takes this passage that refers to Jesus Christ and applies it to the Union Army.'

### **The hymn promotes a works-based salvation through violence.**

The line 'As ye deal with my contemners, so with you my grace shall deal' implies that killing Southerners earns God's grace, akin to Crusade theology.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'You earn salvation by killing the infidels. We were the infidels.'

### **The hymn glorifies a terrorist, John Brown, as a Christ figure.**

Howe admired John Brown and saw his execution as glorious like the cross, and the hymn's 'terrible swift sword' alludes to his murders.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Howe: 'his death will be holy and glorious... will make the gallows glorious like the cross of Jesus Christ.'

### **Singing the hymn implies agreement with its anti-Southern and anti-Christian message.**

By singing or standing for the hymn, Christians tacitly approve of Howe's heresies and the demonization of the South.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'when you do see it, you're undoubtedly giving tacit approval and agreement with Mrs. Howe and her opinions.'

## Scripture References

### **Ephesians 5:19**

Cited as the biblical basis for singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, introducing the topic of appropriate Christian music.

### **Colossians 3:16**

Parallel passage to Ephesians 5:19, emphasizing teaching and admonishing through song.

### **John 14:6**

Quoted to show Christ's exclusive claim as the only way to the Father, which Howe denied.

### **Isaiah 63:1-6**

Read to show the biblical image of Christ treading the winepress of wrath, which Howe misapplied to the Union Army.

### **Genesis 3:15**

The protoevangelium promising a Messiah who crushes the serpent; Howe applied 'hero born of woman' to Union soldiers.

### **John 8:36**

Quoted to affirm that only Christ can make people truly free, countering Howe's idea that human death can bring freedom.

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## Discussion Questions

1. How should a song's doctrinal content influence whether it is appropriate for Christian worship?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that the Battle Hymn is unbiblical despite its religious language.

2. What does Julia Ward Howe's Unitarian theology reveal about the dangers of denying core Christian doctrines?

**Consider:** Weaver details Howe's rejection of the Trinity, hell, and Christ's deity.

3. In what ways does the Battle Hymn misuse Scripture to justify political or military actions?

**Consider:** Weaver analyzes stanzas that apply Isaiah 63 and Genesis 3:15 to the Union Army.

4. How can Christians balance patriotism with biblical discernment when evaluating national songs?

**Consider:** Weaver calls the hymn a 'political patriotic song' that dishonors Christ.

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5. What lessons can we learn from Mark Twain's parody about the true motives behind war?

**Consider:** Weaver quotes Twain's version to highlight greed and hypocrisy.

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# Applications

**Evaluate songs by their doctrinal content, not just their tune or popularity.**

Christians must examine the words and theology of hymns to ensure they align with Scripture.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'American Christians have been so dumbed down, we cannot even think... we never even think about what we're saying.'

**Reject songs that glorify violence or pervert the gospel.**

The Battle Hymn promotes a false gospel of salvation through killing, which Christians must repudiate.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'You earn salvation by killing the infidels. We were the infidels.'

**Honor the memory of those who suffered unjustly in history.**

Remember the victims of John Brown and the Southern dead rather than singing a song that mocks their sacrifice.

**Lecture support:** Weaver urges, 'think about the five innocent men and boys that old John Brown murdered' and the 620,000 war dead.

**Develop biblical and historical literacy to discern truth from error.**

Ignorance of Scripture and history makes Christians susceptible to accepting unbiblical messages in culture.

**Lecture support:** Weaver laments, 'We don't know our Bibles. We don't know our history. We don't know our heritage.'

Study notes

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 2

# David's Designation of Praise

February 10, 2008

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-38.

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## Major Themes

### Salvation Originates with God

God is the initiator and source of salvation; man does not seek God, but God reveals Himself and provides salvation as a shield.

**Lecture support:** David says, 'Thou hast given me the shield of thy salvation.' Salvation did not originate with man. Man does not initiate salvation. Salvation originated with God. (7:34-8:20)

### Divine Preservation

God preserves believers before, during, and after salvation, enabling them to persevere; Christ as God's right hand upholds and keeps them from falling.

**Lecture support:** Why did you not die before you were saved? ... God preserved you. ... 'Thy right hand hath holden me up.' ... Jesus Christ is the right hand of God. (15:50-17:06; 32:51-33:52)

### God's Condescension and Humility

God's greatness is shown in His humility to notice and bless sinners; Christ's incarnation is the ultimate act of divine condescension that makes believers great.

**Lecture support:** It is God making himself little, which is the cause of our being made great. ... 'Thy gentleness, thy humility, thy condescension has made me great.' (38:23-39:00; 43:38-44:36)

### Praise as Glorifying God

Offering praise is the primary way believers glorify God; specific, daily thanksgiving for all blessings is commanded and leads to further revelation of God's salvation.

**Lecture support:** Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me. ... If you really want to give God glory, then give God praise for everything He's done in your life. (53:52-54:38)

## Key Arguments

### God as Shield of Salvation

The metaphor of God as shield (buckler) signifies complete protection and salvation that originates entirely from God, not human effort.

**Lecture support:** David is using that word, he's saying, 'Thou hast given me the shield, the buckler of thy salvation,' something that my entire being can be hidden behind. ... Salvation did not originate with man. (6:07-7:32)

### Christ as the Right Hand of God

The 'right hand' in Scripture refers to Jesus Christ, who is the agent of God's preservation, salvation, and judgment, upholding believers.

**Lecture support:** Christ may be said to be the right hand of God, being as dear to Him as His right hand, and being exalted at it, and because by Him He communicates all good things to His people, and with Him upholds and sustains them. (32:49-33:40)

### Condescension as the Source of Greatness

Any greatness believers have is due to God's gracious condescension, not their own merit; God humbles Himself to lift the lowly.

**Lecture support:** We are so little that if God should manifest his greatness without condescension, we should be trampled under his feet. But God ... looks to the lowly and contrite and makes them great. (38:23-39:00)

### Enlargement as Divine Benevolence

God's benevolence is seen in bringing believers from narrow, distressing circumstances into spacious liberty, requiring continued dependence on Him.

**Lecture support:** Instead of the threading, narrow mountain paths and hiding in the cracks and corners of caverns, he was able to traverse the plains ... It is no small mercy to be brought into full Christian liberty and enlargement. (47:02-47:46)

## Scripture References

### **Psalm 18:35-36**

Primary text: David designates God as the source of salvation, preservation, condescension, and benevolence.

### **Psalm 18:1-2**

Reviewed as David's determination to love the Lord, listing divine titles.

### **Psalm 18:3-6**

Reviewed as David's distress and cry to God.

### **Psalm 18:7-19**

Reviewed as God's deliverance of David.

### **Psalm 18:20-28**

Reviewed as David's deportment and obedience.

### **Psalm 18:29-33**

Reviewed as David's defense by God.

### **Psalm 18:34**

Reviewed as God teaching David to fight.

### **Genesis 15:1**

First occurrence of 'shield' in Scripture; God tells Abram, 'I am thy shield.'

### **Deuteronomy 33:29**

Israel is saved by the Lord, who is the shield of their help.

### **Psalm 84:11**

The Lord is a sun and shield, giving grace and glory.

### **Psalm 115:9-13**

The Lord is the help and shield of those who trust Him.

**Ephesians 6:16**

Taking the shield of faith to quench fiery darts.

**Psalms 3:3**

The Lord is a shield and the lifter up of David's head.

**Psalms 16:11**

At God's right hand are pleasures forevermore.

**Psalms 17:7**

God saves by His right hand those who trust in Him.

**Psalms 48:10**

God's right hand is full of righteousness.

**Psalms 60:5**

Prayer for God to save with His right hand.

