

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Perfecting Holiness

Study Guide

Biblical Worldview

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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

Perfecting Holiness - 1

January 08, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23.

Major Themes

Practical Holiness as a Believer's Responsibility

Believers are commanded to actively cleanse themselves from sin and perfect holiness, distinct from the positional holiness accomplished by God in Christ.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 7:1: 'let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'

Separation from Sin and Unto God

Holiness involves both a negative separation from sin and a positive separation unto God, as seen in turning from idols to serve the living God.

Lecture support: 1 Thessalonians 1:9: 'how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God.'

The Promises of God's Presence and Fatherhood

God promises to dwell with His people and be their Father when they separate from sin, providing comfort amid world opposition.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:16-18: 'I will dwell in them, and walk in them... and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters.'

Believers as Priests Who Discern Holiness

As a holy priesthood, believers must teach and discern the difference between holy and unholy, clean and unclean.

Lecture support: 1 Peter 2:5: 'Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood.'

God as Father and the Believer's Family Resemblance

Being begotten by God the Father means believers should resemble Him in character, loving enemies and living as obedient children.

Lecture support: Matthew 5:45: 'That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.'

Key Arguments

Ignorance of Scripture hinders holy living

Believers often fail to live holy lives because they do not know God's Word and thus cannot apply it.

Lecture support: We do not know the Word of God as we should know it. And consequently, since we do not know the Word of God, we do not know how to make application of the Word of God to our lives.

Positional holiness is God's work alone

God the Father makes believers positionally holy in Christ, a perfect work that cannot be added to or diminished.

Lecture support: 1 Corinthians 1:30: 'But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us... righteousness, and sanctification.'

Practical holiness requires divine enablement

While believers are responsible for practical holiness, they cannot achieve it without God's power and grace.

Lecture support: John 15:5: 'Without me ye can do nothing.'

Separation from sin is evidence of taking God as our God

The promise of God dwelling with His people is conditioned on their separation from idolatry and corruption.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:17: 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.'

Acknowledging God as Father obligates holy living

If believers confess God as Father, they must also act like His children, bringing their lives into conformity to His Word.

Lecture support: If we acknowledge that we have a responsibility to confess God as our Father, then the corollary is that we have a responsibility to act like His child.

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 7:1

The main text for the series, calling believers to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness in the fear of God.

Hebrews 12:14

Cited to emphasize that without holiness no one will see the Lord.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Ezekiel 22:26

God condemns priests for not distinguishing between holy and profane, clean and unclean.

Ezekiel 44:23

True priests are to teach the difference between holy and profane, clean and unclean.

1 Peter 2:5

Believers are a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices.

Revelation 1:5-6

Christ has made believers kings and priests unto God.

1 Thessalonians 4:7

God has called us not to uncleanness but to holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:17

The negative aspect of holiness: come out from among them and be separate.

Romans 1:1

Paul, separated unto the gospel of God, illustrating the positive aspect of holiness.

1 Thessalonians 1:9

The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve God, showing both negative and positive holiness.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31

Christ is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption - positional holiness.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made Christ sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Ephesians 1:4

God chose us in Christ to be holy and without blame - positional holiness.

Romans 6:19

Yield your members as servants to righteousness unto holiness - practical holiness.

1 Peter 1:14-16

Be holy in all manner of conversation, for God is holy.

John 15:5

Without Christ we can do nothing, emphasizing need for divine help in practical holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

The promises referred to in 7:1: God will dwell with His people and be their Father.

Isaiah 52:11

Depart, touch no unclean thing; be clean, you who bear the vessels of the Lord.

Revelation 18:4

Come out of her, my people, that you be not partakers of her sins.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between positional holiness and practical holiness, and why is it important to understand both?

Consider: Weaver explains that positional holiness is God's perfect work in Christ, while practical holiness is the believer's ongoing responsibility to cleanse from sin.

2. How does the command to 'come out from among them and be separate' apply to believers today in practical terms?

Consider: Based on 2 Corinthians 6:17, Weaver discusses separation from sin and idolatry as a condition for enjoying God's promises.

3. In what ways should acknowledging God as our Father change how we live and pray?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that if God is our Father, we should resemble Him in character and approach Him with confidence as His children.

4. Why is it necessary for believers to know Scripture in order to live holy lives?

Consider: Weaver argues that ignorance of God's Word leads to an inability to apply it and discern holy from unholy.

5. How can we balance the truth that 'ours is the responsibility, His is the ability' in our pursuit of holiness?

Consider: Weaver states that while we must actively cleanse ourselves, we depend on God's power and grace to do so.

