

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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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

Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations

Part One of Two

February 02, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22.

Major Themes

Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations

Human perceptions and interpretations can be sinful when they are shaped by a wicked heart rather than by God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It is our wicked hearts that enable us to think wickedly, perceive wickedly, and interpret wickedly.'

Rebellion Against God's Ordained Authority

The rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram was ultimately against God, not just Moses and Aaron.

Lecture support: Moses says, 'For which cause both thou and all this company are gathered together against the Lord.'

The Deceitfulness of the Heart

The heart is prone to justify its own sin and rebellion through twisted interpretations of facts.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Rebellious men always have to justify their rebellion. Wicked men will always interpret wickedly.'

God's Vindication of His Servants

Godly leaders appeal to God for vindication rather than defending themselves before wicked accusers.

Lecture support: Moses asks God not to respect their offering and declares his innocence; David said, 'My defense is of God.'

Judging Righteous Judgment

Believers must learn to perceive and interpret facts biblically, not according to appearances.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 7:24, 'Judge not according to appearance, but judge righteous judgment.'

Key Arguments

Perceptions are shaped by worldview

Everyone interprets facts based on their own perspective; Christians should view things through the lens of Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Everyone interprets, everyone perceives according to his own world view.'

Sinful hearts produce sinful interpretations

The more rebellious a person is, the more wicked their perceptions and interpretations become.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The more rebellious, the more disobedient, the more sinful we are, the worse our thinking, the worse our perception, and the worse our interpretations become.'

Rebels reinterpret history to justify themselves

Dathan and Abiram called Egypt a land flowing with milk and honey, contradicting the reality of their slavery.

Lecture support: They said, 'Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of the land that floweth with milk and honey?'

Attacks on God's servants are attacks on God

Because God's people are visible targets, attacks on them are ultimately against God Himself.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'Whenever God's preachers and God's people are attacked, it is an attack upon God himself.'

Religion can disguise rebellion

Korah used the argument that all God's people are holy to justify his grab for the priesthood.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Men often use religion to disguise their rebellion and their wickedness.'

Scripture References

Numbers 16:1-15

The primary text of the sermon, describing the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

John 7:24

Jesus commands to judge righteous judgment, not by appearance.

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord ponders the hearts.

Proverbs 16:2

All the ways of man are clean in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirits.

Proverbs 18:17

He that is first in his own cause seems just, but his neighbor comes and searches him.

Proverbs 12:15

The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who hearkens to counsel is wise.

Psalms 36:2

A man flatters himself in his own eyes until his iniquity becomes hateful.

Proverbs 23:7

As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.

Deuteronomy 18:15

Moses prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like him.

Deuteronomy 33:5

Moses was king in Jeshurun.

Exodus 29:44

God sanctified Aaron and his sons to minister as priests.

Exodus 30:30

God commanded Moses to anoint Aaron and his sons as priests.

Exodus 3:10

God sent Moses to bring His people out of Egypt.

Exodus 7:1

God made Moses as a god to Pharaoh and Aaron his prophet.

Numbers 12:3

Moses was very meek, above all men on earth.

Exodus 23:2

Do not follow a multitude to do evil.

Deuteronomy 32:10

God kept Israel as the apple of His eye.

Zechariah 2:8

He who touches you touches the apple of God's eye.

Ephesians 4:26

Be angry and sin not.

Psalms 7:10

My defense is of God who saves the upright in heart.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. How can we discern whether our perceptions of a situation are sinful or righteous?

Consider: Weaver teaches that sinful hearts produce sinful interpretations; believers must examine their motives.

2. In what ways do we, like the rebels, reinterpret past hardships to justify present rebellion?

Consider: Dathan and Abiram called Egypt a land of milk and honey, distorting their history of slavery.

3. Why is it dangerous to follow a multitude in rebellion, even if the majority seems right?

Consider: The 250 princes joined Korah; Exodus 23:2 warns against following a crowd to do evil.

4. How should we respond when we are falsely accused or slandered for our faith?

Consider: Moses fell on his face and appealed to God rather than defending himself.

5. What are some modern examples of people using religious arguments to justify sinful actions?

Consider: Weaver notes that Korah used 'all God's people are holy' to justify his grab for the priesthood.

Applications

Do not believe everything you hear about God's servants

Recognize that reports often carry the speaker's sinful interpretation, not just facts.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must not believe everything we hear about God's preachers and God's people.'