**Psalms 63:8**

God's right hand upholds the psalmist.

**Psalms 73:23**

God holds the psalmist by his right hand.

**Psalms 110:1, 5**

The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand; the Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings.

Study notes

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# Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding salvation as entirely originating from God change the way we view our own conversion and daily walk?

**Consider:** Weaver emphasizes that salvation is God's initiation, not man's seeking (7:34-8:20).

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2. In what ways have you experienced God's preservation in your life, and how does recognizing Christ as the 'right hand' deepen your trust?

**Consider:** Weaver discusses God preserving believers before, during, and after salvation, and identifies Jesus as the right hand (15:50-17:06; 32:51-33:52).

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3. What does it mean that God's gentleness or condescension has made us great, and how should this humility shape our relationships with others?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that God humbles Himself to lift the lowly, supremely in Christ's incarnation (38:23-39:00; 43:38-44:36).

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**4.** How can we cultivate a habit of specific, daily praise for God's benefits, as modeled in Psalm 103?

**Consider:** Weaver applies the sermon by urging believers to bless the Lord with all that is within them and not forget His benefits (51:30-52:51).

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**5.** According to Psalm 50:23, what is the relationship between offering praise and seeing more of God's salvation? How does obedience factor in?

**Consider:** Weaver concludes that praise glorifies God and that ordering our conversation aright leads to seeing God's salvation (53:52-54:38).

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# Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 3

# The Voice of God

January 18, 2009

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 39-55.

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## Major Themes

### God Speaks

God is a personal being who communicates through speech, evidenced in creation, Scripture, and ultimately in Jesus Christ.

**Lecture support:** Psalm 33:6-9; Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 1; Genesis 3:8; Revelation 21:3.

### Jesus Christ is the Voice of God

Jesus, the living Word, perfectly reveals the Father; to see and hear Jesus is to see and hear God.

**Lecture support:** John 1:1-3, 14, 18; John 14:9; 1 Timothy 3:16.

### Christ's Exclusive Role as the Door and Shepherd

Jesus is the only way into the sheepfold; all other ways are theft. He is the Good Shepherd who protects and gives life.

**Lecture support:** John 10:1, 7-11; John 5:26; John 11:43.

### The Sheep Hear and Follow the Shepherd

Christ's true sheep recognize His voice, are called by name, and follow Him exclusively; they flee from strangers.

**Lecture support:** John 10:3-5, 14, 27; John 20:16; Hebrews 13:13.

### Election and Effectual Calling

The Father has given a specific people to Christ; they will come to Him, hear His voice, and be saved.

**Lecture support:** John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 24; John 6:37; John 10:26-27.

### The Necessity of Hearing Christ's Voice for Life

Hearing Christ's voice in regeneration is essential for eternal life; those who do not hear will not live.

**Lecture support:** John 5:24-25; John 10:27-28.

## Key Arguments

### **God's voice is manifested in words, both written and living.**

The Bible is God-breathed, and Jesus is the Word made flesh; both are God's voice.

**Lecture support:** 2 Timothy 3:16; John 1:1, 14.

### **Christ's sheep are known by name and respond to His voice.**

Just as Palestinian shepherds named their sheep, Christ calls His own by name, and they know Him.

**Lecture support:** John 10:3; John 20:16; Exodus 33:17; Isaiah 43:1.

### **Those who are not Christ's sheep do not hear or believe.**

Unbelief is evidence of not belonging to Christ's flock; they cannot hear because they are not of God.

**Lecture support:** John 10:26; John 8:47; John 12:37-40.

### **True sheep follow Christ alone and reject strangers.**

Christ's sheep will not follow false teachers or those who deny Christ; they flee from unfamiliar voices.

**Lecture support:** John 10:5; 1 John 2:19; illustration of Ironsides.

### **The shepherd leads, and the sheep follow without fear.**

Christ goes before His sheep; they need not fear because He is always with them.

**Lecture support:** John 10:4; Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 43:2.

## Scripture References

### **John 10:1-10**

The primary text; Jesus teaches He is the door and the Good Shepherd.

### **Psalms 33:6-9**

God created the heavens by His word and breath.

### **Hebrews 11:3**

The worlds were framed by the word of God.

### **Genesis 3:8**

First mention of God's voice; Adam and Eve heard it after sinning.

### **Revelation 21:3**

Last mention of God's voice; a great voice from heaven declaring God's dwelling with men.

### **1 Kings 19:12**

God spoke to Elijah in a still small voice.

### **Job 33:14-17**

God speaks in dreams and visions, yet man may not perceive it.

### **Acts 9:6-8**

Saul heard Christ's voice, but his companions heard only a sound.

### **2 Timothy 3:16**

All Scripture is God-breathed.

### **John 1:1-3, 14, 18**

Jesus is the eternal Word who became flesh and declared the Father.

### **John 14:9**

Jesus said, 'He that hath seen me hath seen the Father.'

### **John 11:43**

Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb, demonstrating His life-giving voice.

**John 5:26**

The Father has given the Son to have life in Himself.

**John 17:2, 6, 9, 11, 24**

Jesus repeatedly states the Father has given Him a people.

**John 6:37**

All that the Father gives to Christ will come to Him.

**Exodus 33:17**

God told Moses, 'I know thee by name.'

**Isaiah 43:1**

God says, 'I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.'

**John 20:11-16**

Mary recognized Jesus when He called her by name.

**John 10:26-27**

Jesus tells unbelieving Jews they are not His sheep because they do not hear.

**John 8:47**

He that is of God hears God's words; they do not hear because they are not of God.

Study notes

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## Discussion Questions

**1.** What does it mean that God speaks, and how have you experienced His voice in your life?

**Consider:** Weaver emphasizes that God is a speaking God through creation, Scripture, and Christ.

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**2.** How does Jesus being the 'Word made flesh' affect your understanding of God's revelation?

**Consider:** John 1:1-18 shows Jesus as the living Word who declares the Father.

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**3.** Why is it essential that Christ is the only door to salvation, and what are modern 'other ways' people try to enter?

**Consider:** John 10:1-9 teaches exclusivity of Christ for salvation.

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**4.** What does it mean to be called by name by Christ, and how does that shape your identity?

**Consider:** Weaver uses John 10:3 and John 20:16 to show personal calling.

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**5.** How can we discern the voice of the Shepherd from the voice of strangers today?

**Consider:** John 10:5 warns that sheep flee from strangers; application to false teaching.

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**6.** What does it practically look like to 'follow the Shepherd wherever He goes,' even outside the camp?

**Consider:** Hebrews 13:13 and John 10:4 emphasize following Christ in reproach.

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**7.** How does the truth that Christ goes before us remove fear in trials?

**Consider:** John 10:4 and Isaiah 43:2 assure Christ's presence in difficulties.

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# Applications

## Examine whether you have heard Christ's voice

Weaver urges hearers to make their calling and election sure by examining if they have truly heard and responded to Christ's voice.

**Lecture support:** 2 Peter 1:10; John 10:27.

## Follow Christ alone and reject false voices

Believers must follow Christ exclusively and flee from teachers who deny His deity or go beyond Scripture.

**Lecture support:** John 10:5; 1 John 2:19.

## Trust Christ's leading without fear

Because Christ goes before His sheep, they can follow Him confidently through trials, knowing He is already there.

**Lecture support:** John 10:4; Hebrews 13:5; Isaiah 43:2.

## Hear God's voice in Scripture and in Christ

God has spoken finally in His Son; to hear Jesus is to hear God, and Scripture is God's breathed-out word.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16.

Study notes

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 4

# Do Thorns Bother You?

February 24, 2013

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 57-73.