Applications

Study Scripture to discern holy from unholy

Believers must know God's Word to understand His standards of holiness and apply them to their lives.

Lecture support: We do not know the Word of God as we should know it... we do not know how to make application of the Word of God to our lives.

Actively pursue practical holiness

Believers are commanded to cleanse themselves from sin and perfect holiness, cooperating with God's grace.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 7:1: 'let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'

Separate from worldly influences and sin

To enjoy God's presence and fatherly care, believers must separate from idolatry, compromise, and corruption.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 6:17: 'Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord.'

Acknowledge and confess God as Father

Believers should frequently and consciously address God as Father, recognizing the relationship and its implications.

Lecture support: We have an obligation, we have a responsibility to recognize, to acknowledge, and confess God as our Father.

Live as obedient children who resemble the Father

Since God is our Father, we should imitate His character, loving enemies and walking in holiness.

Lecture support: Matthew 5:45: 'That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.'

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

Perfecting Holiness - 2

January 15, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-43.

Major Themes

Practical Holiness

Believers are called to actively cleanse themselves from sin and perfect holiness, distinct from positional holiness.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God' and explains this is a practical duty.

God as Father

The promise that God will be a Father to believers is central, motivating holiness through relationship.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes, 'I will be a father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters' from 2 Corinthians 6:18.

God's Provision

As Father, God provides for all needs, knowing them before we ask, and delights to give good gifts.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 6:8, 'your Father knoweth what things you have need of before you ask him,' and Matthew 7:11.

God's Protection

God protects His children as the apple of His eye, defending them from enemies and granting victory.

Lecture support: Weaver references Deuteronomy 32:10, 'He kept him as the apple of his eye,' and multiple Psalms.

God as Our Portion

God is all we need, our inheritance, signifying intimacy, care, and future victory.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 16:5, 'The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance,' and explains eternal life as knowing God.

Intimacy with God

Eternal life is defined as intimate fellowship with the Father, using the term 'Abba' to express closeness.

Lecture support: Weaver explains John 17:3, 'this is life eternal, that they might know thee,' and Romans 8:15, 'Abba, Father.'

Key Arguments

Holiness Requires Separation and Devotion

Practical holiness involves both negative separation from sin and positive separation unto God.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'negatively, holiness means we're set apart from sin. And positively, we're set apart to God.'

God's Fatherhood Demands Filial Obedience

If God is our Father, we must act like His children, reflecting His character and obeying Him.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'if God is our Father and we are His children, who must act like his children?'

God's Provision Should Inspire Trust and Gratitude

Knowing God provides for us should lead us to ask in faith and avoid taking His provision for granted.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'your Father knows what you have need of even before you ask' and warns against taking provision for granted.

God's Protection Is Conditional on Obedience

God protects and defends His obedient children, but rebellion may lead to chastening instead.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If we obey him. He has not only promised to keep us safe...' and later discusses chastening.

God as Portion Means Complete Satisfaction

With God as our portion, we lack nothing; He is our inheritance and all we need.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Psalm 73:26, 'God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever,' and explains joint heirship.

Chastening Proves Sonship

God disciplines His children as a loving Father; lack of chastening indicates illegitimacy.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Hebrews 12:6-8, 'for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.'

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 7:1

The main text for the series, calling believers to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness.

2 Corinthians 6:14-18

The promises referred to in 2 Corinthians 7:1, including God dwelling in His people and being a Father.

Romans 1:1

Paul calls himself a slave of Jesus Christ, illustrating positive holiness as being set apart to God.

Romans 6:19

An example of practical holiness, yielding members to righteousness as once to sin.

1 Peter 1:14-16

Believers are called to be holy in all conduct, not conforming to former lusts.

Isaiah 1:2

God nourished children who rebelled, illustrating ingratitude for provision.

Acts 14:17

God's provision of rain and fruitful seasons as a witness to His goodness.

Matthew 6:7-8

Jesus teaches that the Father knows our needs before we ask, so we need not use vain repetitions.

Psalms 81:10

God invites His people to open their mouths wide and He will fill them.

Matthew 7:11

If evil men give good gifts, how much more will the Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask.

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift comes from the Father of lights.

Psalm 34:8-10

Those who fear the Lord lack no good thing.

Psalm 37:25

David never saw the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.

Isaiah 40:11

The Lord will feed His flock like a shepherd, carrying lambs and gently leading.

1 Peter 1:4

Believers have an incorruptible inheritance reserved in heaven.

Revelation 7:17

The Lamb will lead to living fountains and God will wipe away tears.

