

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Ignorant Professors

Study Guide

Family Government

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

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

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

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

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

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

LESSON 1

Pastor John Weaver - Ignorant Professors

Part One of Two

December 05, 2016

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

Major Themes

Ignorance of God's Ways is Deadly

The sermon's central thesis is that not knowing and walking in God's ways leads to spiritual death, as exemplified by the Israelites who perished in the wilderness.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'ignorance is not bliss, it is death. The Israelites were ignorant of God and His ways, and they died in the wilderness.'

Walking in God's Ways Equals Obedience to His Commandments

Weaver repeatedly equates walking in God's ways with keeping His commandments, statutes, and judgments, as seen in multiple Deuteronomy passages.

Lecture support: In Deuteronomy 8:6, he says, 'to walk in his ways... means to keep his commandments... to fear him.'

Departing from God's Ways is Wickedness and Perversion

Turning to one's own ways is described as wickedness, foolishness, and a perversion of God's right ways.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 2 Samuel 22:22 and Acts 13:10, saying, 'when we depart from the ways of the Lord it is wickedness' and 'anyone then who tries to lead people away from the Scriptures is a pervert.'

Grieving the Heart of God

Not knowing and refusing to walk in God's ways grieves God the Father, just as disobedient children grieve earthly parents.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Has it ever dawned upon you that not knowing God's ways and refusing to walk in God's ways grieves the heart of God?'

The Necessity of Self-Examination

Believers are called to consider their ways in light of God's omniscience and to repent where their ways do not align with His.

Lecture support: Weaver references Haggai 1:5,7 and Proverbs 5:21, urging listeners to 'consider our ways and if our ways are not His ways then we need to repent.'

Key Arguments

Knowing God Necessitates Knowing His Ways

Weaver argues that if we truly know God, we will know His ways, because His ways are the manifestation of His person and character.

Lecture support: He says, 'If we really know Him we should also know His ways. If we do not know His ways then we really do not know Him.'

Walking in God's Ways is Commanded and Defined by Scripture

Through a series of Deuteronomy texts, Weaver demonstrates that walking in God's ways is not a vague concept but is clearly defined as keeping His commandments, fearing, loving, serving, and cleaving to Him.

Lecture support: He summarizes Deuteronomy 10:12-13: 'loving the Lord, serving the Lord, and keeping His commandments is walking in His ways.'

Refusing to Cleave to God is Spiritual Fornication

Weaver uses 1 Corinthians 6 to argue that being joined to the Lord means we cannot use our bodies unlawfully or cleave to other gods; to refuse to cleave to Him is spiritual fornication.

Lecture support: He states, 'to refuse to cleave unto Him is spiritual fornication.'

Obedience is the Evidence of Faith and Love

Weaver argues that our faith is revealed and evidenced by obedience, and that loving Christ is demonstrated by keeping His commandments (John 14:15,21).

Lecture support: He says, 'My faith is revealed and evidenced and manifested by obedience.'

Ignorant Professors are Foolish and Have No Understanding

Using Jeremiah 4:22, Weaver shows that those who do not know God are foolish, sottish children with no understanding, wise only to do evil.

Lecture support: He reads Jeremiah 4:22: 'For my people is foolish... they are soddish children, and they have none understanding.'

God's Judgment Comes for Refusing His Ways

Weaver points to Isaiah 42:24 and 2 Kings 17:13 to show that God gave Israel over to spoil and destruction because they would not walk in His ways or obey His law.

Lecture support: He quotes Isaiah 42:24: 'Who gave Jacob for a spoil... Did not the Lord he against whom we have sinned for they would not walk in his ways.'

Scripture References

Hebrews 3:7-11

The opening reading and the primary text for the sermon, focusing on verse 10 where God says the Israelites always err in heart and have not known His ways.

Psalms 95:10

Weaver notes that Hebrews 3:10 is a quote from Psalm 95:10, emphasizing God's grief over the generation that did not know His ways.

1 Corinthians 10:5

Cited to show that with many of the Israelites God was not well pleased and they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Hebrews 3:17-19

Weaver reads these verses to show that the Israelites could not enter God's rest because of unbelief.

3 John 1:4

Quoted to illustrate the joy of a parent when children walk in truth, contrasting with the grief when they do not.

Genesis 18:19

Used to show that God knew Abraham would command his household to keep the way of the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8-9

Explained to show that by nature our thoughts and ways are not God's, but we must learn His ways after conversion.

1 Kings 3:14

God's promise to Solomon that if he walked in God's ways, his days would be lengthened.