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## Major Themes

### **The Danger of a Half-Hearted Response to God's Word**

The thorny ground hearer receives the Word but never fully commits, allowing worldly concerns to choke spiritual growth, resulting in no fruit.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Our Lord then, in this thorny ground hearer is drawing us a picture of someone who half-heartedly accepts the Word of God, but yet he has never ever really truly dealt with the sins in his life.'

### **The Necessity of Repentance from Sin for Salvation**

Salvation is not just from hell but from sin itself; one must turn from sin, not merely seek to escape judgment.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Christ did not come to save us in our sins. He came to save us from our sins.'

### **Worldly Cares and Riches as Spiritual Thorns**

Anxiety over daily needs and the pursuit of wealth can distract and deceive, preventing the Word from bearing fruit.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'The cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things entering in choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.'

### **The Deceitfulness of Sin and Its Consequences**

Thorns are distracting, disturbing, and deadly, symbolizing how sin can gradually overtake and destroy a person spiritually.

**Lecture support:** Weaver illustrates, 'Thorns are distracting... thorns can also be disturbing... thorns are deadly.'

### **The Insufficiency of Mere Morality or Neglect**

Neglecting Christ and the Word is as damning as gross sins; even small sins can destroy the soul.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'Neglect will destroy you just as easily as those atrocious sins.'

## Key Arguments

### **Thorns represent pre-existing sins that must be uprooted for the Word to flourish.**

The seed fell among thorns that were already there, indicating that the hearer had not dealt with sin before hearing the Word.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'The thorns were already there. They were deeply rooted. They already had possession of that part of the soil.'

### **The thorny ground hearer wants salvation without repentance.**

This hearer desires to escape hell but refuses to turn from sin, making true salvation impossible.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Here's a man who wants to be saved in his sins and not from his sins.'

### **The cares of this world are an inordinate anxiety over lawful things.**

Jesus forbids excessive worry about food, clothing, and daily needs, which can consume a person and choke the Word.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'Our Lord is forbidding us to place an inordinate amount of anxiety and worry over things that really do not matter.'

### **Riches are deceitful because they promise security but lead to destruction.**

Wealth can become a snare, causing people to trust in money rather than God, and often leads to spiritual ruin.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes 1 Timothy 6:9: 'But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.'

### **Lust for other things includes any consuming desire that replaces God.**

The Greek word for 'other things' means 'the rest, residue, and remainder,' indicating that any passion not surrendered to God can be a thorn.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Our Lord talked about the cares of this life. He talked about the deceitfulness of riches. And now he talks about the lust for whatever is left.'

### **The pleasures of this life represent a hedonistic pursuit of self-gratification.**

Living for pleasure, like the hedonist, is a thorn that chokes the Word and leads to unfruitfulness.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'A hedonist is someone who lives for pleasure. It's all he wants.'

**The thorny ground hearer is unsaved because he produces no fruit.**

Only the good ground hearer brings forth fruit; the other three hearers, including the thorny ground, are lost.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The thorny ground hearer is unsaved as well. In fact, the next message you're going to hear is the good ground hearer, and he is the only one that brought forth fruit.'

**True repentance involves turning from sin and producing evidence of change.**

Repentance is not merely feeling sorry but turning to God and doing works that demonstrate a changed life.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites Acts 26:20: 'that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance.'

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## Scripture References

**Mark 4:7**

The seed falling among thorns and being choked, yielding no fruit.

**Mark 4:18-19**

Jesus' interpretation: the thorny ground hearer is choked by cares, riches, and lusts.

**Genesis 3:17-19**

The curse on Adam, including thorns and thistles, as a result of sin.

**Proverbs 15:19**

The way of the slothful is as a hedge of thorns.

**Proverbs 22:5**

Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward.

**Isaiah 32:13**

Thorns and briars come upon the land of God's people as judgment.

**Jeremiah 12:13**

They have sown wheat but shall reap thorns.

**Isaiah 34:13**

Thorns and nettles in the palaces as a sign of God's curse.

**Hosea 2:6**

God will hedge up the way with thorns as judgment.

**Hosea 9:6**

Nettles and thorns shall possess their pleasant places.

**Nahum 1:10**

While they be folded together as thorns, they shall be devoured.

**Matthew 1:21**

Jesus shall save his people from their sins.

**John 8:24**

You shall die in your sins if you believe not that I am He.

**Matthew 13:22**

The thorny ground hearer is choked by cares and deceitfulness of riches.

**Luke 8:14**

The thorny ground hearer is choked with cares, riches, and pleasures, bringing no fruit to perfection.

**Matthew 6:24-32**

Take no anxious thought for your life, what you shall eat or drink or wear.

**Luke 10:40-42**

Martha is cumbered about with much serving, but Mary chose the good part.

**Philippians 4:6**

Be careful for nothing; in everything by prayer and supplication let your requests be made known unto God.

**Luke 14:16-20**

The parable of the great supper: excuses based on property, oxen, and marriage.

**1 Timothy 6:7-9, 17-19**

We brought nothing into this world; they that will be rich fall into temptation; charge the rich to trust in God.

# Discussion Questions

1. What are some examples of 'cares of this world' that can choke the Word in a believer's life today?

**Consider:** Weaver discusses how anxiety over daily needs like food, clothing, and work can become thorns.

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2. How can we discern if our pursuit of wealth has become a deceitful thorn rather than a tool for God's kingdom?

**Consider:** Weaver warns about the deceitfulness of riches and the danger of trusting in wealth.

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3. What 'other things' might be competing with God for our affection and devotion?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that lust for other things includes any consuming desire, such as hobbies or sports.

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**4.** In what ways do the pleasures of this life distract us from bearing spiritual fruit?

**Consider:** Weaver describes hedonism as living for pleasure and how it chokes the Word.

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**5.** Why is it insufficient to merely want to escape hell without turning from sin?

**Consider:** Weaver emphasizes that salvation is from sin, not just from judgment.

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**6.** How can we practically 'break up our fallow ground' and avoid sowing among thorns?

**Consider:** Weaver references Jeremiah 4:3 as counsel for dealing with thorns.

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**7.** What evidence of repentance should be visible in the life of a genuine believer?

**Consider:** Weaver discusses works meet for repentance as evidence of true conversion.

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## Applications

### **Deal with sin honestly and thoroughly**

Sins must be genuinely dealt with through repentance; there is no salvation without turning from sin.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Where there is no genuine and honest dealing with sin, there is no salvation.'

### **Guard against neglect of spiritual things**

Neglecting Christ, the Bible, prayer, and preaching can destroy the soul as surely as gross sins.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'Neglect will destroy you just as easily as those atrocious sins.'

### **Do not coddle or ignore sins**

We must not pretend sins are not there; they must be acknowledged and turned from.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'We must actually turn from our sins and not coddle them and pretend that they're not there.'

### **Produce fruit as evidence of repentance**

True repentance will manifest in changed behavior and good works that demonstrate a transformed life.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'If a man truly, genuinely repents, there will be evidence of that repentance in his life.'

### **Avoid being consumed by worldly cares**

Do not let anxiety over food, clothing, or daily needs become the primary focus of life; trust God to provide.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'We're not to be overly concerned with eating all of the time. Eating is not to control our lives.'

### **Use riches for God's kingdom, not selfish ends**

If God gives wealth, it should be used for good works and to benefit His people, not for personal indulgence.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'God gives riches for the use and the benefit of his kingdom and his people.'

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 5

# The Present Truth

December 11, 2015

Read Chapter 5 in the companion book, pages 75-93.

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## Major Themes

### Repetition of Truth

Truth must be heard repeatedly to be established in the believer's mind; repetition aids learning and prevents forgetfulness.

**Lecture support:** Peter said, 'I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them.'

### The Nature of Present Truth

Present truth is the truth immediately before us, not relative or new, but the unchanging Word of God applied to the current battle.

