

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Hardened Hearts

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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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

Hardened Hearts

Part Three

March 18, 2018

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-17.

Major Themes

Prevention of Hardened Hearts

The sermon focuses on practical steps to prevent believers' hearts from becoming hardened, emphasizing intentional consideration of God, His Word, and His works.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if we want to escape a hardened heart, we must follow the counsel that Paul gave to Timothy... Consider what I say unto thee' (2 Timothy 2:7).

Preeminence of Christ

Christ is to be the foremost focus of believers' thoughts, considering His person, offices, and sufferings as the perfect mediator and high priest.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we are to consider the Lord Jesus Christ preeminently. That is, He is to be first and foremost in our thinking.'

Sovereign Providence of God

God orchestrates all events for believers' good and His glory, and submission to His will is the quickest way through trials.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Do you know that God works everything out for our good? ... God in His sovereign providence that allows things to come to pass.'

Perpetual Worship

Worship is not confined to formal settings but should encompass all of life, with every action done for God's glory.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 10:31 and says, 'Everything that he did was an act of worship.'

Humility and Dependence on God

Believers must recognize their own worthlessness and inability apart from Christ, avoiding pride and self-trust.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'I have to come to the realization that I am nothing and I can do nothing in and of myself.'

Key Arguments

Christians can have hardened hearts

Weaver argues from Mark 6 and 8 that even disciples can have hardened hearts, characterized by dull perception and lack of understanding.

Lecture support: He says, 'it was not just unbelievers that can have hardened hearts, but Christians can have hardened hearts as well.'

Considering Christ prevents hardening

Fixing our minds on Christ, especially His sufferings, helps believers resist sin and avoid weariness.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Hebrews 12:3, 'For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.'

Submission to providence is essential

Rebelling against God's providential dealings leads to worse outcomes; submission is the quickest way out of trials.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the easiest and the quickest way out of a trial is just by submission to God.'

All of life is worship

Every action, from eating to working, can be an act of worship if done for God's glory, preventing a hardened heart.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If everything that you're doing is for God's honor and glory, you're going to have a very difficult time letting your heart become hardened.'

Self-trust leads to a curse

Trusting in human ability or flesh brings a curse, while trusting in God brings blessing and fruitfulness.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Jeremiah 17:5-8, contrasting the cursed man who trusts in man with the blessed man who trusts in the Lord.

Scripture References

Hebrews 3:1

Command to consider Christ as Apostle and High Priest; the central text for considering the Son of God preeminently.

Mark 6:52

Disciples' hearts were hardened because they did not consider the miracle of the loaves.

Mark 8:17

Jesus questions the disciples' hardened hearts and lack of understanding.

1 Timothy 4:13-16

Paul instructs Timothy to meditate on reading, exhortation, and doctrine; referenced in the second message review.

2 Peter 1:3

God has given all things for life and godliness through His divine power.

Matthew 7:3

Illustration of the word 'consider' - beholding a mote but not considering the beam.

Luke 12:24, 27

Jesus tells disciples to consider the ravens and lilies as examples of God's provision.

Colossians 3:1-2

Seek things above where Christ is; similar command to consider Christ.

1 Timothy 2:5-6

Christ is the one mediator between God and men.

Hebrews 2:16-18

Christ took on human nature to be a merciful high priest, able to help the tempted.

Hebrews 4:14-16

Christ is a great high priest who sympathizes with weaknesses, so we can approach the throne of grace boldly.

Hebrews 12:1-4

Consider Christ who endured the cross and hostility, so we do not grow weary; we have not resisted to the point of blood.

Romans 8:28

All things work together for good to those who love God; knowing this is key to considering God's providence.

1 Samuel 3:18

Eli's submission: 'It is the Lord; let him do what seemeth him good.'

Psalms 94:20-21

Wickedness made legal by tyrannical government; applied to national judgment.

2 Corinthians 3:17

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty; civil liberty depends on spiritual liberty.

1 Corinthians 10:31

Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God; basis for perpetual worship.

Colossians 3:23-24

Whatever you do, work heartily as for the Lord; serving Christ in all things.

Psalms 50:23

Whoever offers praise glorifies God; praise is worship.