Deuteronomy 32:9-10

God kept Israel as the apple of His eye, protecting them.

Zechariah 2:8

He who touches God's people touches the apple of His eye.

Exodus 15:1-11

The song of Moses praising God for protection and victory over Pharaoh.

John 17:3

Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between positional and practical holiness, and why is practical holiness our responsibility?

Consider: Weaver distinguishes between the holiness we have in Christ and the holiness we must pursue daily.

2. How does understanding God as our Father change the way we approach obedience and holiness?

Consider: Weaver argues that if God is our Father, we should act like His children.

3. In what ways do we take God's provision for granted, and how can we cultivate gratitude?

Consider: Weaver warns that we often assume we will have food, safety, and life without thanking God.

4. Can you share a time when you experienced God's protection in a tangible way?

Consider: Weaver gives personal examples of protection and encourages reflection on God's safeguarding.

5. What does it mean for God to be our 'portion,' and how does that affect our desires and contentment?

Consider: Weaver explains that God as portion means He is all we need, our inheritance and satisfaction.

6. How does the concept of 'Abba, Father' deepen our intimacy with God?

Consider: Weaver discusses the term 'Abba' as a term of endearment, like 'Papa,' showing close relationship.

7. Why is chastening a sign of sonship, and how should we respond to God's discipline?

Consider: Weaver cites Hebrews 12 to show that God disciplines those He loves as a Father.

Applications

Act Like God's Children

Because God is our Father, we must reflect His character in our attitudes, speech, and conduct.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'if God is our Father and we are His children, who must act like his children?'

Trust God's Provision

We should ask God for our needs with confidence, knowing He already knows and wants to provide.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes Matthew 6:8, 'your Father knoweth what things you have need of before you ask him.'

Thank God for Protection

Regularly acknowledge and thank God for His protection in daily life, not taking it for granted.

Lecture support: Weaver shares a personal story of a near accident and says, 'we need to be thankful that God protected us.'

Find Satisfaction in God Alone

Since God is our portion, we should seek our solace, satisfaction, and security in Him, not in worldly things.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'He is all that we need. And he is able to satisfy every heart and every desire.'

Pursue Intimacy with the Father

Eternal life is knowing God intimately now; cultivate fellowship with the Father through Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver explains John 17:3, 'this is life eternal, that they might know thee.'

Accept God's Discipline

View chastening as proof of sonship and respond with repentance rather than resentment.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Hebrews 12:6, 'for whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth,' and urges self-judgment.

Separate from Sin and Devote to God

In light of God's promises, actively cleanse yourself from sin and dedicate yourself to righteousness.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'I separate myself from sin, and separate myself to Him, and find out what it means to have God as my Father.'

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

LESSON 3

Perfecting Holiness - 3

January 22, 2012

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 45-61.

Major Themes

Active Personal Cleansing

Christians are commanded to actively cleanse themselves from sin, emphasizing personal responsibility in sanctification.

Lecture support: The Apostle Paul said, 'let us cleanse ourselves' as if Christians had much to do, as if their own agency was to be employed.

The Flesh as Sinful Nature

The 'flesh' refers to our sinful inclinations and propensities, which are contrary to the Spirit and must be mortified.

Lecture support: In our flesh dwelleth no good thing (Romans 7:18); the flesh lusteth against the Spirit (Galatians 5:17).

Holiness Motivated by Divine Promises

The promises of God being our Father and we His children serve as the foundation and encouragement for pursuing holiness.

Lecture support: Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves... perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Rejection of Sinless Perfection and Antinomianism

Weaver refutes both the heresy of sinless perfection and the idea that Christians must sin, affirming ongoing struggle but not dominion of sin.

Lecture support: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves (1 John 1:8); Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body (Romans 6:12).

The Internal Battle and Need for Self-Discipline

The Christian life involves a daily fight to bring the body into subjection, dying to sin and walking in the Spirit.

Lecture support: I keep under my body and bring it into subjection (1 Corinthians 9:27); I die daily (1 Corinthians 15:31).

Idolatry as Heart Sin

Idolatry extends beyond physical idols to include covetousness and any setting of our will above God's.

Lecture support: Covetousness, which is idolatry (Colossians 3:5); any time we set our will, our wants, our desires above God, that's idolatry.

Divine Enablement for Human Responsibility

While we have the responsibility to cleanse ourselves, the ability comes from God; we must depend on His grace and power.

Lecture support: Without me, you can do nothing (John 15:5); Ours is the responsibility. His is the ability.

Key Arguments

The promises of God as Father motivate holiness

Because God promises to be our Father and dwell among us, we should want to be holy as He is holy and abstain from all that offends Him.