**Lecture support:** The Greek word 'pareimi' means 'at hand' or 'present'; it is that truth which is right in front of you.

### Progressive Illumination vs. Revelation

Revelation is complete in Christ, but the Holy Spirit progressively illuminates believers to understand already-revealed truth.

**Lecture support:** Jesus said, 'I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.'

### The Role of Preaching

God manifests His Word through preaching, which involves exposition, explanation, and application; believers must receive it as God's Word.

**Lecture support:** Nehemiah 8:8 shows the Levites read distinctly, gave the sense, and caused understanding; 1 Thessalonians 2:13 says to receive preaching as the Word of God.

### Standing for Truth Under Attack

The present truth is that which is being attacked by the world; believers must confess Christ precisely at the point of battle.

**Lecture support:** Martin Luther: 'If I profess...every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ.'

## Spiritual Maturity and Reception of Truth

Believers are at different stages (babes, young men, fathers) and can only receive truth as they are able; God prepares them progressively.

**Lecture support:** Mark 4:33: 'And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it.'

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## Key Arguments

### Truth must be repeated to be established

Peter's example shows that even those who know the truth need constant reminding to be grounded and steadfast.

**Lecture support:** 2 Peter 1:12: 'Wherefore, I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though you know them, and be established in the present truth.'

### Forgetfulness is a real danger

Hebrews 2:1 warns that we must give earnest heed to what we have heard, lest we let it slip; there is a natural tendency to forget.

**Lecture support:** Hebrews 2:1: 'Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.'

### Present truth is not relative or new

God's truth is absolute and unchanging; there is no new revelation beyond Christ, who is the fullness of grace and truth.

**Lecture support:** Psalm 119:89: 'Forever, O Lord, is thy word settled in the heavens.' John 1:17: 'Grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.'

### God reveals truth progressively in Scripture

The Bible was written over 1600 years with progressive unfolding; examples include Messianic prophecies and the instruction of Apollos.

**Lecture support:** Isaiah 28:10: 'For precept must be upon precept...line upon line...here a little, and there a little.' Acts 18:24-26 shows Apollos being taught more perfectly.

### Illumination is progressive, not revelation

The Holy Spirit enlightens believers to understand truth already revealed, but not all at once; we must grow in ability to bear it.

**Lecture support:** John 16:12-13: 'I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now...the Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth.'

## **Preaching is God's means of manifesting present truth**

God manifests His Word through preaching that expounds, explains, and applies Scripture; believers must receive it as God's Word for their current need.

**Lecture support:** Titus 1:3: 'But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching.' 1 Thessalonians 2:13: 'Ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.'

## **The present truth is where the battle rages**

Believers must identify the truth under attack in their generation and stand firmly on it, or they effectively deny Christ.

**Lecture support:** Luther's quote: 'If I profess...every portion of the truth of God, except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ.'

## **Rejecting present truth leads to personal loss**

Like a soldier refusing the meal provided before a march, believers who reject the preached Word suffer spiritual loss; God provides what is needed.

**Lecture support:** Illustration of refusing creamed beef on toast before a five-mile hike; God sets before His people what they need for the week.

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## **Scripture References**

### **2 Peter 1:12-15**

Peter's commitment to remind believers of truth and his desire for them to be established in the present truth.

### **2 Corinthians 13:5**

Paul's command to examine ourselves whether we be in the faith; rehearsing truth enables self-examination.

### **Mark 10:1**

Jesus taught the people again as was His custom, modeling the repetition of truth.

### **Hebrews 2:1**

Warning to give earnest heed to what we have heard lest we let it slip; danger of forgetfulness.

### **Colossians 2:7**

Believers are to be rooted, built up, and established in the faith.

**Psalms 112:1-10**

Description of the man who fears the Lord: his heart is established, he shall not be moved or afraid.

**James 1:8**

A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways; contrast to being established.

**Luke 13:1**

Use of 'present' (pareimi) to mean those standing right in front of Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 10:11**

Paul uses 'present' to mean being physically present with the Corinthians.

**Psalms 119:89**

God's Word is forever settled in heaven; truth is unchanging.

**John 17:17**

Jesus prayed, 'Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.'

**John 1:17**

The law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ; Christ is the fullness of truth.

**Hebrews 1:1-3**

God spoke in times past by prophets, but in these last days by His Son; no new revelation beyond Christ.

**Isaiah 28:9-10**

Precept upon precept, line upon line; God reveals truth little by little.

**Genesis 3:15**

The protevangelium, first promise of the Messiah; progressive revelation of Christ.

**Acts 18:24-28**

Apollos knew only John's baptism; Aquila and Priscilla expounded the way of God more perfectly - present truth.

## Acts 19:1-5

Disciples at Ephesus knew only John's baptism; Paul taught them about Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

## Mark 4:33-34

Jesus spoke the word as they were able to hear it; truth is given progressively according to ability.

## John 16:12-14

Jesus had more to say but disciples couldn't bear it; the Spirit would guide into all truth.

## Titus 1:1-3

God manifests His Word through preaching committed to Paul; preaching is the means of present truth.

## Study notes

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

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## Discussion Questions

1. Why does Peter feel it necessary to remind believers of truths they already know? What does this teach us about our own need for repetition?

**Consider:** Peter says he will not be negligent to put them in remembrance, though they know and are established in the present truth.

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2. What is the difference between revelation and illumination? How does understanding this distinction affect our view of 'new truth' claims?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that revelation is complete in Christ, but the Holy Spirit progressively illuminates our minds to understand Scripture.

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3. How can we identify the 'present truth' in our own generation? What truths are currently under attack that require our bold confession?

**Consider:** Weaver gives historical examples and states that present truth is where the battle rages; believers must stand there.

- 4.** In what ways do we treat preaching as merely the word of men rather than the Word of God?  
How can we cultivate a more receptive attitude?

**Consider:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13 is cited to show that believers should receive preaching as God's Word, which effectually works in them.

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- 5.** Why is it dangerous to be 'double-minded'? How does being established in truth protect us from instability?

**Consider:** James 1:8 and the squirrel illustration show the peril of indecision; Psalm 112 shows the security of the established heart.

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- 6.** How does the concept of progressive illumination affect our patience with other believers who may not yet grasp certain doctrines?

**Consider:** Weaver notes that believers are at different stages (babes, young men, fathers) and can only receive truth as they are able.

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## Applications

### **Receive preaching as God's Word**

When you hear the exposition, explanation, and application of Scripture, receive it not as the preacher's opinion but as the Word of God for your life.

**Lecture support:** 1 Thessalonians 2:13: 'Ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.'

### **Be established in the present truth**

Know what truth is under attack in your day and stand firmly on it; do not flinch at the point of battle.

**Lecture support:** Luther's quote: 'If I profess...except precisely that little point which the world and the devil are at that moment attacking, I am not confessing Christ.'

### **Do not neglect repetition of truth**

Read Scripture repeatedly, re-listen to sermons, and rehearse truth to be grounded and to prevent forgetfulness.

**Lecture support:** Peter's example: 'I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance.' Hebrews 2:1 warns against letting truth slip.

### **Accept the preached Word as God's provision**

Like the soldier who needed the meal before a march, trust that God provides the truth you need each week through preaching; do not reject it.

**Lecture support:** Illustration of refusing creamed beef on toast; God sets before His people what they need for their tests and trials.

### **Examine yourself by the truth**

Use repeated truth to examine your own heart and life, as Paul commanded in 2 Corinthians 13:5.

**Lecture support:** 2 Corinthians 13:5: 'Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith.'

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 6

# The Scope of Christian Obedience

August 16, 2016

Read Chapter 6 in the companion book, pages 95-112.