1 Kings 11:38

God's conditional promise to Jeroboam that if he walked in God's ways, God would build him a sure house.

Psalms 81:13

God's lament that His people did not hearken to Him or walk in His ways.

Ephesians 5:1

Paul's command to be imitators of God as dear children.

Matthew 5:48

Jesus' command to be perfect as our Heavenly Father is perfect, connected to walking in God's ways.

Haggai 1:5,7

God's command to consider your ways, used to call for self-examination.

Psalms 145:17

Declares that the Lord is righteous in all His ways and holy in all His works.

Revelation 15:3

The song of Moses and the Lamb declares God's ways are just and true.

Deuteronomy 8:6

Command to keep God's commandments, walk in His ways, and fear Him.

Deuteronomy 10:12-13

What God requires: fear, walk in all His ways, love, serve, keep commandments.

Deuteronomy 11:22

Command to diligently keep commandments, love God, walk in His ways, and cleave to Him.

Genesis 2:24

Used to define 'cleave' as joining together, applied to cleaving to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:13-20

Extended reading to argue that being joined to the Lord means not using the body for fornication; refusing to cleave to God is spiritual fornication.

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.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'know God's ways' according to this sermon, and how is that different from simply knowing about God?

Consider: Weaver argues that knowing God's ways is essential to knowing God Himself, and that His ways are revealed in His commandments.

2. How does the analogy of parent-child relationships help us understand God's grief over His people's ignorance and disobedience?

Consider: Weaver uses the grief of parents when children lie or act contrary to their teaching to illustrate God's heart.

3. In what ways might professing Christians today be 'ignorant professors' who do not truly know God's ways?

Consider: The sermon challenges listeners to examine whether their profession matches their walk, citing the example of the Israelites.

4. What is the relationship between loving God and keeping His commandments according to John 14:15,21 and Deuteronomy 10:12-13?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that love for God is demonstrated by obedience to His commandments.

5. Why does Weaver call refusing to cleave to the Lord 'spiritual fornication,' and what does that imply about our relationship with God?

Consider: Using 1 Corinthians 6, he argues that being joined to the Lord means exclusive loyalty and obedience.

6. How does the concept of 'perverting the right ways of the Lord' (Acts 13:10) apply to those who lead others away from biblical truth today?

Consider: Weaver applies Paul's rebuke of Elymas to anyone who distorts or opposes God's ways.

7. What does it mean practically to 'consider your ways' in light of God's omniscience (Proverbs 5:21; Haggai 1:5,7)?

Consider: The sermon calls for self-examination and repentance where our ways do not align with God's.

Applications

Examine Your Ways in Light of God's Word

Believers are urged to consider their ways and repent if they are not walking in God's commandments, as God sees all and ponders our goings.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we need to consider the fact that We can't hide from God and God knows every one of our ways.'

Walk in Obedience as Evidence of Faith

True faith is manifested by obedience to God's commandments; walking in His ways is the proof that we know Him.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'My faith is revealed and evidenced and manifested by obedience.'

Cleave to the Lord Exclusively

Believers must join themselves to God alone, avoiding spiritual fornication by not cleaving to other gods or walking in their own perverse ways.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'to refuse to cleave unto Him is spiritual fornication.'

Do Not Grieve God by Ignorance and Disobedience

Recognize that not knowing and refusing to walk in God's ways grieves the heart of God, and strive to bring Him joy by walking in truth.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'Has it ever dawned upon you that not knowing God's ways and refusing to walk in God's ways grieves the heart of God?'

Reject the World's Redefinition of Christianity

Weaver warns against a 'fun-centered' Christianity that neglects preaching, teaching, and obedience, calling believers to return to the old paths of God's ways.

Lecture support: He recounts an ad for a church 'putting the fun back in Christianity' and contrasts it with the suffering of early Christians.

Personal Application and Notes

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

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

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Ignorant Professors

Part Two of Two

January 11, 2017

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

Major Themes

Ignorance of God's ways leads to error and wickedness

Those who do not know God's ways always err in their hearts and live in sin, as seen in the generation that grieved God in the wilderness.

Lecture support: Hebrews 3:10: 'They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.'

Judgment follows departure from God's ways

God recompenses individuals and nations according to their ways, bringing slippery places, darkness, and inevitable destruction.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 23:12: 'Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness...' and Deuteronomy 32:35: 'their foot shall slide in due time.'

Knowledge and grace are inseparable for holiness

Growing in grace is equated with growing in knowledge; an ignorant man cannot be holy, and God's ways lead to obedience and holiness.