Lecture support: If God is going to be our God and He dwells among us... since He is holy, we are to be holy.

Sinless perfection is unbiblical, but so is the necessity of sinning

1 John 1:8,10 refutes sinless perfection, while Romans 6:12-14 shows sin shall not have dominion; Christians can and must resist sin.

Lecture support: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves... Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body.

Cleansing is a personal responsibility

The command 'let us cleanse ourselves' indicates that Christians must actively participate in their sanctification, not passively wait for God.

Lecture support: Paul was not afraid to bring into view the agency of the Christians themselves... 'let us purify ourselves' as if Christians had much to do.

Filthiness of the flesh includes internal attitudes, not just external acts

Sins like covetousness (idolatry) and lustful thoughts are works of the flesh, and God forbids the attitudes that lead to sinful acts.

Lecture support: Covetousness, which is idolatry... whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart.

Walking in the Spirit is the antidote to fulfilling fleshly lusts

Galatians 5:16 promises that if we walk in the Spirit, we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh; the two are mutually exclusive.

Lecture support: Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Self-discipline is essential for holiness

Like an athlete, Christians must be temperate and keep their bodies under subjection, dying daily to sin and making no provision for the flesh.

Lecture support: I keep under my body and bring it into subjection... make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof.

The flesh itself is sufficient to tempt us without Satan's direct involvement

Our own sinful nature is enough to lead us into sin; we don't need the devil to tempt us for fleshly lusts.

Lecture support: The devil does not have to tempt us when it comes to the lust of the flesh. Our flesh is sufficient to do the temptation in and of itself.

God's enablement is necessary for our cleansing efforts

While we have responsibility, we lack ability; we must seek God's grace and power, for without Christ we can do nothing.

Lecture support: The responsibility is ours... but the ability is God's... Without me, you can do nothing.

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 7:1

The main text: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

The promises referred to: God will dwell among His people and be a Father to them if they separate from sin.

James 1:18

God begat us by the word of truth, showing the intimate Father-child relationship.

John 17:3

Eternal life is knowing God and Jesus Christ, emphasizing personal relationship.

1 John 1:8, 10

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and make God a liar, refuting sinless perfection.

Romans 6:11-14

Reckon yourselves dead to sin; sin shall not have dominion over you because you are under grace.

1 John 2:1

These things I write unto you that you sin not; but if any man sin, we have an advocate.

Colossians 1:12-13

We have been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of Christ.

Psalms 119:9-11

A young man cleanses his way by taking heed to God's Word; hiding it in the heart to avoid sin.

2 Timothy 2:20-21

If a man purge himself from dishonorable vessels, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified and meet for the master's use.

Romans 7:5, 18

When we were in the flesh, sinful passions worked in our members; in our flesh dwells no good thing.

Galatians 5:17

The flesh lusts against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh; they are contrary so you cannot do what you would.

Ephesians 2:2-3

We once walked according to the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and mind, by nature children of wrath.

1 John 2:16

All that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and pride of life - is not of the Father.

2 Peter 2:18

False teachers allure through the lusts of the flesh, those who had escaped from error.

Galatians 5:24

They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Run to win; be temperate; I keep under my body and bring it into subjection lest I be cast away.

Galatians 5:13, 16

Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh; walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Romans 13:14

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.

Galatians 5:19-21

The works of the flesh: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, hatred, etc.; those who do such shall not inherit the kingdom.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. How do the promises of God being our Father motivate us to pursue holiness in practical ways?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that the promises in 2 Corinthians 6:16-18 are the foundation for the command to cleanse ourselves.

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2. What is the difference between sinless perfection and the biblical teaching that sin shall not have dominion over us?

Consider: Weaver rejects sinless perfection but affirms Romans 6:12-14 that we are not obligated to obey sin.

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3. In what ways can we actively 'cleanse ourselves' from filthiness of the flesh, and what role does the Holy Spirit play?

Consider: The command 'let us cleanse ourselves' implies personal agency, yet Weaver stresses dependence on God's ability.

4. How does the list of the works of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21 challenge our typical view of 'gross sins'?

Consider: Weaver points out that the list includes attitudes like hatred, envy, and idolatry (covetousness), not just outward acts.

5. What does it mean to 'make no provision for the flesh' (Romans 13:14) in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver applies this verse to avoiding situations that tempt us, emphasizing proactive self-discipline.

6. How can we practically 'walk in the Spirit' so that we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh?

Consider: Galatians 5:16 is presented as the key to overcoming fleshly desires; Weaver suggests hiding God's Word in the heart.