Romans 12:3

Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought; think soberly.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways can Christians today have hardened hearts, and how can we identify this condition in ourselves?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that even disciples had hardened hearts, characterized by dull perception and lack of understanding.

2. What does it mean to 'consider' Christ preeminently, and how can we practically fix our minds on Him daily?

Consider: Based on Hebrews 3:1 and the Greek word for consider, Weaver urges attentive focus on Christ's person and offices.

3. How does considering Christ's sufferings help us resist temptation and avoid weariness?

Consider: Weaver explains from Hebrews 12 that we have not resisted to the point of blood, and considering Christ's endurance strengthens us.

4. Do you truly 'know' that God works all things for good? How can we grow in this knowledge during trials?

Consider: Weaver challenges the congregation on the depth of their knowledge of Romans 8:28 and the meaning of 'know' (oida).

5. What does it look like to worship God perpetually in everyday activities, and how can we cultivate this habit?

Consider: Weaver teaches that all actions done for God's glory are worship, citing 1 Corinthians 10:31 and Stonewall Jackson's example.

6. Why is pride so dangerous, and how can we practically 'think soberly' about ourselves?

Consider: Weaver warns against thinking too highly of oneself and lists pride as the first thing God hates in Proverbs 6.

7. How does trusting in human ability or government lead to a curse, and what does it mean to trust in the Lord instead?

Consider: Weaver contrasts the cursed man in Jeremiah 17 with the blessed man who trusts God, and cites Psalm 118:8-9.

8. What practical steps can we take to ensure our hearts do not become hardened, based on the five considerations in this sermon?

Consider: Weaver concludes with the five considerations: Word of God, Son of God, work of God, worship of God, and worthlessness of self.

Applications

Meditate on Scripture daily

Give persistent, practical, and perpetual consideration to God's Word to prevent a hardened heart.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'to prevent hardened hearts, the one thing that we must do is to consider the Word of God predominantly.'

Fix your mind on Christ in temptation

When tempted, consider Christ's sufferings and endurance to resist sin and not grow weary.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'when we are tempted... the one thing that would really stop us and hinder us is if we really consider His sufferings.'

Submit to God's providence in trials

Instead of rebelling, submit to God's sovereign will, trusting that He works all things for good.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the easiest and the quickest way out of a trial is just by submission to God.'

Do everything for God's glory

Turn daily activities into acts of worship by doing them heartily as unto the Lord.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 10:31 and says, 'If everything that you're doing is for God's honor and glory, you're going to have a very difficult time letting your heart become hardened.'

Think soberly about yourself

Avoid pride and self-trust; recognize your inability apart from Christ and depend wholly on Him.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I have to come to the realization that I am nothing and I can do nothing in and of myself.'

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

Hardened Hearts

Part One of Three

March 25, 2018

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 19-34.

Major Themes

Hardened Hearts Are a Believer's Problem

The sermon emphasizes that hardened hearts are not just for the unsaved; even Christ's disciples suffered from this condition.

Lecture support: In our text, it is not the fool, it is not the mocker, it is not the unsaved, it is not the pagan that contains the hardened hearts. It is believers. And moreover, it is our Lord's own disciples.

The Heart as the Mind and Understanding

The biblical heart refers to the mind, reasoning, and understanding, not merely emotions.

Lecture support: The general usage of the heart in Scripture refers to the mind, the understanding, the reasoning faculties.

Hardening as a Progressive Callousing

Hardening is a process of petrification, where the heart becomes increasingly dull and calloused through repeated neglect.

Lecture support: The word hardened here is the word actually indicates a process. And that process is what you and I would know as petrification.

Imperfect Consideration Leads to Hardening

Failing to consider and meditate on God's works causes the heart to harden, and the hardening further prevents consideration.

Lecture support: When God tells us when we fail to consider, when we fail to reflect and meditate upon that which our Lord has done and still continues to do for us, the process of hardening continues.

Improper Reasoning Follows Imperfect Consideration

A lack of proper consideration inevitably leads to faulty reasoning and rationalization.

Lecture support: Whenever there is a lack of consideration there's always going to be an improper reasoning or rationalization.

Incomplete Perception Results from Hardening

Hardened hearts prevent believers from truly perceiving and understanding spiritual truths.

Lecture support: Imperfect consideration always leads to an improper reasoning. Improper reasoning always leads to an incomplete perception.