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## Major Themes

### Total Obedience in All Things

The scope of Christian obedience is the totality of life; believers must obey God in everything, not just in matters they like or agree with.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'So the scope of our obedience is basically the totality of our lives. It is to be absolutely complete in all things.'

### Commandment-Oriented vs. Feeling-Oriented Life

God originally placed man under a commandment-oriented life, but the fall introduced a feeling- and desire-oriented life, which is the root of all disobedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'What is actually happening with Adam and Eve is this they are forsaking a commandment-oriented life, and now they are falling into a feeling or a desire-oriented life.'

### The Sovereignty of God in Demanding Obedience

Obedience is a sovereignly dictated order of life; recognizing God's absolute authority is essential for total submission.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Obedience is a sovereignly dictated order of life... If you do not recognize God's sovereignty, you're not going to obey Him.'

### Feelings and Desires as Hindrances to Obedience

The two main hindrances to obedience are feelings and desires; believers often excuse disobedience by saying they don't feel like obeying or don't desire what God commands.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'There are two main hindrances to obedience... They are your feelings and your desires.'

### Ezekiel as the Supreme Example of Obedience

Ezekiel's obedience in not mourning his wife's sudden death demonstrates that no circumstance, feeling, or desire should prevent obedience to God.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'His feelings did not interfere with his obedience. His desires did not interfere with his obedience.'

## Love for God Proven by Keeping Commandments

True love for God is demonstrated by keeping His commandments; those who claim to know Him but disobey are liars.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites 1 John 2:3-4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'

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## Key Arguments

### Argument from the Lesser to the Greater

If children must obey parents and servants must obey masters in all things, then believers must obey God in all things, as He is the greater authority.

**Lecture support:** Weaver argues, 'If God then requires children to be in obedience to their earthly parents, how much more does God require us to be in submission and obedience to our Heavenly Father.'

### The Fall as the Origin of Feeling-Oriented Disobedience

Adam and Eve's sin was not merely temptation but a shift from obeying God's command to following their feelings and desires, a pattern inherited by all humanity.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'When the woman saw that the tree was good for food... she took... Where is the word commandment in verse six? Obviously, it's not there.'

### Historical Examples Confirm the Destructive Pattern

Achan and Samson both acted on sight and desire rather than God's command, leading to their destruction, proving that feeling-oriented living is fatal.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says of Achan, 'I saw it. I coveted it. And I took it. Do you realize that's exactly what Eve did?'

### Feelings and Desires Are the Primary Excuses for Disobedience

Modern Christians often excuse disobedience by claiming they don't feel like obeying or don't desire what God commands, adopting a pagan philosophy.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Most people live by their feelings. They do not live by the commandments of God.'

## **Ezekiel's Obedience Proves Total Obedience Is Possible by Grace**

Ezekiel obeyed God's command not to mourn his wife's death, showing that even in the most devastating circumstances, obedience is possible through God's grace.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'If the grace and mercy of God could uphold Ezekiel in such a time and cause him to obey, is it not possible that you and I could put our feelings and our desires... aside and obey God?'

## **Salvation Restores the Commandment-Oriented Life**

In salvation, God captures the running sinner and brings him back to a commandment-oriented life, where he loves God's law and obeys supremely.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'When God saves us, he puts us back under that commandment oriented life.'

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## **Scripture References**

### **Ezekiel 24:15-18**

The primary text: God tells Ezekiel his wife will die suddenly, and commands him not to mourn; Ezekiel obeys.

### **Matthew 6:26-29**

Jesus' argument from the lesser to the greater: if God cares for birds and lilies, how much more will He care for you.

### **Colossians 3:20**

Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

You are not your own; you are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and spirit.

### **Colossians 3:22**

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, but in singleness of heart, fearing God.

### **Acts 3:22**

Moses said, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up... him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

**Acts 17:28**

For in him we live, and move, and have our being.

**Exodus 5:2**

Pharaoh said, Who is the Lord, that I should obey his voice and let Israel go?

**Genesis 2:15-17**

God placed Adam in the garden and commanded him not to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

**Genesis 3:1-7**

The temptation and fall of Adam and Eve.

**1 Timothy 2:14**

Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

**Romans 5:12**

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-48**

Adam as federal head and representative.

**Joshua 6:17-19**

God commands that Jericho be accursed and that the Israelites keep themselves from the accursed thing.

**Joshua 7:19-22**

Achan confesses that he saw, coveted, and took the accursed things.

**1 John 2:15-17**

Love not the world... the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

**Judges 14:1-3**

Samson sees a Philistine woman and demands her for a wife because she pleases him well.

**Judges 16:19-21**

Delilah cuts Samson's hair; his strength leaves him, and the Philistines capture him.

## John 14:21, 24

He that hath my commandments and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me... He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings.

## 1 John 5:3

This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

## Study notes

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

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# Discussion Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to obey God completely? How do feelings or desires play a role in that struggle?

**Consider:** Weaver identifies feelings and desires as the two main hindrances to obedience.

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2. How does recognizing God's sovereignty (as Father, Lord, Creator, Redeemer) change your perspective on obedience?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that total obedience requires total submission based on a right view of God.

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3. What can we learn from Ezekiel's obedience in the face of his wife's sudden death? How does his example challenge your own excuses for disobedience?

**Consider:** Ezekiel 24:15-18 is presented as the supreme example of obedience despite devastating circumstances.

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- 4.** Weaver says that living by feelings is a 'clever wile of the devil.' How can we practically combat the tendency to let feelings dictate our obedience?

**Consider:** Weaver warns that the devil tempts believers to think they cannot obey because they don't feel like it.

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- 5.** How does the argument from the lesser to the greater (children/parents, servants/masters) strengthen the case for total obedience to God?

**Consider:** Weaver uses Colossians 3:20,22 and Acts 3:22 to argue that if earthly authorities require obedience, God requires even more.

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- 6.** In what ways does modern Christianity reflect a feeling-oriented rather than commandment-oriented life? What are some examples?

**Consider:** Weaver critiques the adoption of pagan philosophies like 'if it feels good, do it' in the church.

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7. How does the fall of Adam and Eve illustrate the shift from commandment-oriented to feeling-oriented living? How does this pattern show up in your own life?

**Consider:** Weaver analyzes Genesis 3 to show that Adam and Eve forsook God's command for sight and desire.

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8. According to 1 John 2:3-5, what is the relationship between knowing God and keeping His commandments? How should this affect our assurance of salvation?

**Consider:** Weaver cites 1 John 2 to emphasize that obedience is the proof of genuine love for God.

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## Applications

### Examine Your Life for Feeling-Oriented Disobedience

Identify areas where you have excused disobedience because you 'didn't feel like it' or 'didn't desire it,' and repent of allowing feelings to rule over God's commands.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Most people live by their feelings. They do not live by the commandments of God.'

### Submit to God's Sovereignty in All Circumstances

Recognize God as your Creator, Redeemer, and Lord, and submit to His commands regardless of your emotions or situation, trusting His wisdom and goodness.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Total obedience requires total submission. And total submission requires the recognition of God, who He is.'

### Obey God Even in the Most Painful Trials

Like Ezekiel, choose to obey God's Word even when facing devastating loss or hardship, relying on His grace to sustain you.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'If the grace and mercy of God could uphold Ezekiel in such a time and cause him to obey, is it not possible that you and I could put our feelings and our desires... aside and obey God?'

### Prioritize God's Commandments Over Personal Desires

When your desires conflict with God's commands, choose obedience, remembering that His commands are for your good and His glory.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'We put our desires ahead of God. We put our feelings ahead of God.'

### Prove Your Love for God Through Obedience

Demonstrate genuine love for Christ by keeping His commandments, not merely professing faith, as 1 John 2:3-5 teaches.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes, 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar.'