7. Why is it dangerous to blame the devil for our fleshly temptations, according to Weaver?

Consider: Weaver argues that our own flesh is sufficient to tempt us, and most Christians are not directly attacked by Satan.

8. How does the concept of idolatry as covetousness or setting our will above God's change our understanding of sin?

Consider: Colossians 3:5 equates covetousness with idolatry; Weaver extends this to any disobedience as idolatry.

Applications

Take personal responsibility for cleansing from sin

Actively engage in purging sinful habits and attitudes, recognizing that sanctification requires our diligent effort.

Lecture support: Let us cleanse ourselves... He who expects to be made pure without any effort of his own will never become pure.

Hide God's Word in your heart to resist temptation

Memorize and meditate on Scripture so that when tempted, the Word will guide you to obey God rather than sin.

Lecture support: Thy word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11).

Make no provision for the flesh

Avoid situations, places, or media that you know will tempt you to sin; be proactive in removing occasions for lust.

Lecture support: Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lusts thereof (Romans 13:14).

Examine heart attitudes, not just outward actions

Recognize that sins like covetousness, pride, and lustful thoughts are works of the flesh and must be mortified.

Lecture support: Covetousness, which is idolatry... whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery already in his heart.

Walk in the Spirit daily

Depend on the Holy Spirit's power to overcome fleshly desires, knowing that walking in the Spirit prevents fulfilling lusts.

Lecture support: Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Practice self-discipline like an athlete

Be temperate in all things, keeping your body under subjection, and run the Christian race with the goal of winning the incorruptible crown.

Lecture support: I keep under my body and bring it into subjection... So run that you may obtain (1 Corinthians 9:24-27).

Seek God's grace and power for holiness

Acknowledge your inability to cleanse yourself apart from Christ, and pray for divine enablement to live as a holy child of God.

Lecture support: Without me, you can do nothing... Ours is the responsibility. His is the ability.

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 4

Perfecting Holiness - 4

January 29, 2012

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 63-80.

Major Themes

Internal vs. External Holiness

True holiness requires cleansing both the flesh and the spirit; external morality without internal purity is Pharisaical and insufficient.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It does you no good to be externally clean and pure unless you are internally clean and pure.' He cites Matthew 23:27 and Luke 11:39 to show the Pharisees' hypocrisy.

The Spirit Controls Actions

Our spirit dictates our behavior; sins like anger and harsh words originate from an uncontrolled spirit, so ruling one's spirit is crucial.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Your spirit dictated your actions... Your spirit was out of control.' He references Proverbs 16:32 and 25:28.

Sins of the Spirit Grieve God

Sins such as bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, pride, and an unforgiving spirit are just as grievous to the Holy Spirit as fleshly sins.

Lecture support: Ephesians 4:30-32 lists these sins after the command not to grieve the Spirit. Weaver emphasizes, 'sins of the spirit grieve God just as much.'

Bitterness and Unforgiveness as Root Sins

Bitterness is a root sin that defiles many, and unforgiveness contradicts the mercy we have received from God.

Lecture support: Hebrews 12:15 warns about a root of bitterness. The parable in Matthew 18:21-35 illustrates the necessity of forgiving others as we have been forgiven.

Pride as a Foundational Sin

Pride underlies a hardened spirit and leads to destruction; it is a root sin from which other sins grow.

Lecture support: Daniel 5:20 shows Nebuchadnezzar's heart lifted up in pride. Weaver says, 'Pride is a root sin.'

Walking in the Spirit as the Remedy

The only way to overcome sins of the spirit is to walk in the Spirit, who leads us to mortify sinful deeds and obey God.

Lecture support: Galatians 5:22-26 and Romans 8:10-14 are cited. Weaver explains, 'If we are walking in the Spirit... He will lead us into obedience.'

The Tongue Reflects the Spirit

An uncontrolled tongue is a sin of the spirit, revealing inner corruption; keeping the mouth is essential for a holy life.

Lecture support: Proverbs 15:4, James 1:26, and James 3:5-8 are used. Weaver says, 'A sharp, sarcastic, biting, hateful tongue is a sin of the spirit.'

Dependence on God for Cleansing

We must pray for God to create a clean heart and renew a right spirit, acknowledging our secret sins and relying on His sanctifying work.

Lecture support: Psalm 51:10 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 are referenced. Weaver urges, 'We must learn to pray with David... Create within me a clean heart.'

Key Arguments

External purity is meaningless without internal purity.

Weaver argues that being outwardly moral while inwardly corrupt makes one no better than a Pharisee; true righteousness must exceed external compliance.