Expect unjust slander in this life

God permits slander to remind us that our reward is not in this world; the world hated Christ first.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 15:18 and says, 'The world will not love you for your godliness.'

Be sure of facts and avoid adding sinful interpretation

Report facts without imposing your own slant; interpret biblically.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It is one thing to report facts, it's quite another thing to report facts based upon our own slant.'

Handle perceived offenses biblically

If you think someone has slighted you, ask them directly rather than assuming wicked intent.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates with Ron: 'What did you mean by that? That could be taken two ways.'

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 - Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations

Part Two of Two

February 02, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-41.

Major Themes

Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations

All people interpret facts through their own sinful, deceitful hearts, leading to wrong judgments and rebellion against God.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'you and I perceive and interpret every day. And we never usually stop to think that our interpretations could be wrong or our perceptions could be wrong.'

The Deceitfulness of the Heart

The human heart is desperately wicked and deceitful, causing people to justify their own ways and misinterpret reality.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Jeremiah 17:9: 'The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?'

God's Sovereign Judgment

God actively judges rebellion and sin, as seen in the earth swallowing the rebels and fire consuming the 250 princes.

Lecture support: Weaver describes the events: 'the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up... and there came out a fire from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men.'

The Exclusive Priesthood of Aaron

Only Aaron and his descendants are authorized to offer incense; usurping the priestly office brings judgment.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'God was making it exceedingly clear that He had chosen Aaron and his sons to be priests. No one else.'

The Danger of Murmuring and Complaining

The Israelites' constant complaining against Moses and Aaron reflects a heart of rebellion against God, leading to destruction.

Lecture support: Weaver notes, 'they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron... they chode with Moses... Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the Lord!'

Learning from Old Testament Examples

The events of the Old Testament are written for the admonition and learning of New Testament believers.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 10:11: 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition.'

The Need for Godly Interpretation

Believers must interpret facts through the lens of Scripture, recognizing God as the determiner of reality.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'We have to learn to perceive and interpret based upon the Word of God... Reality is what God says it is.'

Key Arguments

Interpretation, not facts, is the source of conflict

People rarely criticize based on facts alone; they criticize based on their interpretation of the facts, which is often sinful.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we rarely criticize and condemn based upon facts. What we criticize and condemn upon is our interpretation of the facts.'

Wickedness corrupts perception

The more wicked and rebellious a person is, the more distorted their perceptions and interpretations become.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'the more wicked, the more rebellious, the more vile we are, the more wicked and rebellious and vile our perceptions and interpretations will be.'

Self-defense against wicked men is futile

Moses does not defend himself but appeals to God for vindication, teaching that defending oneself against false charges from wicked men is useless.

Lecture support: Weaver comments, 'It will do you no good to defend yourself from false charges against wicked men.'

Pride leads to presumptuous sin

The rebels' confidence in their own rightness led them to stand before God, and King Uzziah's pride led him to usurp the priestly office.

Lecture support: Weaver says of the rebels, 'They thought they were right. They were so sure of themselves. They were willing to stand before God.'

God's judgments are meant to instruct

The memorial of the brazen censers and the dramatic judgments were signs to teach Israel and future generations about God's holiness and order.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'they shall be a sign unto the children of Israel... to be a memorial... that no stranger... come near to offer incense.'

Sinful interpretations persist despite clear evidence

Even after witnessing God's miraculous judgment, the congregation quickly reverted to sinful interpretations, accusing Moses of murder.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'How can people misinterpret the facts so quickly?' after reading verse 41.

Old Testament examples apply to Christians

Paul explicitly states that Old Testament events are examples and admonitions for believers, making Numbers 16 directly applicable.

Lecture support: Weaver reads 1 Corinthians 10:11 and Romans 15:4 to show that these things were written for our learning.

Gossip and slander stem from sinful interpretations

Every gossip and slanderer spreads their own interpretation of facts, not necessarily the truth, violating God's command against talebearing.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'every gossip, every slanderer, every rumor monger is only spreading his or her interpretation of the facts.'

Scripture References

Numbers 16:15-35

The primary text of the sermon, detailing the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, and God's judgment.

John 7:24

Jesus' command to judge righteous judgment, not according to appearance, used to introduce the theme of proper interpretation.

Proverbs 21:2

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the hearts, illustrating self-deception.

Proverbs 18:17

The first to plead his case seems right until another comes and examines him, warning against hasty judgments.

Jeremiah 17:9

The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked, foundational to the sermon's theme of sinful perceptions.

