WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

The Trouble We're In And The Way Out

Study Guide

Covenant Theology

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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 Trouble We're In And The Way Out

Part One of Two

March 29, 2021

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

National Apostasy and Judgment

America has abandoned its Christian heritage and is now under God's judgment, mirroring Israel's rebellion.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Congressman Nadler's statement and contrasts it with historical charters, then says, 'we are now what I'm calling absolutely ripe for judgment and full punishment.'

The Goodness of God

Failure to acknowledge God's goodness leads to ingratitude and further sin.

Lecture support: He points to Nehemiah 9:22-25 and Psalm 107, stating, 'one of the great sins that we have is that we fail to acknowledge the goodness of God.'

The Necessity of Genuine Confession

True confession means agreeing with God about sin, not merely mouthing words.

Lecture support: Weaver explains homologeo: 'Real genuine confession is when we say the same thing that God says... when we agree with God about our sin.'

The Justice of God's Judgments

God is just in punishing sin; we deserve what we get, yet He often shows mercy.

Lecture support: He quotes Nehemiah 9:33: 'Howbeit thou art just in all that is brought upon us; for thou hast done right, but we have done wickedly.'

The Mercy of God

Despite great sin, God's mercies prevent total destruction.

Lecture support: He references Nehemiah 9:31 and Lamentations 3:22-23: 'It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed.'

The Inability of Government to Solve Spiritual Problems

Laws and government cannot address the heart's sin; only spiritual renewal can.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'There is no political solution to a spiritual problem... government is useless, worthless, and unable to resolve spiritual problems.'

Key Arguments

America's Secular Turn Mirrors Israel's Rebellion

Weaver argues that modern America, like ancient Israel, has rejected God's law and is facing judgment.

Lecture support: He says, 'We've turned our backs upon God... we're in trouble up to our eyeballs and we don't even realize it.'

Confession Must Precede Revival

The first step out of trouble is honest confession of sin, as modeled in Nehemiah 9.

Lecture support: He states, 'the first step in revival, in renewal, in returning to God is a true and honest confession of our sins.'

True Confession Agrees with God

Confession is not just saying sorry but taking God's side against oneself.

Lecture support: He explains, 'Real genuine confession takes God's side... we are wrong and you are right.'

Ingratitude Leads to Greater Sin

Failing to thank God for His goodness leads to a darkened heart and further rebellion.

Lecture support: He cites Romans 1:21: 'neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations.'

God's Law Expresses His Will

Rejecting God's law is rejecting His will, which brings retribution.

Lecture support: He references Hosea 4:6 and 1 Thessalonians 4:3, saying, 'God's law is nothing more than the expression of His will for His people.'

We Deserve Judgment but Plead for Mercy

God is just in punishing sin, yet we can pray for mercy in the midst of wrath.

Lecture support: He quotes Habakkuk 3:2: 'in wrath remember mercy.'

Scripture References

Nehemiah 9:32-38

The main text; Nehemiah's prayer of confession acknowledging trouble and sin.

Deuteronomy 28:45-57

Curses for disobedience, including siege and destruction, paralleling America's situation.

Galatians 2:21

Paul says if righteousness came by the law, Christ died in vain; law cannot save.

Galatians 3:21

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

Nehemiah 9:22-25

Acknowledgment of God's goodness in giving Israel the land and blessings.

Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31

Repeated call to praise the Lord for His goodness and wonderful works.

Romans 1:21

Ingratitude leads to vain imaginations and a darkened heart.

Nehemiah 9:26

Confession of disobedience, rebellion, and casting God's law behind their backs.

Hosea 4:6

God's people destroyed for lack of knowledge; rejecting knowledge leads to rejection.

1 Thessalonians 4:3

God's will is sanctification, specifically abstaining from fornication.

Nehemiah 9:27-30

Cycle of sin, oppression, crying out, deliverance, and returning to sin.

Nehemiah 9:31

God's great mercies prevented utter consumption.

Romans 9:29

Unless the Lord had left a seed, they would be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

Lamentations 3:22-23

God's mercies are new every morning; great is His faithfulness.

Nehemiah 9:33

God is just in all brought upon them; they have done wickedly.

Psalm 103:10

God has not dealt with us after our sins or rewarded us according to our iniquities.

Lamentations 3:39

Why should a living man complain for the punishment of his sins?

Psalm 89:14

Justice and judgment are the habitation of God's throne; mercy and truth go before His face.

Habakkuk 3:2

Prayer for revival and for God to remember mercy in wrath.

Jeremiah 31:18-19

Ephraim's bemoaning, acknowledging chastisement, and asking God to turn him.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do you see parallels between Nehemiah's Israel and modern America?

Consider: Weaver draws extensive parallels between the rebellion of Israel and the current state of the nation.

2. What does it mean to 'confess' sin according to the biblical definition Weaver gives?

Consider: He explains that confession is homologeo - saying the same thing as God about sin.

3. Why is acknowledging God's goodness an essential part of confession?

Consider: Weaver points out that failure to thank God leads to further sin, as in Romans 1:21.

4. How does the cycle of sin, judgment, and temporary repentance in Nehemiah 9:27-30 reflect human nature?

Consider: The passage shows Israel repeatedly returning to sin after deliverance.

5. What does it mean to 'take God's side' against ourselves in confession?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that true confession involves agreeing with God's judgment on our sin.

6. How can we pray 'in wrath remember mercy' for our nation today?

Consider: He references Habakkuk 3:2 as a model prayer for times of judgment.