Lecture support: He cites Matthew 5:20: 'Except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.'

Our spirit dictates our actions, so controlling the spirit is essential.

Anger, harsh words, and physical violence stem from an uncontrolled spirit; ruling one's spirit is greater than military conquest.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:32: 'He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.'

Sins of the spirit are often secret and deceptive.

The heart is deceitful, and we may have secret sins we are unaware of; we must pray for God to cleanse us from hidden faults.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 17:9: 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?' and Psalm 19:12: 'Cleanse thou me from secret faults.'

Bitterness and unforgiveness are root sins that defile many.

A bitter spirit spreads and corrupts others; those forgiven by God must forgive others, or they face severe consequences.

Lecture support: Hebrews 12:15 warns of a root of bitterness defiling many. Matthew 18:35: 'So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.'

Pride is a foundational sin that hardens the heart.

Pride leads to a stiff neck and resistance to God; it is at the root of many other sins.

Lecture support: Daniel 5:20: 'But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne.'

Walking in the Spirit is the only way to overcome sins of the spirit.

The Holy Spirit leads believers to mortify sinful deeds and obey God; without the Spirit's leading, holiness is impossible.

Lecture support: Romans 8:13-14: 'If ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.'

An uncontrolled tongue is a sin of the spirit that reveals inner corruption.

The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, and cannot be tamed by human effort; it must be bridled as part of spiritual cleansing.

Lecture support: James 3:6: 'The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity... and it is set on fire of hell.'

Believers must actively participate in cleansing, relying on God's enablement.

While we have the responsibility to cleanse ourselves, we must depend on the Holy Spirit; our duty does not diminish because of His ability.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It is our responsibility, but it is his ability.' He references 2 Corinthians 7:1: 'Let us cleanse ourselves.'

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 7:1

The main text of the sermon: 'Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.'

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

The promises referred to in 2 Corinthians 7:1: God will be our God and we His people, and He will be our Father and we His sons and daughters.

James 1:18

God begot us by His own will with the word of truth, implying He is our Father.

John 17:3

Eternal life is knowing the only true God and Jesus Christ, emphasizing a personal relationship with the Father.

Galatians 5:16

Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Romans 13:14

Put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh to fulfill its lusts.

Matthew 23:27

Pharisees are like whitewashed tombs, beautiful outwardly but full of dead men's bones and uncleanness.

Luke 11:39

Pharisees clean the outside of the cup but are inwardly full of ravening and wickedness.

Matthew 5:20

Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Psalms 32:2

Blessed is the man in whose spirit there is no guile (deceit).

1 Timothy 4:12

Be an example in spirit, among other things.

1 Peter 3:1-4

The hidden man of the heart, a meek and quiet spirit, is of great price in God's sight.

Proverbs 16:32

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city.

Proverbs 25:28

He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down without walls.

Matthew 15:16-20

Evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, etc., proceed from the heart and defile a man.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?

Psalms 19:12

Cleanse me from secret faults.

Ephesians 4:30-32

Grieve not the Holy Spirit; put away bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and be kind and forgiving.

Colossians 3:19

Husbands, love your wives and be not bitter against them.

Hebrews 12:15

Looking diligently lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you and many be defiled.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is external morality without internal purity insufficient for biblical holiness?

Consider: Weaver contrasts the Pharisees' outward cleanliness with their inward corruption, using Matthew 23:27 and Luke 11:39.

2. How does our spirit dictate our actions, and what does Proverbs 16:32 teach about self-control?

Consider: Weaver explains that anger and harsh words stem from an uncontrolled spirit, and ruling one's spirit is greater than military victory.

3. What are 'secret sins' and why are they dangerous? How can we pray about them?

Consider: Citing Jeremiah 17:9 and Psalm 19:12, Weaver warns that the heart is deceitful and we may have hidden faults we don't recognize.

4. According to Ephesians 4:30-32, what specific attitudes grieve the Holy Spirit, and how should we replace them?

Consider: Weaver lists bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking, and urges kindness and forgiveness instead.

5. How does the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35) illustrate the necessity of forgiving others?

Consider: Weaver uses the parable to show that those forgiven a great debt must forgive others, or face God's judgment.

6. In what ways is pride a root sin, and how did it affect Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 5:20)?

Consider: Weaver explains that pride hardens the heart and leads to a fall, as seen in Nebuchadnezzar's deposition.

7. What does it mean to 'walk in the Spirit' as the remedy for sins of the spirit, based on Galatians 5 and Romans 8?

Consider: Weaver teaches that the Holy Spirit leads us to mortify sinful deeds and obey God, enabling internal holiness.