Lecture support: 2 Peter 3:18: 'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' and Hosea 4:6: 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.'

Walking in God's ways brings blessing and rejoicing

Obedience to God's commands is for our good, leading to life, multiplication, blessing, and singing in the ways of the Lord.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:16: 'to walk in his ways... that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee' and Psalm 138:5: 'they shall sing in the ways of the Lord.'

Self-examination and amendment of ways

Believers must search and try their ways, learning from the judgment of others, and turn from evil ways to avoid destruction.

Lecture support: Lamentations 3:40: 'Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord' and Jeremiah 26:13: 'amend your ways and your doings.'

Preparing our ways before the Lord

Like Jotham, believers become mighty by preparing their ways - aligning their conduct with God's Word - to ensure they walk in His ways.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 27:6: 'Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.'

Obedience produces peace with enemies

When a man's ways please the Lord, God makes even his enemies to be at peace with him, an added blessing of walking in His ways.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:7: 'When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.'

Prayer for knowledge leads to a worthy walk

Paul's prayer for the Colossians to be filled with the knowledge of God's will results in walking worthy, fruitfulness, and increasing knowledge.

Lecture support: Colossians 1:9-10: 'that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will... that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing.'

Key Arguments

Sin is a violation of God's law and a departure from His ways

Every sin transgresses God's law; turning to our own ways is idolatry and wickedness.

Lecture support: 1 John 3:4: 'sin is the transgression of the law' and 2 Samuel 22:22: 'I have kept the ways of the Lord, and have not wickedly departed from my God.'

No one can escape the consequences of their actions

Individuals, families, churches, and nations will reap judgment according to their ways; God's recompense is inescapable.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 11:11: 'I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape' and Ezekiel 7:4: 'I will recompense thy ways upon thee.'

God's law is for our good, not bondage

God's commands are designed for our welfare, preservation, and blessing; true liberty is found in obedience.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 6:24: 'for our good always, that he might preserve us alive' and James 2:12: 'the law of liberty.'

Ignorance of God's Word prevents holiness

Without knowledge of God's ways, one cannot be obedient or holy; knowledge and grace grow together.

Lecture support: Hosea 4:6: 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge' and 2 Peter 3:18: 'grow in grace, even in the knowledge.'

Walking in God's ways leads to life and good, not death and evil

God sets before us life and good through obedience, and death and evil through disobedience; we must choose life.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:15-16: 'I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil... to walk in his ways... that thou mayest live.'

Preparing our ways before God brings strength and blessing

Jotham became mighty by preparing his ways before the Lord; believers must align their conduct with Scripture.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 27:6: 'Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.'

Pleasing God in our ways results in peace with enemies

Obedience to God's ways can lead to peace even with adversaries, as God intervenes on behalf of the righteous.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:7: 'When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.'

Increasing in knowledge of God's will leads to a fruitful, worthy walk

Paul's prayer for knowledge results in a walk that pleases God, fruitfulness, and further increase in knowledge.

Lecture support: Colossians 1:9-10: 'filled with the knowledge of his will... that ye might walk worthy of the Lord... increasing in the knowledge of God.'

Scripture References

Hebrews 3:7-11

The primary text of the sermon, warning against hardening hearts and erring through ignorance of God's ways.

Titus 1:16

Describes those who profess to know God but deny Him by their works, illustrating ignorant professors.

Isaiah 55:8-9

God's thoughts and ways are infinitely higher than man's, necessitating turning from our ways to His.

1 John 3:4

Defines sin as transgression of the law, equating sin with departing from God's ways.

2 Samuel 22:22

David's testimony that keeping God's ways prevents wicked departure from God.

Jeremiah 23:9-12

Prophets, priests, and people are wicked; their own ways become slippery places in darkness, bringing judgment.

Deuteronomy 32:35

God's vengeance: the foot of the wicked shall slide in due time, illustrating inevitable judgment.

Psalms 73:18

Asaph realized God sets the wicked in slippery places, leading to their destruction.

Jeremiah 17:10

God searches the heart and recompenses every man according to his ways.

Jeremiah 18:11

God calls Judah to turn from evil ways to avoid devised judgment.

Ezekiel 7:4, 9

God will recompense their ways upon them without pity, so they know He is the Lord.

Ezekiel 14:23

God's judgment is not without cause; they will understand when they see the ways and doings of the wicked.

Ezekiel 20:21

Israel rebelled by not walking in God's statutes, provoking His fury.

Ezekiel 24:14

God will judge according to their ways and doings, without relenting.

