WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

The Government Owes Me!

Study Guide

Civil Government

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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 October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

The Government Owes Me!

Part One of Two

January 25, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Limited Government Under God's Law

Civil government is ordained by God but must operate within the bounds of His law. Any government that exceeds those bounds or becomes tyrannical is not ordained by God.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'God has not ordained any other form of government. Totalitarian governments are not God's ordination since they are contrary to God and contrary to his word.'

Covenantal Reciprocity

All governments are covenantal in nature, involving mutual obligations. If one party violates the covenant, the other is released from obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'Covenants involve reciprocity... if one party violates the covenant, the other party is loose from obedience.'

The Constitution as a Grant of Limited Power

The U.S. Constitution is a grant from the people to the federal government, delegating only specific, limited powers. All other powers are reserved to the states or the people.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Article 10: 'The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution nor prohibited by it to the states are reserved to the states respectively or to the people.'

Unconstitutional Laws Are Void

Laws that exceed constitutional authority are null and void from the beginning, impose no duties, and no one is bound to obey them.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes American Jurisprudence: 'An unconstitutional law... is in reality no law, but is wholly void and ineffective for any purpose since unconstitutionality dates from the time of its enactment.'

The People as Ultimate Interpreters of the Constitution

The founding fathers intended the people, not the Supreme Court, to be the final arbiters of constitutional questions.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Thomas Jefferson: 'To consider the judges of the Superior or the Supreme Court as the ultimate arbitrators... would be a dangerous doctrine which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy.'

Republic vs. Democracy

The U.S. is a constitutional republic, not a democracy. In a republic, the people are sovereign individuals; in a democracy, the collective majority rules, often leading to mob rule.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Black's Law Dictionary and James Madison to distinguish a republic from a democracy, noting Madison called democracies 'spectacles of turbulence and contention.'

Government as Servant, Not Master

The federal government was created by the states to serve them, not to rule over them. When it usurps power, it becomes illegitimate.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the parable of the 13 wealthy men and their servant to illustrate how the federal government has stolen power from the states.

The Government Owes a Republican Form of Government

Article IV, Section 4 obligates the federal government to guarantee a republican form of government to every state, which means rule by law with the people as sovereigns.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'The federal government owes us a republican form of government... the United States shall guarantee to every state in the Union a republican form of government.'

Key Arguments

God ordained civil government to be His servant, exactor of righteousness, and public worship.

Romans 13 shows that civil rulers are to be God's deacons, executing His righteousness, and their rule is a form of public worship when done according to His law.

Lecture support: Weaver explains the Greek words diakonos, ekdikos, and leitourgos in Romans 13:4-6 to support this threefold purpose.

The federal government was created by the states with limited, delegated powers.

The states existed before the federal government and created it through the Constitution, granting only specific powers while retaining the rest.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'The federal government as you and I know it was created by the states and set up to be the servants of the states.'

Covenants involve reciprocity; violation by one party releases the other.

Biblical and historical examples show that when a covenant is broken, the injured party is no longer bound. This applies to the constitutional covenant between the people and the federal government.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Judges 2:20, 2 Kings 11:17, and 1 Samuel 11:1, then applies the principle to the Constitution.

Unconstitutional laws are void ab initio and need not be obeyed.

Legal authorities affirm that laws exceeding constitutional authority are null from the start, impose no duties, and no one is bound to obey them.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes multiple passages from American Jurisprudence, including: 'No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it.'

The Supreme Court is not the final interpreter of the Constitution; the people are.

Founding fathers like Jefferson and Taylor argued that allowing the Supreme Court to be the ultimate arbiter leads to oligarchy. The people and states retain interpretive authority.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jefferson: 'I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society, but the people themselves.'

God's law, including the prohibition against theft, applies to civil government.

If theft is wrong for individuals, families, and churches, it is also wrong for government. Government cannot exempt itself from God's moral law.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'Thou shalt not steal applies to governments equally as it applies to anyone else.'

The U.S. is a republic, not a democracy, and the distinction is crucial.