8. Why is the tongue described as 'a world of iniquity' (James 3:6), and how can we practically bridle it?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that an uncontrolled tongue is a sin of the spirit and urges keeping the mouth to avoid trouble.

Applications

Pray for a Clean Heart and Right Spirit

We must regularly pray Psalm 51:10, asking God to create a clean heart and renew a right spirit within us, acknowledging our secret sins.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must learn to pray with David in Psalm 51 in verse 10 when he said, Create within me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.'

Glorify God in Body and Spirit

Since we are bought with a price, we must honor God not only in our physical actions but also in our inner spirit, cleansing both from filthiness.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 Corinthians 6:20: 'Therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.'

Seek Entire Sanctification

We should pray for God to sanctify us wholly - spirit, soul, and body - preserved blameless until Christ's coming, as Paul prayed in 1 Thessalonians 5:23.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 Thessalonians 5:23 and says, 'Paul prayed that God would sanctify us totally and completely. And that should be our prayer as well.'

Control the Tongue

To avoid sin of the spirit, we must bridle our tongues, refraining from evil, guile, and useless noise, as Proverbs 13:3 and 21:23 instruct.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'God says keep your mouth. And keep your tongue.' He cites Proverbs 13:3 and 21:23.

Walk in the Spirit to Mortify Sin

We must actively choose to walk in the Spirit, allowing Him to lead us to put to death the deeds of the flesh and spirit, canceling our desires for God's commands.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'If we are walking in the Spirit... He will lead us into obedience to the Word of God.' He references Romans 8:13-14.

Forgive Others as God Forgave You

Since we have received great mercy and forgiveness from God, we must forgive others from the heart, avoiding bitterness and an unforgiving spirit.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Matthew 18:21-35 and says, 'If we have been the recipients of mercy, we should show mercy.'

Examine Your Spirit for Hidden Sins

Because the heart is deceitful, we should regularly ask God to reveal secret faults and cleanse us from sins we may not recognize, such as pride or unfaithfulness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'There have been times in my life that I genuinely thought that I was doing something for God's honor... and God opened my eyes and I found out that God was not in it at all.'

Replace Sins of the Spirit with Christlike Virtues

Instead of bitterness, wrath, and evil speaking, we should cultivate kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness, as commanded in Ephesians 4:32.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Ephesians 4:31-32: 'Let all bitterness... be put away from you... and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another.'

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

LESSON 5

Perfecting Holiness - 5

February 05, 2012

Read Chapter 5 in the companion book, pages 81-95.

Major Themes

The Process of Perfecting Holiness

Perfecting holiness is an ongoing, active process of maturing and completing holiness, not an instantaneous attainment of sinless perfection.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek word *epiteleo* and the present active participle, stating, 'It means you are in the process of becoming perfect, or becoming mature, or becoming complete.'

The Fear of God as the Sphere of Holiness

Holiness can only be perfected within the sphere of the fear of God, which is a reverential, filial fear that respects God's authority and leads to obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The only sphere in which we're going to be able to perfect holiness is in the fear of God. You cannot perfect holiness outside of that sphere and that realm.'

Obedience and Chastening

A proper fear of God includes respect for His fatherly discipline, which motivates believers to be obedient children and avoid chastening.

Lecture support: Weaver argues, 'If I respected my earthly father's power and ability to discipline, shall I not much more respect my heavenly Father's power and ability to discipline?'

Practical Holiness as Evidence of Salvation

Without practical holiness, no one will see the Lord; true holiness involves hating sin and striving to be like Christ in every area of life.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Ryle: 'Without holiness no man shall see the Lord,' and lists twelve marks of a holy man.

Key Arguments

Perfecting holiness is a continuous, active pursuit, not a claim of having arrived.

The Greek participle indicates an ongoing process; believers are to constantly aim for maturity, as Paul did in Philippians 3:13-14.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It does not state that you have reached that goal, but it does state that you are headed for that goal.'

The fear of God is essential for departing from evil and making progress in holiness.

Proverbs 16:6 teaches that by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil; without this fear, holiness is impossible.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You will never, ever depart from evil unless you fear the Lord. It's just that simple.'

God's chastening is a blessing that produces holiness and prevents condemnation.

Hebrews 12:10 and 1 Corinthians 11:32 show that divine discipline is for our profit, making us partakers of God's holiness.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'God's chastening then is not only to make us holy, it is to keep us from becoming more rebellious and being condemned with the world.'

True holiness is not mere outward religion but a comprehensive conformity to God's character.