### Reject the Pagan Philosophy of Feelings-Based Living

Resist the cultural mindset that says 'if it feels good, do it' or 'if it doesn't feel good, don't do it,' and instead live by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'We have adopted the pagan philosophy, if it feels good, do it. And on the other hand, we've also adopted the pagan philosophy, if it doesn't feel good, I will not do it.'

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 7

# The Scope Of Christian Obedience

August 18, 2016

Read Chapter 7 in the companion book, pages 113-130.

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## Major Themes

### Total Obedience in All Things

Christian obedience must be complete and extend to every area of life, not just to things we like or agree with.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'The scope of our obedience is basically the totality of our lives. It is to be absolutely complete in all things.'

### Obedience as a Sovereignly Dictated Order of Life

Obedience is not optional but a command from God, rooted in His sovereignty and our relationship to Him as Creator and Redeemer.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Obedience is a sovereignly dictated order of life.'

### The Danger of Feeling and Desire-Oriented Living

Since the fall, humanity has prioritized feelings and desires over God's commands, leading to sin and destruction.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'Ever since the fall, mankind has been living a feeling and desire-oriented life.'

### The Necessity of a Right View of God

Total obedience requires recognizing God's absolute sovereignty and our position as His creatures and servants.

**Lecture support:** Weaver asserts, 'Total obedience requires total submission. And total submission requires the recognition of God, who He is.'

### Feelings and Desires as Hindrances to Obedience

Feelings and desires are the primary obstacles to obedience, often used as excuses to avoid God's commands.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'There are two main hindrances to obedience... They are your feelings and your desires.'

## **Salvation Restores Commandment-Oriented Living**

Through Christ's obedience and sacrifice, believers are brought back to a life oriented around God's commandments, loving His law.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'When God saves us, He places us back under a commandment-oriented life.'

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## **Key Arguments**

### **Argument from Lesser to Greater**

If God requires children and servants to obey earthly authorities in all things, how much more must believers obey their heavenly Father and Master in all things.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites Colossians 3:20, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, and Colossians 3:22 to build this argument.

### **Adam's Fall as a Shift from Commandment to Desire**

Adam's sin was not merely yielding to temptation but abandoning a commandment-oriented life for a feeling and desire-oriented life, a pattern repeated in all sin.

**Lecture support:** Weaver points to Genesis 3:6, noting the absence of 'commandment' and the presence of 'sight' and 'desire.'

### **Historical Repetition of Desire-Oriented Sin**

Achan and Samson both sinned by following their eyes and desires rather than God's clear commands, demonstrating the universal pattern of the fall.

**Lecture support:** Weaver compares Achan's 'I saw, I coveted, I took' (Joshua 7:21) and Samson's 'she pleaseth me well' (Judges 14:3) to Eve's actions.

### **Ezekiel's Obedience Despite Devastating Loss**

Ezekiel obeyed God's command not to mourn his wife's sudden death, showing that obedience must transcend even the most intense feelings and circumstances.

**Lecture support:** Weaver emphasizes Ezekiel 24:18: 'So I spake unto the people in the morning, and at even my wife died, and I did in the morning as I was commanded.'

### **Excusing Disobedience by Feelings is Idolatry**

When believers place their feelings and desires above God's commands, they are guilty of idolatry, professing love for God but living for self.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'When we place our feelings and our desires above God and His Word, we are the grossest idolaters.'

## **Love for God Demonstrated by Obedience**

True love for God is evidenced by keeping His commandments, as taught in John 14:21, 1 John 5:3, and 1 John 2:3-5.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes 1 John 2:4: 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'

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## **Scripture References**

### **Ezekiel 24:15-18**

God tells Ezekiel his wife will die suddenly and commands him not to mourn; Ezekiel obeys.

### **Matthew 6:26-29**

Jesus argues from the lesser (birds, lilies) to the greater (God's care for people).

### **Colossians 3:20**

Children are commanded to obey their parents in all things.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

Believers are not their own but bought with a price, making them servants of God.

### **Colossians 3:22**

Servants are to obey their earthly masters in all things, fearing God.

### **Acts 3:22**

Moses prophesied that the coming prophet (Christ) must be heard in all things.

### **Acts 17:28**

In God we live and move and have our being.

### **Exodus 5:2**

Pharaoh's refusal to obey God, asking 'Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?'

### **Genesis 2:15-17**

God commands Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge, establishing a commandment-oriented life.

**Genesis 3:1-7**

The fall of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit after seeing it was desirable.

**1 Timothy 2:14**

Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor.

**Romans 5:12**

Sin entered the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin.

**1 Corinthians 15:45-48**

Adam as federal head; what he did, we did.

**Joshua 6:17-18**

God commands Israel not to take any accursed things from Jericho.

**Joshua 7:19-21**

Achan confesses he saw, coveted, and took the accursed items.

**1 John 2:15-17**

The lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and pride of life are not from the Father.

**Judges 14:1-3**

Samson demands a Philistine wife because 'she pleaseth me well.'

**Judges 16:19-21**

Samson's strength leaves him after Delilah cuts his hair; he is captured by the Philistines.

**John 14:21, 24**

Those who love Christ keep His commandments; those who do not love Him do not keep His sayings.

**1 John 5:3**

The love of God is that we keep His commandments, and they are not burdensome.

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## Discussion Questions

1. In what areas of your life do you find it most difficult to obey God completely, and how might feelings or desires be influencing that struggle?

**Consider:** Weaver identifies feelings and desires as the two main hindrances to obedience.

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2. How does recognizing God's sovereignty and our position as His creatures and servants change our approach to obedience?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that total obedience requires total submission based on a right view of God and ourselves.

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3. What can we learn from Ezekiel's obedience after his wife's sudden death about obeying God in the midst of personal tragedy?

**Consider:** Weaver uses Ezekiel 24 as the prime example of obedience despite devastating circumstances.

4. How does the pattern of 'seeing, coveting, and taking' seen in Eve, Achan, and Samson manifest in modern temptations?

**Consider:** Weaver traces the desire-oriented sin pattern through these biblical examples.

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5. In what ways might we be excusing disobedience by saying 'I don't feel like it' or 'I don't desire this,' and how can we combat such excuses?

**Consider:** Weaver addresses common excuses for not praying, studying, or attending worship.

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6. How does the gospel restore us to a commandment-oriented life, and what role does love for God play in this restoration?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that salvation through Christ brings us back to loving and obeying God's law.

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7. What does it mean practically to love Christ more than family members, as taught in Matthew 10:37, and how does this relate to obedience?

**Consider:** Weaver concludes with the call to supreme love and obedience to Christ above all else.

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## Applications

### Examine Your Excuses for Disobedience

Identify areas where you have excused disobedience because of feelings or desires, and repent of prioritizing them over God's commands.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'How have we excused our disobediences when there were no excuses?'

### Obey God Regardless of Circumstances

Follow Ezekiel's example by obeying God even in devastating situations, not allowing circumstances to hinder obedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver emphasizes, 'Circumstances do not change your obedience. Situations do not change your obedience.'

### Cultivate a Right View of God

Regularly meditate on God's sovereignty and your position as His creature and servant to foster a heart of submission and obedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Total obedience requires total submission. And total submission requires the recognition of God, who He is.'

### Reject the 'If It Feels Good, Do It' Mentality

Resist the cultural and fleshly tendency to base decisions on feelings, and instead submit every thought and action to the authority of Scripture.

**Lecture support:** Weaver warns, 'We have adopted the pagan philosophy, if it feels good, do it.'

### Demonstrate Love for God Through Obedience

Evaluate your love for God not by emotions but by your willingness to keep His commandments, as taught in 1 John.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes 1 John 5:3: 'This is the love of God that we keep His commandments.'