Righteous Exasperation at Hardness

Jesus expressed righteous anger and exasperation at the hardness of heart in both Pharisees and disciples.

Lecture support: He sighed deeply in his spirit... He's thoroughly exasperated with the Pharisees. And then when you get from verses 13-21, now he's exasperated with the obtuseness of his disciples.

Hardness of Heart Produces Small Faith

A hardened heart cannot produce great faith; it results in 'little faith' as Jesus told the disciples.

Lecture support: A hardened heart cannot produce a great faith. A hardened heart can only have a small faith.

Key Arguments

Disciples' Hardened Hearts Prove Believers Can Be Hardened

If the disciples who spent three years with Jesus could have hardened hearts, it is even easier for modern believers to have hardened hearts.

Lecture support: If these individuals who had regular, daily conversations with our Lord, if they could have hardened hearts, how much easier is it for you and me to have our hearts hardened when we are not with our Lord like they certainly were?

The Heart Is the Mind, Not Just Emotions

Scripture consistently uses 'heart' to refer to the mind, understanding, and reasoning, as seen in Genesis and Matthew.

Lecture support: The general usage of the heart in Scripture refers to the mind, the understanding, the reasoning faculties. For instance, the very first time the word heart is used in the Bible is Genesis chapter 6 and verse 5. And the Bible tells us that God saw the thoughts of their heart.

Nebuchadnezzar's Transformation Illustrates Heart as Understanding

When God gave Nebuchadnezzar a beast's heart, his understanding and reason were changed, proving the heart is the mind.

Lecture support: When God changed His heart, He changed his understanding. He changed his reasoning ability.

Hardening Is a Self-Feeding Process

Failure to consider God's works hardens the heart, and a hardened heart further prevents consideration, creating a vicious cycle.

Lecture support: You do not consider because your heart is hardened, and when you refuse to consider, your heart becomes more hardened. So it actually feeds upon itself.

The Disciples' Improper Reasoning About Bread

The disciples reasoned that Jesus' warning about leaven was about physical bread, showing their hardened hearts led to faulty reasoning.

Lecture support: And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. When Jesus knew it, He said unto them, Why reason you because you have no bread? Perceive you not yet? Neither understand? Have you your hearts yet hardened?

Jesus' Nine Questions Reveal His Exasperation

Jesus' rapid-fire questions in Mark 8 demonstrate His righteous exasperation at the disciples' dullness and failure to understand.

Lecture support: He has given nine questions rapid fire. He's nailed them.

Hardened Hearts Lead to Small Faith

Jesus directly linked the disciples' hardened hearts to their 'little faith' in Matthew 16:8.

Lecture support: He said, O ye of little faith. A hardened heart cannot produce a great faith.

God Holds Us Accountable to Learn from Others' Experiences

Matthew 21:32 shows that God expects us to repent and believe when we see His work in others' lives.

Lecture support: And you, when you had seen it, repented not afterwards that you might believe. So God holds us accountable and responsible, not only for what He does in our lives, but what He does in the lives of others that we know.

Scripture References

Mark 6:52

The key verse stating the disciples' hearts were hardened because they did not consider the miracle of the loaves.

Mark 8:13-21

The parallel account where Jesus questions the disciples about their hardened hearts and failure to understand.

Proverbs 29:1

Cited as a typical verse about hardened hearts, referring to one who is often reproved and hardens his neck.

Proverbs 1:7

Mentioned to show that fools despise wisdom and instruction, contrasting with the disciples' issue.

Proverbs 14:9

Fools make a mock at sin, used to describe the typical hardened heart, but not the disciples' case.

Genesis 6:5

Used to show the heart thinks, as God saw the thoughts of their heart.

Genesis 8:21

The imagination of man's heart is evil, showing the heart imagines.

Genesis 27:41

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

Matthew 5:27-28

Jesus taught that lust in the heart is adultery, showing the connection between eyes and heart.

Daniel 4:16, 34, 36

Nebuchadnezzar's heart was changed to a beast's heart, and his understanding returned when restored.

Job 39:13-17

The ostrich is hardened against her young, deprived of wisdom and understanding.

Lamentations 4:3, 7-10

The women of Jerusalem became cruel like ostriches, cooking their children during the siege.