Ryle's twelve marks of holiness demonstrate that holiness involves the mind, will, and affections, not just external actions.

Lecture support: Weaver summarizes Ryle: 'A man may go great lengths in religion and yet never reach true holiness.'

Scripture References

2 Corinthians 7:1

The main text of the series, calling believers to cleanse themselves and perfect holiness in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 6:16-18

The promises referred to in 7:1, including God being our Father and we His sons and daughters.

Matthew 5:48

Command to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect, supporting the call to perfect holiness.

Romans 12:1-2

Exhortation to present our bodies as living sacrifices and prove the perfect will of God.

Philippians 3:15

Paul's statement that as many as are perfect should be thus minded, using the Greek *teleios*.

James 1:4

Let patience have her perfect work, that you may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

Hebrews 5:12-13

Rebuke for spiritual regression, contrasting with the call to perfect holiness.

Psalms 84:7

They go from strength to strength, illustrating progress in holiness.

Philippians 3:13-14

Paul's example of pressing toward the mark, forgetting the past and reaching forward.

Ephesians 4:11-14

Purpose of pastor-teachers to perfect the saints and bring them to mature manhood in Christ.

Jeremiah 5:22

God's question: 'Fear ye not me?' highlighting His power over creation.

Exodus 20:20

Moses tells the people to fear not, but that the fear of God may be before them to keep them from sinning.

Hebrews 12:9-11

Comparison between earthly fathers' discipline and God's chastening for our profit, to make us partakers of His holiness.

1 Peter 1:13-16

Call to be holy as God is holy, as obedient children not conforming to former lusts.

1 Corinthians 11:31-32

When we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord so that we should not be condemned with the world.

Deuteronomy 6:13

Command to fear the Lord, serve Him, and swear by His name.

Deuteronomy 10:20

Fear the Lord, serve Him, cleave to Him, and swear by His name.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, arrogancy, the evil way, and the froward mouth.

Proverbs 16:6

By the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.

Job 28:28

The fear of the Lord is wisdom, and to depart from evil is understanding.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to be 'perfecting holiness' as an ongoing process rather than an instantaneous achievement?

Consider: Weaver explains the Greek participle as a present active process of maturing and completing holiness.

2. How does the fear of God serve as the sphere in which we perfect holiness, and what distinguishes a filial fear from a slavish fear?

Consider: Weaver and Gill describe the fear of God as reverential trust, not fear of damnation, which enables obedience.

3. In what ways does God's chastening demonstrate His love and contribute to our holiness?

Consider: Hebrews 12:9-11 and 1 Corinthians 11:31-32 show that discipline is for our profit and prevents condemnation.

4. Why is it impossible to make progress in holiness without a biblical fear of God?

Consider: Weaver states that the fear of the Lord is the only way to depart from evil, citing Proverbs 16:6.

5. How do Ryle's twelve marks of holiness challenge common assumptions about what it means to be a holy person?

Consider: Ryle lists characteristics like meekness, purity of heart, and spiritual mindedness, contrasting with mere outward religion.

Applications

Pursue continuous growth in holiness

Believers should aim to be more holy today than yesterday, constantly pressing forward and not regressing to spiritual infancy.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We should be more holy today, practically speaking, than we were yesterday. That is perfecting holiness.'

Cultivate a reverential fear of God

Develop a filial fear that respects God's fatherly authority and discipline, leading to obedience and departure from evil.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'If we truly fear Him, we will be holy. And we will endeavor to perfect and mature and complete that holiness in our lives.'

Embrace God's chastening as a blessing

View divine discipline as a sign of sonship and a means to partake of God's holiness, rather than despising it.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'God's chastening then is not only to make us holy, it is to keep us from becoming more rebellious and being condemned with the world.'

Hate all sin, no matter how small

True holiness requires abhorring, repenting of, and forsaking every sin, recognizing that little foxes spoil the vines.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you really, genuinely, truly want to be holy, you cannot be content with any sin in your life, no matter how small or insignificant it is.'

Strive for comprehensive holiness

Pursue the twelve marks of holiness outlined by Ryle, including meekness, purity, humility, and spiritual mindedness.

Lecture support: Weaver summarizes Ryle's list, emphasizing that holiness involves the whole person and all of life.

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: Perfecting Holiness - 1

Lecture JW00674

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00674&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Perfecting Holiness - 2

Lecture JW00673

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Lesson 3: Perfecting Holiness - 3

Lecture JW00672

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Lesson 4: Perfecting Holiness - 4

Lecture JW00671

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Lesson 5: Perfecting Holiness - 5

Lecture JW00670

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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.