In a republic, the people are sovereign individuals; in a democracy, the majority rules as a collective, often trampling rights. The Constitution establishes a republic.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Black's Law Dictionary and James Madison's Federalist No. 10 to contrast the two forms.

When government violates the Constitution, the people are not obligated to submit.

Just as the American colonists declared independence when George III broke the covenant, so today if the federal government exceeds its constitutional bounds, obedience is not owed.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'If we have made an agreement with the federal government... and the federal government refuses to rule that way, do we owe any submission...? No.'

Scripture References

Romans 13:8

Weaver reads the verse as a starting point: 'Owe no man anything but to love one another...'

Romans 13:3-4

Weaver reads these verses to show that rulers are not a terror to good works but to evil, and are God's ministers for good.

Romans 13:6

Weaver reads this verse to show that rulers are God's ministers attending continually, and uses the Greek word leitourgos to explain public worship.

Psalm 94:20-21

Weaver reads these verses to show that a throne of iniquity (wicked government) has no fellowship with God when it frames mischief by law.

Romans 13:4

Weaver expounds the Greek words diakonos and ekdikos to explain the civil ruler as God's servant and exactor of righteousness.

Judges 2:20

Weaver cites this verse to show God's covenant with Israel involved reciprocal obligations: obedience brought blessing, disobedience brought cursing.

2 Kings 11:17

Weaver reads this verse to illustrate a covenant between the Lord, the king, and the people, and a separate covenant between the king and the people.

1 Samuel 11:1

Weaver uses this verse to show a covenant between Nahash and the men of Jabesh Gilead involving reciprocity: 'Make a covenant with us and we will serve thee.'

Proverbs 19:10

Weaver quotes this verse to show it is not fitting for a servant to rule over princes.

Proverbs 30:21-22

Weaver reads these verses to show that the earth is disquieted when a servant reigns, applying it to the federal government ruling over the states.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean that civil government is to be God's 'deacon' or servant, and how should that shape our expectations of government today?

Consider: Weaver explains the Greek word diakonos in Romans 13:4, emphasizing that government is to serve God's purposes, not its own.

2. How does the concept of covenantal reciprocity apply to our relationship with the federal government under the Constitution?

Consider: Weaver argues that the Constitution is a covenant with mutual obligations; if the government violates it, the people are released from obedience.

3. In what ways has the federal government exceeded its delegated powers, and what should be the response of the states and the people?

Consider: Weaver describes the federal government as a servant that has usurped authority, and cites Proverbs to condemn servants ruling over princes.

4. Why did the founding fathers reject democracy in favor of a republic, and what are the practical differences between the two?

Consider: Weaver contrasts republic and democracy using Black's Law Dictionary and James Madison's Federalist No. 10.

5. Who should have the final say in interpreting the Constitution, and what are the dangers of allowing the Supreme Court to be the ultimate arbiter?

Consider: Weaver quotes Jefferson and Taylor to argue that the people and states, not the judiciary, are the proper interpreters.

6. How does the principle 'thou shalt not steal' apply to civil government, and what are some modern examples of governmental theft?

Consider: Weaver argues that God's moral law applies to all institutions, including government, and that unconstitutional takings are theft.

7. What does it mean for the federal government to 'guarantee a republican form of government' to the states, and is that guarantee being upheld today?

Consider: Weaver cites Article IV, Section 4 and defines a republic as government by law with the people as sovereigns.

8. How does the American Revolution serve as a precedent for resisting unconstitutional government today?

Consider: Weaver draws a parallel between George III's violation of colonial covenants and modern federal overreach.

Applications

Know the Constitution and God's Law

Believers must study both Scripture and the Constitution to discern when government oversteps its bounds, because the people are the ultimate interpreters.

Lecture support: Weaver states: '...the importance of knowing the Constitution, if we are to be the ones that determine whether or not something is constitutional.'

