

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Life and Death

Study Guide

Covenant Theology

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: Life and Death - Part One of Two 3

Major Themes 3

Key Arguments 4

Scripture References 5

Discussion Questions 7

Applications 9

Personal Application and Notes 10

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Life and Death - Part Two of Two 11

Major Themes 11

Key Arguments 12

Scripture References 13

Discussion Questions 15

Applications 18

Personal Application and Notes 19

Online Lecture Resources 20

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

Life and Death

Part One of Two

February 17, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-24.

Major Themes

God's Sovereignty Over Life and Death

God alone determines the timing and boundaries of human life; no one can die outside His will.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:39: 'I kill and I make alive'; Job 14:5: 'his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee.'

The Law as Life and Liberty

God's law is not a burden but the very condition of life, freedom, and blessing; outside it is death.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:15-19 sets before us life and good, death and evil; James 1:25 calls it the perfect law of liberty.

The Law's Role in Justification and Sanctification

The law cannot justify but serves as a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ; it guides believers in holy living.

Lecture support: Galatians 3:24: 'the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ'; 1 John 3:22: keeping His commandments pleases God.

Proper Interpretation of Negative Law Passages

Passages that seem to negate the law actually deny it as a means of justification, refer to its curse, or address ceremonial shadows fulfilled in Christ.

Lecture support: Romans 6:14: 'not under the law, but under grace' (as justification); Galatians 3:13: Christ redeemed us from the curse; Ephesians 2:15: abolished ordinances.

Obedience as the Path to Life and Blessing

Choosing to obey God's law is choosing life; disobedience brings death and destruction individually and corporately.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:19: 'choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live'; Proverbs 8:36: 'all they that hate me love death.'

Key Arguments

God's law is not abolished but established by faith

Paul argues that justification by faith establishes the law, not voids it; the law remains holy, just, and good, written on hearts in the New Covenant.

Lecture support: Romans 3:31: 'Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.'

Without the law there is no knowledge of sin

Sin is defined as transgression of the law; if the law is removed, sin becomes meaningless, and conviction of sin is impossible.

Lecture support: Romans 3:20: 'by the law is the knowledge of sin'; 1 John 3:4: 'sin is the transgression of the law.'

The law is the schoolmaster that leads to Christ

The law teaches our sinfulness, helplessness, need for a mediator, and dependence on Christ's merits, driving us to justification by faith.

Lecture support: Galatians 3:24: 'the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.'

Believers are freed from the law's curse, not its obedience

Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us; we are dead to the law's penalty but alive to God in obedience.

Lecture support: Galatians 3:13: 'Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law'; Galatians 2:19: 'I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God.'

Ceremonial laws were shadows fulfilled in Christ

The commandments contained in ordinances (sacrifices, priesthood, temple) were types and shadows; Christ is the reality, so those ordinances are fulfilled, not the moral law.

Lecture support: Ephesians 2:15: 'having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances'; Hebrews 10:1: 'the law having a shadow of good things to come.'

True liberty is found in submission to God's law

Freedom is not escape from law but living within God's ordained boundaries; rejecting His law leads to death, as illustrated by fish, birds, and trees removed from their environments.

Lecture support: James 1:25: 'the perfect law of liberty'; Deuteronomy 30:19: 'I have set before you life and death... therefore choose life.'

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 32:39

God declares He alone kills and makes alive, wounds and heals; no one can deliver from His hand.

Job 14:1,5

Man's days are determined, his months numbered, and his bounds appointed by God.

Job 7:1

There is an appointed time for man upon the earth.

Galatians 3:21

If a law could give life, righteousness would be by the law; but it cannot give eternal life.

Romans 3:31

Faith does not void the law; it establishes the law.

Matthew 5:17-18

Christ came not to destroy the law but to fulfill it; not one jot or tittle will pass until all is fulfilled.

Romans 7:12

The law is holy, and the commandment holy, just, and good.

Hebrews 8:10

In the New Covenant, God writes His laws in minds and hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3,7-8

Believers are epistles of Christ, with the law written on hearts by the Spirit; the ministration of the Spirit is more glorious than the ministration of death engraved on stones.

Romans 3:20

By the deeds of the law no flesh is justified; by the law is the knowledge of sin.

Romans 7:7-9

Paul would not have known sin except through the law; when the commandment came, sin revived and he died.

1 John 3:4

Sin is the transgression of the law.

Galatians 3:24

The law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ for justification by faith.