### Prioritize God's Commands Over Personal Desires

When desires conflict with God's Word, choose obedience, trusting that God's commands are for His glory and your good.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'We put our desires ahead of God. We put our feelings ahead of God.'

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 8

# Hanged on Your Own Gallows

August 17, 2018

Read Chapter 8 in the companion book, pages 131-147.

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## Major Themes

### The Flesh's Desire to Be God

Since the fall, man has sought to dethrone God and enthrone himself, making his own law and seeking his own glory.

**Lecture support:** The serpent said, 'ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil' (Genesis 3:5). The original temptation is for man to replace God.

### Pride and the Demand for Worship

Pride makes a person demand honor, recognition, and submission from others, and anyone who refuses is seen as an enemy.

**Lecture support:** Haman was full of wrath when Mordecai would not bow; he sought to destroy all Jews. 'If I am God, then my neighbor is the devil.'

### Amalek as a Type of the Flesh

Amalek, descendant of Esau, represents the flesh that lusts against the Spirit, attacks the weak, and defies God's rights.

**Lecture support:** Amalek fought Israel at Rephidim; God declared war with Amalek from generation to generation (Exodus 17:16).

### The Flesh Leads to Self-Destruction

Giving in to pride and fleshly desires ultimately results in being hanged on one's own gallows, as seen in Haman's end.

**Lecture support:** Haman was hanged on the gallows he prepared for Mordecai (Esther 7:9-10).

### The Call to Servanthood and Mortification

Christians are called to deny the flesh, put on Christ, and serve others rather than demanding to be served.

**Lecture support:** Jesus came not to be ministered unto, but to minister (Matthew 20:28). 'Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh' (Romans 13:14).

## Key Arguments

### **The origin of self-exaltation is the fall of man.**

Satan tempted Eve by questioning God's word and promising that she could be like God, determining good and evil for herself.

**Lecture support:** Genesis 3:1-6 shows the serpent's subtlety: 'ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.'

### **Self-worship creates a tyrannical spirit.**

When a person sees himself as god, anyone who disagrees becomes a devil, leading to a demand for total submission.

**Lecture support:** Sartre's quote: 'If I am God, then my neighbor is the devil.' Haman's wrath at Mordecai's refusal to bow.

### **Haman's identity as an Agagite reveals the flesh's enmity against God.**

As an Amalekite, Haman inherited the ancient hatred for God's people, typifying the flesh's war against the Spirit.

**Lecture support:** Amalek was grandson of Esau, who despised spiritual things. God declared perpetual war with Amalek (Exodus 17:16).

### **The flesh attacks when we are weak.**

Amalek struck the hindmost, feeble, and weary, showing the flesh's opportunistic and merciless nature.

**Lecture support:** Deuteronomy 25:17-18: Amalek 'smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee.'

### **Pride demands total destruction of those who refuse to honor it.**

Haman's pride could not be satisfied with Mordecai's death alone; he sought to annihilate all Jews.

**Lecture support:** Esther 3:6: 'Haman sought to destroy all the Jews... even the people of Mordecai.'

### **The flesh sets a trap that destroys the sinner.**

Haman built gallows for Mordecai but was hanged on them himself, illustrating the principle of reaping what one sows.

**Lecture support:** Esther 7:9-10: 'So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai.'

## **Victory over the flesh comes by putting on Christ and mortifying the flesh.**

Believers must clothe themselves with Christ's servant attitude and make no provision for fleshly lusts.

**Lecture support:** Romans 13:14: 'Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.' Romans 8:13: 'If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh, ye shall live.'

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## **Scripture References**

### **Esther 3:1-6**

Introduction of Haman's promotion and his wrath at Mordecai's refusal to bow, leading to his plot to destroy all Jews.

### **Genesis 3:1-7**

The fall of man: the serpent's temptation and the promise that they would be as gods, knowing good and evil.

### **Genesis 3:5**

The serpent's lie that eating the fruit would make them as gods, knowing good and evil.

### **Isaiah 55:8-9**

God's thoughts and ways are higher than man's; man must submit his mind to think like God.

### **Genesis 36:10-12**

The genealogy of Esau, showing Amalek as his grandson through Eliphaz and Timna.

### **Hebrews 12:16**

Esau is described as a fornicator and profane person who sold his birthright.

### **Exodus 17:8-16**

Amalek's attack on Israel at Rephidim and God's declaration of perpetual war against Amalek.

### **Deuteronomy 25:17-19**

God's command to remember Amalek's attack on the weak and to blot out his remembrance.

### **Esther 2:5**

Mordecai identified as a Jew (Judean) of the tribe of Benjamin.

**Psalm 83:2-8**

A confederacy of nations, including Edom and Amalek, conspiring to destroy Israel.

**Psalm 137:7**

The children of Edom calling for Jerusalem's destruction.

**Esther 5:9**

Haman's joy turned to indignation when Mordecai would not stand or move for him.

**Proverbs 21:24; 11:2; 16:18; 29:23**

Verses on pride leading to destruction and shame.

**1 Samuel 15:1-9**

Saul's disobedience in sparing Agag and the best of the Amalekites.

**2 Samuel 1:1-10**

An Amalekite claims to have killed Saul and took his crown and bracelet.

**Esther 7:9-10**

Haman hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai.

**Matthew 20:28**

Jesus came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and give His life a ransom.

**Luke 22:27**

Jesus said He is among them as one that serveth.

**Romans 14:17-18**

The kingdom of God is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost; serving Christ is acceptable to God.

**Romans 8:13; Colossians 3:5; Romans 13:14**

Mortifying the deeds of the flesh and putting on the Lord Jesus Christ.

# Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do we see the original temptation to 'be as gods' playing out in our own lives and culture today?

**Consider:** The sermon traces the desire to be one's own god back to Genesis 3.

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2. How does pride manifest itself in our relationships when others do not give us the recognition or honor we think we deserve?

**Consider:** Haman's wrath at Mordecai's refusal to bow illustrates the tyranny of pride.

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3. Why is Amalek a fitting type of the flesh, and how does understanding this help us in our spiritual warfare?

**Consider:** The sermon explains Amalek's origin and his attack on Israel's weak.

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4. What does it mean practically to 'put on the Lord Jesus Christ' and 'make no provision for the flesh'?

**Consider:** The application calls for mortifying the flesh and clothing oneself with Christ's servant attitude.

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5. How can we cultivate a servant's heart in a culture that constantly tells us to demand our rights and seek recognition?

**Consider:** The sermon laments the loss of a servant's heart in Christendom.

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## Applications

### **Mortify the deeds of the flesh by the Spirit.**

Believers must actively put to death pride, anger, and fleshly desires through the power of the Holy Spirit, or they will reap destruction.

**Lecture support:** Romans 8:13: 'If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the flesh, ye shall live.'

### **Put on the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Clothe yourself with Christ's spirit, attitude, words, and actions, and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.

**Lecture support:** Romans 13:14: 'Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh.'

### **Adopt a servant's heart like Christ.**

Instead of demanding to be served and honored, follow Jesus' example of coming to minister and serve others.

**Lecture support:** Matthew 20:28: 'The Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister.'

### **Beware of the flesh's attack in times of weakness.**

The flesh, like Amalek, strikes when we are faint, weary, or discouraged; we must be especially vigilant in those times.

**Lecture support:** Deuteronomy 25:18: Amalek 'smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee.'

### **Recognize pride as idolatry.**

Pride seeks the glory that belongs to God alone; we must confess that everything we have is by His grace.

**Lecture support:** Isaiah 42:8: 'I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another.'

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## LESSON 9

# Biblical Humility

April 21, 2019

Read Chapter 9 in the companion book, pages 149-164.