1 Samuel 12:24

Samuel admonished Israel to consider how great things God has done for them.

Acts 12:5-12

Peter considered his miraculous deliverance and understood God had sent His angel.

Mark 2:1-12

The scribes reasoned in their hearts that Jesus blasphemed, showing improper reasoning from imperfect consideration.

Matthew 16:6-12

Jesus rebukes the disciples for little faith and explains the leaven is doctrine, not bread.

Mark 8:11-12

Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit at the Pharisees seeking a sign, showing righteous exasperation.

Mark 3:1-5

Jesus looked with anger, grieved at the hardness of their hearts, before healing the withered hand.

Matthew 21:32

Jesus said the religious leaders did not repent after seeing publicans and harlots believe John the Baptist.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it surprising that the disciples had hardened hearts, and what does that imply for believers today?

Consider: The sermon emphasizes that hardened hearts are not just for the unsaved but can affect those close to Jesus.

2. How does the biblical definition of the heart as the mind and understanding change the way we think about spiritual hardness?

Consider: The speaker argues that the heart in Scripture refers to reasoning faculties, not just emotions.

3. In what ways can failing to 'consider' God's works lead to a hardened heart in our own lives?

Consider: The sermon states that imperfect consideration feeds the hardening process.

- 4.** Can you identify a time when improper reasoning about a situation led to spiritual dullness or misunderstanding?

Consider: The disciples reasoned incorrectly about the leaven because they did not consider the miracles.

- 5.** Why did Jesus respond with such strong exasperation to His disciples, and is such exasperation ever righteous today?

Consider: Jesus asked nine rapid-fire questions, showing His frustration at their hardened hearts.

- 6.** How does a hardened heart manifest as 'little faith,' and what can we do to cultivate greater faith?

Consider: Jesus called the disciples 'O ye of little faith' in Matthew 16:8.

7. What are some modern examples of cultural hardness that Christians may have become desensitized to?

Consider: The speaker mentions abortion, socialism, theft, and adultery as things that no longer upset most Christians.

8. How can we learn from what God does in the lives of others to prevent our own hearts from hardening?

Consider: Matthew 21:32 shows God holds us accountable to learn from others' repentance and faith.

Applications

Examine Your Consideration of God's Works

Believers must intentionally consider and meditate on what God has done, is doing, and continues to do, to prevent heart hardening.

Lecture support: When God tells us when we fail to consider, when we fail to reflect and meditate upon that which our Lord has done and still continues to do for us, the process of hardening continues.

Guard Against Improper Reasoning

Recognize that a lack of consideration leads to faulty reasoning; believers should test their thoughts against Scripture and God's character.

Lecture support: Whenever there is a lack of consideration there's always going to be an improper reasoning or rationalization.

Seek Complete Perception Through Scripture

To avoid incomplete perception, believers must diligently study and apply God's Word, not just intellectually acknowledge it.

Lecture support: Imperfect consideration always leads to an improper reasoning. Improper reasoning always leads to an incomplete perception.

Learn from God's Work in Others

God expects believers to observe His grace and judgment in others' lives and respond with repentance and faith.

Lecture support: And you, when you had seen it, repented not afterwards that you might believe. So God holds us accountable and responsible, not only for what He does in our lives, but what He does in the lives of others that we know.

Cultivate Great Faith by Softening the Heart

Since a hardened heart produces small faith, believers should actively fight hardness through consideration, reasoning, and perception to grow in faith.

Lecture support: A hardened heart cannot produce a great faith. A hardened heart can only have a small faith.

Be Sensitive to Cultural Hardness

Christians must guard against becoming desensitized to sin in society, such as abortion and immorality, by maintaining a tender heart through God's Word.

Lecture support: Abortion does not upset most Christians today. Socialism does not upset most Christians today. Theft, adultery does not upset most Christians today. You know why? We've become hardened to those things.

Study notes

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

Personal Application and Notes

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

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

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 3

Pastor John Weaver - Hardened Hearts

Part Two of Three

March 25, 2018

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 35-52.

Major Themes

Hardened Hearts Among Believers

Christians, like the disciples, can develop hardened hearts - minds that are dull and unable to perceive spiritual truth.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'if those disciples who were with Jesus Christ on a daily basis had their hearts hardened, how much easier it is for you and I... to have our hearts hardened as well.'