Romans 8:7-8

The carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to His law, and cannot please God.

Colossians 1:10; 3:20

Believers can walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing; obeying parents is well pleasing to the Lord.

1 John 3:22; 5:3

We receive answers to prayer because we keep His commandments and do what pleases Him; His commandments are not grievous.

Romans 6:14-15

Sin shall not have dominion because we are not under law (as justification) but under grace; yet we must not sin.

Galatians 2:16

A man is not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:10,13

Those under works of the law are under a curse; Christ redeemed us from the curse by becoming a curse for us.

Ephesians 2:13-16

Christ abolished the enmity, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, to make peace and reconcile both to God.

Discussion Questions

1. How does the truth that God alone determines the time and manner of our death affect the way we live daily?

Consider: Based on the opening teaching from Deuteronomy 32:39 and Job 14:5 that our days are appointed.

2. In what practical ways can we see God's law as 'life' rather than a restraint in our personal walk?

Consider: The sermon's central claim that God's law is life, illustrated by the fish, bird, and tree analogies.

3. Why is it essential to understand the three categories of negative New Testament passages about the law to avoid antinomianism?

Consider: The explanation that negative passages deny the law as justification, refer to the curse, or address ceremonial shadows.

4. How does the law function as a 'schoolmaster' in your own experience of coming to Christ?

Consider: Galatians 3:24 and the four things the law teaches: sinfulness, helplessness, need for a mediator, and salvation by another's merits.

5. What are some modern examples of 'presumptuous sins' where people set aside God's law to live by their own standards?

Consider: The warning against presumption from Psalm 19 and the application that rejecting God's law is choosing death.

Applications

Live in the fear of God, acknowledging His sovereignty over life and death

Recognize that our days are determined by God, and we cannot die before or after His appointed time; this should humble us and lead us to trust Him.

Lecture support: Job 14:5: 'his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee.'

Embrace God's law as the path to true freedom and blessing

Instead of viewing God's commandments as restrictive, see them as the boundaries that bring life, just as water is life for a fish.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 30:19: 'choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.'

Use the law to examine your heart and flee to Christ

Allow the law to reveal your sin and drive you to Christ for justification, not relying on your own obedience for salvation.

Lecture support: Galatians 3:24: 'the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ.'

Pursue holiness by keeping God's commandments

Since believers now have the ability to please God, actively seek to obey His law as an expression of love and sanctification.

Lecture support: 1 John 5:3: 'this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments.'

Reject the world's definition of liberty and submit to God's authority

True liberty is not autonomy but joyful submission to God's law; man's law leads to tyranny, God's law to freedom.

Lecture support: James 1:25: 'the perfect law of liberty.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

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

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

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Life and Death

Part Two of Two

February 17, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-47.

Major Themes

Sovereignty of God over life and death

God alone has the authority and power to give and take life, and He exercises this right justly and righteously.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:39: 'I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal.'

God's use of means to execute judgment

God often kills mediately through natural calamities, armies, and civil authorities, all under His sovereign control.

Lecture support: Isaiah 10:5: 'O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger.'

The curse of half-hearted obedience

Jeremiah 48:10 pronounces a curse on those who do God's work deceitfully or fail to fully execute His commanded judgment.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 48:10: 'Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully, and cursed be he that keepeth back his sword from blood.'

The perversion of God's love

A sentimentalized view of God's love leads many to deny His justice and wrath, but Scripture reveals a God who is both loving and just.

Lecture support: Nahum 1:2-3: 'God is jealous, and the Lord revengeth...'

The necessity of fearing God

A proper fear of God includes recognizing His power over life and death, leading to obedience and accountability.

Lecture support: Matthew 10:28: 'Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.'

True life found only in Christ

Abundant, joyful life is not mere existence but is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ and obedience to God.

Lecture support: John 10:10: 'I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.'

Key Arguments

God is not bound by His own law

The sixth commandment binds mankind, not God; God is above His law and can take life as He pleases.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:4: 'He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment.'

Natural calamities are acts of God, not 'Mother Nature'

Hurricanes, famines, and pestilences are God's righteous judgments in history, not random accidents.

Lecture support: Amos 3:6: 'Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?'

God's love does not negate His justice

The Bible presents God as both loving and vengeful; His love is principled, not sentimental, and includes chastening.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 7:9-10: 'He repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them.'

God commands full execution of judgment

In Jeremiah 48:10, God curses those who spare when He has commanded destruction; partial obedience is disobedience.