Hosea 12:2

The Lord will punish Jacob according to his ways and recompense his doings.

Zechariah 1:4-6

God warns not to be like the fathers who refused to turn from evil ways; His words took hold of them.

Jeremiah 11:11

God brings evil that cannot be escaped; they will cry but He will not hear.

Luke 1:76

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the ways of the Lord by calling people to repentance.

Psalms 25:4

David's prayer for God to show him His ways and teach him His paths.

2 Peter 3:18

Believers are to grow in grace and knowledge; the 'and' can mean 'even,' linking grace and knowledge inseparably.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be an 'ignorant professor' according to Hebrews 3:10 and Titus 1:16?
How can we examine our own lives for this tendency?

Consider: Weaver defines ignorant professors as those who profess to know God but deny Him by their works, erring because they do not know His ways.

2. How does the imagery of 'slippery ways in the darkness' from Jeremiah 23:12 illustrate the consequences of walking in our own ways? Can you think of modern examples?

Consider: Weaver explains that choosing our own ways leads to inevitable judgment, depicted as slippery, dark paths from which there is no escape.

3. Why does Weaver insist that an ignorant man cannot be a holy man? How does 2 Peter 3:18 connect grace and knowledge?

Consider: Weaver argues that knowledge of God's ways is essential for holiness, and that growing in grace is inseparable from growing in knowledge.

- 4.** In what ways does God's law function as a 'law of liberty' rather than bondage, as described in James 2? How does this contrast with worldly ideas of freedom?

Consider: Weaver teaches that true liberty is found in obedience to God's commands, while sin and self-will lead to slavery.

- 5.** What does it practically mean to 'prepare our ways before the Lord' as Jotham did? How can we apply this in daily decision-making?

Consider: Weaver uses Jotham's example to urge believers to align their conduct with Scripture, ensuring their ways are God's ways.

- 6.** How does the promise of Proverbs 16:7 ('he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him') encourage us to pursue obedience even in difficult relationships?

Consider: Weaver presents peace with enemies as an added blessing of pleasing God in our ways.

7. According to Colossians 1:9-10, what is the relationship between being filled with the knowledge of God's will and walking worthy of the Lord? How can we pursue this in our prayer lives?

Consider: Weaver concludes that knowledge of God's will leads to a worthy walk, fruitfulness, and increasing knowledge, forming a cycle of growth.

8. Weaver says, 'It grieves the heart of God when we do not know His ways and we do not walk in His ways.' How should this truth affect our daily choices and priorities?

Consider: The sermon ends with a call to avoid grieving God by learning obedience and walking in His ways, based on Hebrews 3:10.

Applications

Search and try our ways

Believers should examine their conduct in light of God's Word, learning from the judgment of others, and turn from any way that is not His.

Lecture support: Lamentations 3:40: 'Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.'

Amend our ways to avoid judgment

To escape the recompense of our own ways, we must amend our doings and obey God's voice, as Jeremiah urged.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 26:13: 'amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the Lord your God.'

Prepare our ways before the Lord

Like Jotham, we should align our plans and actions with Scripture, ensuring they are biblical and right, to become mighty in God's service.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 27:6: 'Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.'

Pursue peace through pleasing God

By walking in ways that please the Lord, we can experience peace even with adversaries, as God intervenes on our behalf.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:7: 'When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.'

Pray for knowledge to walk worthy

We should pray to be filled with the knowledge of God's will, leading to a walk that pleases Him, fruitfulness, and increasing knowledge.

Lecture support: Colossians 1:9-10: 'that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will... that ye might walk worthy of the Lord.'

Choose life by walking in God's ways

God sets before us life and good through obedience; we must actively choose to walk in His ways to receive blessing and avoid death and evil.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:15-16: 'I have set before thee this day life and good... to walk in his ways... that thou mayest live.'

Grow in grace through growing in knowledge

Since grace and knowledge are linked, we must diligently study Scripture to grow in both, avoiding the destruction that comes from lack of knowledge.

Lecture support: 2 Peter 3:18: 'grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ' and Hosea 4:6.

Avoid grieving God by knowing His ways

The sermon's central application: to not grieve our Heavenly Father as the wilderness generation did, we must learn and walk in His ways.

Lecture support: Hebrews 3:10: 'Forty years long was I grieved with this generation... they have not known my ways.'

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.

Personal Application and Notes

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

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

Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

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

Lesson 1: Pastor John Weaver - Ignorant Professors - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01454

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01454&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Ignorant Professors - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01467

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01467&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Source information

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

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