The Primacy of Scripture

The Word of God must predominate in the believer's life, providing everything needed for life and godliness and interpreting all experiences.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must consider the Word of God predominantly... The Bible is the full, final, and finished revelation of God.'

Godly Living and Doctrine

A successful ministry and Christian life require attention to personal holiness and sound doctrine, not worldly methods.

Lecture support: Paul tells Timothy the tools for a successful ministry are 'godly living and biblical doctrine.'

Sources of Sickness

Sickness can arise from sin, Satan, self, or God's sovereignty, and believers must examine their lives in light of Scripture to discern the cause.

Lecture support: Weaver outlines four sources: 'our sickness could come from sin... from Satan... from self... from the sovereignty of God.'

Chastisement and Repentance

God uses sickness as chastisement for sin, and self-examination and repentance are necessary to avoid judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'when we become sick, one of the questions that we must first ask ourselves... is there any sin... that I've not repented of?'

Sovereignty of God in Affliction

God allows afflictions for His glory and purposes, as seen in the man born blind, and believers must trust His wisdom.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God is absolutely sovereign and God will allow things in our lives that we don't understand... for His honor and for His glory.'

Key Arguments

Hardness of heart is a spiritual problem, not an intellectual one.

The disciples' failure to understand was due to unbelief, not lack of evidence; faith must precede understanding.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The problem that the disciples had was not necessarily an intellectual problem. It was a spiritual problem.'

Addiction to Scripture prevents hardened hearts.

Paul commands Timothy to be addicted to reading, exhortation, and doctrine, implying that constant engagement with God's Word guards against spiritual dullness.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'the word "give attendance" is "prosecho"... it literally means to become addicted to.'

Neglecting the Bible is rebellion against God.

Refusing to read and study Scripture is sin and thwarts Christ's work of deliverance from the world.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When a Christian refuses to read and study his Bible, he is not only sinning against God... he's actually seeking to thwart the work of Jesus Christ.'

Experience must be interpreted by Scripture, not vice versa.

The Bible is determinative; personal experiences must be evaluated in light of God's Word, not used to override it.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'your experience is not determinative; the Bible is... you must allow the Bible to interpret it.'

Sickness can be a direct result of specific sins.

The Bible shows that sins like drunkenness, immorality, and even partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily can lead to physical illness.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 11:30: 'For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.'

Satanic affliction is a biblical reality for believers.

Satan can bind people with sickness, as with the woman in Luke 13, and Paul's thorn in the flesh was a messenger of Satan.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Paul identifies his problem as a thorn in the flesh and as a messenger of Satan.'

Creaturehood means sickness can occur without specific sin or satanic attack.

As frail, mutable beings, we are susceptible to diseases simply because we are creatures, not necessarily due to personal sin.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You do not have to be a great and exceeding sinner... to become sick. There are many viruses, bacteria... that are just willing and ready to attack your weak body.'

God's sovereignty in sickness is for His glory.

God may allow sickness to display His works, as with the man born blind, and believers must trust His loving purposes.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God is absolutely sovereign and God will allow things in our lives that we don't understand... for His honor and for His glory.'

Scripture References

1 Timothy 4:13-16

Paul commands Timothy to give attendance to reading, exhortation, and doctrine, and to take heed to himself and his doctrine.

Mark 6:52

The disciples' hearts were hardened because they did not consider the miracle of the loaves.

Mark 8:17

Jesus asks the disciples if their hearts are still hardened.

Proverbs 4:23

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

Matthew 15:19

Out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, showing that sin originates in the mind.

Mark 16:14

Jesus upbraids the disciples for their unbelief and hardness of heart.

Matthew 28:18

All authority in heaven and earth is given to Jesus.

2 Timothy 2:22

Paul tells Timothy to flee youthful lusts.

1 Timothy 4:12

Paul tells Timothy to be an example of the believers.

1 Corinthians 16:15

The house of Stephanas addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints.

2 Timothy 1:6

Paul reminds Timothy to stir up the gift of God which is in him by the putting on of Paul's hands.

Deuteronomy 29:29

The secret things belong to the Lord, but the revealed things belong to us and our children.