Withhold Obedience from Unconstitutional Acts

Since unconstitutional laws are void and no one is bound to obey them, Christians should not feel obligated to comply with governmental edicts that exceed constitutional authority.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes: 'No one is bound to obey an unconstitutional law and no courts are bound to enforce it.'

Reject the Entitlement Mentality

Christians should not adopt the world's view that the government owes them a living, recognizing that all government benefits come at the expense of others.

Lecture support: Weaver warns: 'Those who think in terms of the welfare state fail to realize that whatever the government gives to them it must take from someone else.'

Hold Government Accountable as a Servant

Since the federal government was created to serve the states and the people, citizens must insist that it remain within its delegated powers and not usurp authority.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the parable of the servant who became master to illustrate the need to enforce the original covenant.

Understand the Republic vs. Democracy Distinction

Christians should educate themselves and others on the difference between a republic and a democracy, and resist the push toward majoritarian mob rule.

Lecture support: Weaver emphasizes: 'We have a republican form of government... it is contrasted with a democracy.'

Apply God's Law to All Spheres

Recognize that God's moral law, including the Ten Commandments, applies to civil government just as it does to individuals, families, and churches.

Lecture support: Weaver argues: 'Thou shalt not steal applies to governments equally as it applies to anyone else.'

Learn from Historical Precedents

Study the founding fathers' writings and the principles of the American Revolution to understand the proper response to governmental tyranny.

Lecture support: Weaver references the Fairfax Resolves and the Declaration of Independence as models of covenant enforcement.

Pray for Grace to Serve God Acceptably

Weaver closes with a prayer for God's help to serve Him with reverence and godly fear, implying that faithful citizenship is part of that service.

Lecture support: Weaver prays: 'Give us grace, Lord, to serve Thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.'

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 - The Government Owes Me!

Part Two of Two

January 25, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-42 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Covenantal Government

Civil government is covenantal, involving reciprocal obligations between the rulers and the ruled. When one party violates the covenant, the other is released from obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'covenants involve reciprocity... there exist reciprocal obligations and duties... when one party violates the covenant, the other party is released from obedience.'

Limited Government

The Constitution limits the federal government to enumerated powers; any exercise of power beyond those limits is unlawful and tyrannical.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Article 1, Section 8 and quotes Jefferson: 'bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.'

Reserved Powers

Powers not delegated to the federal government are reserved to the states or the people, as stated in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments.

Lecture support: Weaver reads the Ninth and Tenth Amendments and quotes Calhoun: 'Congress cannot declare what it believes the general welfare of the states is.'

Sound Money

The Constitution requires gold and silver coin as legal tender; paper money is unconstitutional and leads to economic ruin.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Article 1, Section 10 and quotes Daniel Webster: 'there is no legal tender... but gold and silver.'

Biblical Obedience and Blessing

Obedience to God's law brings blessings; disobedience brings misery. This applies to individuals, families, churches, and nations.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Deuteronomy 11:18-21 and states: 'If we want a taste of heaven upon the earth, we must be children of obedience.'

Key Arguments

The federal government owes a limited form of government.

The Constitution enumerates specific powers for Congress; any action beyond those powers is unconstitutional and makes the government unlawful.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Article 1, Section 8 and quotes Madison warning that if Congress can spend for general welfare, it will control everything.

The federal government must recognize reserved powers.

The Ninth and Tenth Amendments explicitly reserve non-delegated powers to the states or people, limiting federal authority.

Lecture support: Weaver reads the Ninth and Tenth Amendments and quotes Jefferson: 'To take a single step beyond the boundaries... is to take possession of a boundless field of power.'

The federal government owes a sound economic system based on silver and gold.

The Constitution only authorizes coining money, not printing paper money, and requires gold and silver as legal tender.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Article 1, Sections 8 and 10, and quotes Oliver Wendell Holmes: 'The power to coin money means to strike off metallic metals.'

Paper money is unconstitutional and destructive.

Founding Fathers and historical figures warned that paper money leads to fraud, oppression, and economic ruin.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes George Washington: 'Paper money has had the effect... to ruin commerce, oppress the honest, and open the door to every species of fraud and injustice.'