Leviticus 10:1-2

Nadab and Abihu offering strange fire and being consumed, paralleling the judgment on the 250 princes.

Numbers 16:36-40

The command to make the censers into a covering for the altar as a memorial.

2 Chronicles 26:14-21

King Uzziah's pride and leprosy for usurping the priestly office, illustrating the danger of presumptuous sin.

Romans 15:4

Whatever was written in former days was written for our learning, establishing the relevance of Old Testament narratives.

1 Corinthians 10:1-11

Paul uses Israel's history as examples and admonitions for believers, directly applying Numbers 16 to Christians.

Numbers 16:41-50

The congregation's accusation against Moses and Aaron, and the subsequent plague stopped by Aaron's intercession.

Numbers 20:1-5

The people's complaint about water, wishing they had died with the rebels, showing persistent sinful interpretation.

2 Timothy 2:3

Paul's exhortation to endure hardness as a good soldier, applied to facing attacks from within the church.

Leviticus 19:16

The command not to go up and down as a talebearer, referenced in the application against gossip.

Study notes

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Discussion Questions

1. Why is it so difficult for us to distinguish between facts and our interpretation of facts in daily life?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that we all interpret everything, but rarely consider our interpretations might be wrong.

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2. How does the deceitfulness of the heart (Jeremiah 17:9) affect our ability to perceive situations righteously?

Consider: The sermon cites this verse as foundational to understanding why our perceptions are often sinful.

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3. In what ways do we, like the rebels, sometimes presume upon God's grace by assuming our own interpretations are correct?

Consider: The rebels were confident they were right and willing to stand before God, mirroring modern presumption.

4. Why did the congregation so quickly accuse Moses of murder after witnessing God's clear judgment? What does this reveal about human nature?

Consider: Weaver marvels at their rapid misinterpretation, asking how perception can be so ignorant.

5. How can we apply the lesson of the brazen censers memorial to our own lives to remember God's holiness and order?

Consider: The memorial was a sign to prevent future usurpation; we need similar reminders of God's standards.

6. What practical steps can we take to ensure our interpretations align with Scripture rather than our sinful hearts?

Consider: Weaver concludes that we must learn to perceive and interpret based on the Word of God.

7. How does the example of the Israelites in Numbers 20, wishing for death and slavery, parallel modern Christian attitudes?

Consider: Weaver compares their preference for Egypt over the Promised Land to modern preferences for slavery over freedom.

8. Why is gossip considered a form of sinful interpretation, and how can we guard against it in our church community?

Consider: Weaver states that gossips spread their interpretation of facts, violating God's command against talebearing.

Applications

Examine your own perceptions and interpretations

Recognize that your interpretation of facts may be wrong due to your sinful heart; always compare your perceptions with Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We never usually stop to think that our interpretations could be wrong or our perceptions could be wrong.'

Avoid self-defense and trust God for vindication

When falsely accused, follow Moses' example by appealing to God rather than trying to defend yourself against wicked men.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'It will do you no good to defend yourself from false charges against wicked men.'

Beware of pride and presumption

Do not be so confident in your own rightness that you presume upon God; remember the fate of Korah and Uzziah.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'They thought they were right. They were so sure of themselves. They were willing to stand before God.'

Learn from God's judgments in Scripture

The Old Testament examples are written for our admonition; study them to avoid repeating the same sins.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 10:11: 'Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition.'

Guard against murmuring and complaining

Instead of complaining against God's servants, bring your needs to God in prayer, trusting His provision.

Lecture support: Weaver notes the Israelites 'gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron' instead of crying to God.

Interpret reality through God's Word

Make Scripture the lens through which you view all facts; God's Word is the ultimate determiner of reality.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'We have to learn to perceive and interpret based upon the Word of God... Reality is what God says it is.'

Refuse to participate in gossip and slander

Recognize that spreading rumors is spreading your sinful interpretation; obey God's command not to be a talebearer.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'every gossip, every slanderer, every rumor monger is only spreading his or her interpretation of the facts.'

Endure hardness as a good soldier

Expect attacks even from within the church, and pray for a tender heart and tough hide to persevere in ministry.

Lecture support: Weaver references 2 Timothy 2:3 and Dr. Bob Jones Sr.'s prayer for a tender heart and tough hide.

Study notes

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Personal Application and Notes

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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: Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01228

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01228&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Sinful Perceptions and Interpretations - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01229

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01229&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.