Lecture support: 1 Samuel 15: Saul lost his kingdom for sparing Agag.

Even women and children are not innocent

All are sinners deserving death; God's commands to kill women and children in certain contexts are just and must be obeyed.

Lecture support: Numbers 31:15-18: Moses commanded killing male children and non-virgin women.

Lukewarm service is despised by God

God rejects half-hearted work and worship; believers must serve with zeal and wholeheartedness.

Lecture support: Revelation 3:16: 'Because thou art lukewarm... I will spue thee out of my mouth.'

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 32:39

God declares His sole sovereignty over life and death.

Jeremiah 48:10

The central text: curse on deceitful work and withholding the sword.

Job 1:21

Job acknowledged God gives and takes away.

Romans 13:3-4

Civil magistrate bears the sword as God's minister of justice.

Deuteronomy 32:4

God's work is perfect and all His ways are just.

Psalms 115:3

God does whatever He pleases.

2 Samuel 24:15

God killed 70,000 with a pestilence because of David's sin.

Amos 3:6

Evil in a city is done by the Lord.

Nahum 1:2-3

God is jealous, revengeth, and will not acquit the wicked.

Deuteronomy 7:9-10

God repays those who hate Him to their face.

Exodus 22:24

God threatens to kill with the sword those who afflict widows and orphans.

Matthew 10:28

Fear God who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Revelation 2:23

Jesus threatens to kill Jezebel's children with death.

Genesis 9:6

By man shall his blood be shed; capital punishment ordained.

Numbers 35:19

The avenger of blood shall slay the murderer.

Exodus 32:27-28

Levites slew 3,000 idolaters at God's command.

Isaiah 10:5-7

Assyria is the rod of God's anger, though they mean not so.

1 Samuel 15:3

God commands Saul to utterly destroy Amalek, including women and children.

1 Kings 20:42

Ahab's life for Ben-Hadad's because he spared a man appointed to destruction.

Deuteronomy 19:13

Thine eye shall not pity a murderer; put away innocent blood.

Discussion Questions

1. How does understanding God's sovereignty over life and death affect your view of natural disasters and personal tragedies?

Consider: Weaver argues that all calamities are acts of God's judgment or providence.

-
-
-
-
2. In what ways has the modern church perverted the doctrine of God's love, and how can we recover a biblical balance?

Consider: Weaver critiques the sentimental view of God that ignores His justice.

-
-
-
-
3. How should Christians today apply the principle of Jeremiah 48:10 in contexts of spiritual warfare and moral courage?

Consider: The curse on withholding the sword is applied broadly to all faithful service.

4. What does it mean to fear God biblically, and how does that fear shape daily decisions?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes fearing God who can destroy both body and soul.

5. How can we guard against lukewarmness in our worship and service to God?

Consider: God despises half-hearted work; believers are called to zeal.

6. Is it ever right for Christians to support or participate in offensive war or capital punishment? How does Scripture guide us?

Consider: Weaver discusses just offensive wars and the death penalty as biblical.

7. How do we reconcile God's command to show no pity in certain cases with the call to be merciful?

Consider: God Himself declares He will not pity or spare in judgment.

8. What does it mean to have abundant life in Christ, and how does that differ from merely being alive?

Consider: True life is found only in Jesus, not in mere existence.

Applications

Fear God biblically

Recognize that God holds life and death in His hands, and live in reverent obedience to avoid His wrath.

Lecture support: Matthew 10:28: 'Fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.'

Serve God wholeheartedly

Avoid lukewarm, half-hearted service; do all work as unto the Lord with zeal and integrity.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 48:10: 'Cursed be he that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully.'

Seek true life in Christ

Abundant, joyful life is found only in a relationship with Jesus Christ, not in worldly pursuits.

Lecture support: John 10:10: 'I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.'

Trust God's justice in judgment

Accept that God's commands, even to destroy, are righteous; do not question His moral authority.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:4: 'All his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.'

Do not withhold justice when authorized

When God gives authority to execute judgment (e.g., civil magistrate), it must be carried out fully without pity.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 19:13: 'Thine eye shall not pity him.'

Recognize God's hand in all events

See natural calamities and historical events as under God's sovereign control, not random accidents.

Lecture support: Amos 3:6: 'Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?'

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: Life and Death - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01277

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01277&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01277&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Life and Death - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01278

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01278&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01278&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Source information

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

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