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## Major Themes

### The Nature of Biblical Humility

Biblical humility is a state of mind characterized by lowliness, a deep sense of personal insignificance, and thinking soberly about oneself.

**Lecture support:** Paul says he served 'with all humility of mind' (Acts 20:19), and Romans 12:3 commands not to think more highly than we ought.

### Humility as Dependence on God

True humility acknowledges our nothingness and complete reliance on God, who uses trials to humble us and teach us to depend on Him.

**Lecture support:** Deuteronomy 8:2-3 shows God humbled Israel in the wilderness to teach them dependence; John 15:5 says without Christ we can do nothing.

### Humility Precedes Blessing and Revival

God gives grace to the humble, hears their cries, and exalts them; revival requires humbling ourselves before God.

**Lecture support:** James 4:6 says God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble; 2 Chronicles 7:14 begins with 'humble themselves.'

### The Servant Heart of Christ

Jesus exemplified humility by coming not to be ministered unto but to minister, and believers are called to emulate His servant heart.

**Lecture support:** Matthew 20:28 and Philippians 2:5-8 show Christ's humility; Paul served with humility of mind.

### The Danger of Pride

Pride is hateful to God, leads to a fall, and is a mark of the world; it prevents gratitude and dependence on God.

**Lecture support:** Proverbs 6:16-17 lists pride as an abomination; Matthew 23:12 warns that self-exaltation leads to abasement.

## Key Arguments

### **Humility is a state of mind, not outward appearance**

Paul's phrase 'humility of mind' indicates an internal disposition of lowliness, not poor posture or false modesty.

**Lecture support:** Acts 20:19 says 'serving the Lord with all humility of mind'; Romans 12:3 commands sober thinking.

### **God's own humility is the supreme example**

God the Father humbles Himself to behold creation, and Christ humbled Himself to death, making pride inexcusable.

**Lecture support:** Psalm 113:5-6 and Philippians 2:5-8 demonstrate divine humility.

### **Trials are designed to humble us and foster dependence**

God led Israel through the wilderness to humble them and teach them to rely on His word, not their own strength.

**Lecture support:** Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 16 states God humbled and proved Israel to do them good.

### **Humility is the prerequisite for revival**

2 Chronicles 7:14 lists humbling ourselves as the first step before prayer, seeking God, and turning from sin.

**Lecture support:** The verse explicitly begins with 'If my people... shall humble themselves.'

### **Pride is a form of insanity**

Thinking more highly of ourselves than we ought is not thinking soberly; it is being out of our right mind.

**Lecture support:** Romans 12:3 uses *sophroneo* (sound mind); pride is contrasted with sober thinking.

## Scripture References

### **Acts 20:17-21**

Paul's address to the Ephesian elders, emphasizing his service with humility of mind.

### **Psalms 73:6-12**

Description of the proud wicked who prosper and speak loftily against God.

### **Genesis 32:10**

Jacob's confession of unworthiness of God's mercies, contrasting with the proud.

### **1 Corinthians 15:9**

Paul calls himself the least of the apostles, unworthy due to persecuting the church.

### **Ephesians 3:8**

Paul says he is less than the least of all saints, yet grace was given to preach.

### **Psalms 51:16-17**

God desires a broken spirit and contrite heart rather than mere sacrifices.

### **Proverbs 22:4**

By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life.

### **Isaiah 57:15**

God dwells with the contrite and humble to revive their spirit.

### **Matthew 18:4**

Whoever humbles himself as a child is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

### **Matthew 23:12**

Whoever exalts himself will be abased, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.

### **Psalms 113:5-6**

God humbles Himself to behold the things in heaven and earth.

### **Psalms 8:4**

David asks what is man that God is mindful of him.

**Psalm 14:17**

David says he is poor and needy, yet the Lord thinks upon him.

**Philippians 2:5-8**

Christ humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant and becoming obedient to death.

**Romans 12:3**

Command not to think more highly than we ought, but to think soberly.

**1 Timothy 3:6**

A pastor must not be a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into condemnation.

**Luke 22:24-27**

The disciples disputed who was greatest; Jesus taught servant leadership.

**Matthew 20:28**

The Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and give His life a ransom.

**2 Corinthians 12:11**

Paul says he is not behind the chiefest apostles, yet he is nothing.

**John 15:5**

Without Christ we can do nothing.

Study notes

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## Discussion Questions

1. How does the world's definition of humility differ from biblical humility, and why is it often seen as a disgrace?

**Consider:** The sermon contrasts worldly pride with the humble confessions of Jacob and Paul.

2. In what ways do we subtly exalt ourselves in ministry or service, and how can we cultivate a 'humility of mind'?

**Consider:** Paul's example in Acts 20:19 and the warning in 1 Timothy 3:6 about pride in leadership.

3. Why does God sometimes lead us through 'wilderness' experiences, and how do they teach us dependence on Him?

**Consider:** Deuteronomy 8 shows God humbled Israel to teach them reliance on His word.

**4.** What does it practically mean to 'think soberly' about ourselves according to Romans 12:3?

**Consider:** The command to avoid hyperphroneo (high-mindedness) and embrace sophroneo (sound mind).

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**5.** How does the humility of Christ in Philippians 2 challenge our natural desire for recognition and rights?

**Consider:** Christ's self-emptying and obedience to death as the ultimate model.

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**6.** Why is humbling ourselves the first step in 2 Chronicles 7:14, and what does that imply about our prayer lives?

**Consider:** The sermon argues that without humility, there will be no genuine prayer or seeking God.

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**7.** What are some signs that we have lost a servant's heart, and how can we recover it?

**Consider:** The application that Christians often want to be ministered unto rather than minister.

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## Applications

### **Cultivate a humble mindset**

Regularly pray 'Lord, show me Thyself' and 'Lord, show me myself' to gain a true perspective of God's greatness and our smallness.

**Lecture support:** Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6 led to 'Woe is me!' and subsequent cleansing and commissioning.

### **Embrace trials as humbling tools**

View difficulties as God's means to humble us and teach us dependence on His word and provision.

**Lecture support:** Deuteronomy 8:2-3 shows God humbled Israel through hunger to teach them reliance on Him.

### **Serve with a servant's heart**

Imitate Christ by seeking to minister to others rather than expecting to be ministered unto.

**Lecture support:** Matthew 20:28 and Paul's example of serving with humility of mind.

### **Think soberly about yourself**

Obey Romans 12:3 by not thinking more highly of yourself than you ought, acknowledging your weaknesses and limitations.

**Lecture support:** The Greek word *sophroneo* means to have a sound mind; pride is a form of insanity.

### **Humble yourself to seek revival**

Take the first step of 2 Chronicles 7:14 by humbling yourself before God, leading to prayer, seeking His face, and repentance.

**Lecture support:** The verse explicitly begins with humbling ourselves as the prerequisite for healing.

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## Personal Application and Notes

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

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

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

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## Online Lecture Resources

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

### **Lesson 1: Should A Christian Sing the Battle Hymn?**

Lecture JW00933

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### **Lesson 2: David's Designation of Praise**

Lecture JW00848

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### **Lesson 3: The Voice of God**

Lecture JW00804

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## **Lesson 4: Do Thorns Bother You?**

Lecture JW00622

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## **Lesson 5: The Present Truth**

Lecture JW00517

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## **Lesson 6: The Scope of Christian Obedience**

Lecture JW00494

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## **Lesson 7: The Scope Of Christian Obedience**

Lecture JW00492

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## **Lesson 8: Hanged on Your Own Gallows**

Lecture JW00405

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## **Lesson 9: Biblical Humility**

Lecture JW00371

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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.