2 Peter 1:3-4

God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness through the knowledge of Him and precious promises.

Galatians 1:3-5

Christ gave Himself for our sins to deliver us from this present evil world.

Romans 5:12

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

Proverbs 23:29-35

The effects of drunkenness include woe, sorrow, contentions, and physical harm.

Genesis 25:22

Rebecca inquired of the Lord when the children struggled within her.

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

Partaking of the Lord's Supper unworthily leads to weakness, sickness, and death as chastisement.

1 John 5:16-17

There is a sin unto death and a sin not unto death.

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman bound by Satan for eighteen years.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways can Christians today develop hardened hearts, and how does the example of the disciples warn us?

Consider: Weaver notes that even the disciples who walked with Jesus had hardened hearts, so we are susceptible.

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2. What does it practically mean to 'give attendance' or be addicted to reading, exhortation, and doctrine in our daily lives?

Consider: Paul commands Timothy to be addicted to these things, and Weaver applies this to all believers.

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3. How can we ensure that the Word of God predominates our thinking when we face trials like sickness?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that considering Scripture predominantly is key to preventing hardened hearts.

4. Why is it dangerous to let our experiences interpret the Bible rather than letting the Bible interpret our experiences?

Consider: Weaver warns against prioritizing experience over Scripture, citing the example of Herod.

5. When you are sick, how do you discern whether it might be due to sin, Satan, self, or God's sovereignty?

Consider: Weaver presents four biblical sources of sickness and encourages self-examination.

6. How does the example of Paul's thorn in the flesh challenge our view of healing and suffering?

Consider: Paul's affliction was a messenger of Satan, yet he learned to glory in infirmities because of God's grace.

7. What comfort can we find in God's sovereignty when we or loved ones face chronic illness or disability?

Consider: Weaver discusses the man born blind and the girl with Down syndrome as examples of God's glory in affliction.

8. How can we cultivate a habit of inquiring of the Lord like Rebecca when we face difficulties?

Consider: Rebecca asked 'Why am I thus?' and sought the Lord, modeling a proper response to trouble.

Applications

Prioritize Scripture in all circumstances

Make the Word of God the predominant lens through which you view every experience, especially trials like sickness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must consider the Word of God predominantly. Whatever happens, whatever transpires in our lives, we must consider the Word of God predominantly.'

Examine your life for unrepentant sin when sick

When facing illness, ask God if there is any specific sin that needs repentance, as sickness can be a form of chastisement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'when we become sick, one of the questions that we must first ask ourselves... is there any sin, any particular sin that I have committed that I've not repented of?'

Trust God's sovereignty in affliction

Accept that some sickness is allowed by God for His glory and purposes, and respond with trust rather than complaint.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God is absolutely sovereign and God will allow things in our lives that we don't understand... for His honor and for His glory.'

Be addicted to Scripture and doctrine

Cultivate a habit of constant engagement with the Bible, including reading, exhortation, and doctrine, to guard against spiritual dullness.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that 'give attendance' means to become addicted to reading, exhortation, and doctrine.

Let the Bible interpret your experiences

Evaluate all personal experiences, including spiritual encounters, through the lens of Scripture rather than relying on subjective feelings.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'your experience is not determinative; the Bible is... you must allow the Bible to interpret it.'

Take heed to your life and doctrine

Continuously monitor your personal holiness and adherence to biblical teaching, as this is essential for your own salvation and influence on others.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Paul tells Timothy the tools he needs for a successful ministry... godly living and biblical doctrine.'

Inquire of the Lord in trials

Like Rebecca, ask God 'Why am I thus?' when facing difficulties, seeking His wisdom and purpose.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The wise thing to do when there is any sickness is to inquire of the Lord as to why am I thus?'

Endure suffering with God's grace

In affliction, rely on God's sufficient grace and find strength in weakness, as Paul did with his thorn in the flesh.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'the Apostle Paul said, "I'll take the messenger as long as God's grace is sufficient, and I will have the power of God in my life."'

Study notes

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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: Hardened Hearts - Part Three

Lecture JW00427

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00427&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00427&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Hardened Hearts - Part One of Three

Lecture JW01498

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Lesson 3: Pastor John Weaver - Hardened Hearts - Part Two of Three

Lecture JW01499

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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.