Violation of the covenant releases the people from obedience.

Since government is covenantal, if the federal government violates the Constitution, the people are no longer obligated to support it.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'when one party violates the covenant, the other party is released from obedience.'

Scripture References

Romans 13:8

Weaver reads this verse as the starting point for the message, emphasizing the command to owe no man anything but love.

Romans 13:7

Weaver references this verse to show the context of rendering dues to civil magistrates.

Psalm 94:20-21

Weaver uses this passage to demonstrate that civil government can be wicked, framing mischief by law and condemning the innocent.

Romans 13:3-4

Weaver cites these verses to show that God restricts civil government to punishing the wicked and protecting the righteous.

1 Peter 2:14

Weaver mentions this verse as teaching the same truth as Romans 13:3-4 about the purpose of government.

Genesis 23:7-16

Weaver reads this passage to show that Abraham used silver by weight as money, establishing the biblical precedent for specie money.

Deuteronomy 25:13-16

Weaver reads this passage to show God's requirement for just weights and measures, condemning dishonest money practices.

Proverbs 8:35-36

Weaver references this passage to illustrate that those who hate God love death, connecting to the idea of a society of death without Christ.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21

Weaver reads this passage to show that obedience to God's word brings blessings and a taste of heaven on earth.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean for government to be covenantal, and how does that affect our obligations as citizens?

Consider: Weaver explains that covenants involve reciprocal obligations and that violation by one party releases the other.

2. How does the Constitution limit the federal government, and why is that limitation important?

Consider: Weaver reads Article 1, Sections 8 and 9, and quotes Founding Fathers on the necessity of binding government with constitutional chains.

3. What are the reserved powers mentioned in the Ninth and Tenth Amendments, and why do they matter today?

Consider: Weaver reads the amendments and explains that powers not delegated are kept by the states or people.

4. Why did the Founding Fathers insist on gold and silver as legal tender, and what are the consequences of abandoning that standard?

Consider: Weaver cites constitutional clauses and historical quotes warning against paper money.

5. How do biblical principles of just weights and measures apply to modern monetary policy?

Consider: Weaver reads Deuteronomy 25:13-16 and Genesis 23 to show God's standard for honest money.

6. What does it mean that 'when one party violates the covenant, the other party is released from obedience' in the context of civil government?

Consider: Weaver concludes with this principle, applying it to an unconstitutional government.

7. How should Christians respond when civil government becomes wicked and frames mischief by law, as described in Psalm 94?

Consider: Weaver uses Psalm 94:20-21 to show that government can be wicked and asks how God views such government.

8. What are the dangers of Congress having an undefined, boundless field of power, according to Jefferson and Madison?

Consider: Weaver quotes Jefferson and Madison on the risks of unlimited government power.

Applications

Understand the covenantal nature of government

Recognize that civil government involves reciprocal obligations; if the government violates the Constitution, the people are not obligated to support unlawful actions.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'when one party violates the covenant, the other party is released from obedience.'

Insist on constitutional limits

Hold the federal government accountable to its enumerated powers and resist any expansion beyond those limits.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jefferson: 'bind him down from mischief by the chains of the Constitution.'

Advocate for sound money

Support a return to gold and silver as legal tender, as required by the Constitution, and reject paper money systems that enable fraud and debt.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Article 1, Section 10 and quotes Washington on the evils of paper money.

Obey God's law for national blessing

Personal, familial, ecclesiastical, and civil obedience to God's law is necessary for experiencing God's blessings and a taste of heaven on earth.

Lecture support: Weaver reads Deuteronomy 11:18-21 and states: 'If we want a taste of heaven upon the earth, we must be children of obedience.'

Reject idolatrous trust in government

Do not look to the state as a savior or provider; only God can bring true blessing and justice.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Hölderlin: 'What has made the state a hell on earth is that man has tried to make it his 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

Online Lecture Resources

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

Lesson 1: The Government Owes Me! - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01187

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01187&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - The Government Owes Me! - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01188

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01188&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.