7. Why is it dangerous to say 'What have I done?' in response to sin, as in Jeremiah 8:6?

Consider: Weaver warns that minimizing sin leads to rushing headlong into more sin.

8. What role does corporate confession (confessing the sins of our nation) play in revival?

Consider: He notes that Ezra, Nehemiah, and Daniel confessed not only personal but national sins.

Applications

Practice Daily Gratitude for God's Goodness

Thank God every morning and evening for His mercies and provisions, recognizing that all we have comes from Him.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'You need to learn to thank God every morning when he allows you to wake up and every night... It's only of his mercies that we are not consumed.'

Engage in Honest Self-Examination and Confession

Regularly examine your life against God's law, agree with God about your sin, and confess it fully.

Lecture support: He states, 'Real genuine confession is when we see our sin the way God sees it... when we agree with God about our sin.'

Pray for National Repentance and Mercy

Spend time confessing the sins of the nation and praying for God to revive His work and remember mercy.

Lecture support: Weaver urges, 'if we spent enough time on our knees, just confessing the sins of this nation, we might need help getting up.'

Reject the Notion that Government Can Solve Spiritual Problems

Place your hope not in political solutions but in spiritual renewal through repentance and faith.

Lecture support: He declares, 'There is no political solution to a spiritual problem... government is useless, worthless, and unable to resolve spiritual problems.'

Acknowledge God's Justice in Personal and National Trials

When facing difficulties, recognize that God is just and that we often reap what we sow, yet plead for His mercy.

Lecture support: He quotes Nehemiah 9:33 and says, 'We got what we deserved... You are righteous in bringing all of this judgment upon us because we are wicked.'

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

The Trouble We're In And The Way Out

Part Two of Two

March 29, 2021

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-41 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Confession of Sin

True confession involves agreeing with God about the nature of sin, leading to repentance and a turning away from wickedness.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'the word "confess" means to agree with or decide with God, or to say the same thing as God... no one really and truly confesses their sins until they view sin the way God does.'

Covenantal Obedience

After confession, God's people must renew their commitment to obey His law, as seen in Nehemiah 10 and the revivals under Josiah and Hezekiah.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'every major revival, every major renewal in the Bible began with an honest and real and genuine confession of sin. And secondly, there was a real renewal of covenantal obedience.'

The Lordship of Jesus Christ

Jesus is both Savior and Lord; one cannot separate His person and work. Salvation requires submission to His authority.

Lecture support: Weaver declares, 'You cannot separate the person and work of Jesus Christ. You cannot say, "Well, I'll be saved by Him, but I don't want Him telling me how to live."'

Love as Obedience

Biblical love for God is not emotion but keeping His commandments; disobedience indicates a lack of love and knowledge of God.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes 1 John 5:3, 'For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.'

Practical Atheism in the Church

Many professing Christians live as practical atheists, acknowledging God with their lips but denying Him by their disobedient works.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'a practical atheist is someone who will confess that yes, God does exist... but I'm going to live my own life. I'm going to do my own thing.'

The Necessity of Personal and Family Reformation

While Christians cannot control the nation, they can start by obeying God in their personal lives, families, and churches, trusting God to work through a faithful remnant.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We can control ourselves. We can control our families. We can control our churches... By speaking, teaching, reaching out, helping.'

Key Arguments

America's departure from biblical foundations has led to moral and societal decay.

Weaver argues that the nation has forsaken the Bible and biblical principles, resulting in government-sanctioned sin and perversion.

Lecture support: He states, 'we have left the foundation upon which this country has been built. We have forsaken the Bible, biblical principles, truth and righteousness that undergirded our nation.'

Compromise with sin for financial or political gain is a betrayal of the faith.

Using Bethany Christian Services as an example, Weaver contends that prioritizing government contracts over biblical obedience is treason against God.

Lecture support: He comments, 'it is not the faith that matters to Bethany Christian Services... it is money that matters. Because if they do not compromise, then obviously they're going to lose their government contracts.'

True confession must lead to a tangible renewal of obedience to God's law.

Weaver insists that biblical confession is not mere words but results in a covenant to walk in God's commandments, as in Nehemiah 10.

Lecture support: He notes, 'they had repented of their sins and now what they're doing is they are renewing their covenantal obedience to God.'

Disobedience brings God's chastisement, while obedience brings blessing.

Drawing from Hebrews 12 and the law's sanctions, Weaver argues that God disciplines His children and that curses follow disobedience.

Lecture support: He says, 'curses always follow disobedience and blessings always follow obedience... if we sin against God, He's going to chastise us.'

The biblical pattern for revival is confession of sin followed by covenant renewal.

Weaver demonstrates from the reigns of Josiah and Hezekiah that national renewal began with acknowledging sin and committing to obey God's Word.

Lecture support: He summarizes, 'every major revival, every major renewal in the nations of Judah and Jerusalem and Israel began with an honest and true confession of sin. And then next came an absolute renewal to covenantal obedience.'

Love for Christ is proven by keeping His commandments.

Weaver uses John 14 and 1 John to argue that obedience is the evidence of love and knowledge of God; disobedience reveals a liar.

Lecture support: He quotes, 'He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.'

Scripture References

Nehemiah 9:32-38

Read as the primary text, describing Israel's confession of sin and covenant to obey God.

Psalm 5:4-6

Cited to show God hates workers of iniquity, contradicting the idea that God shows love and compassion to those in open rebellion.

2 Kings 21

Referenced regarding King Manasseh allowing sodomites in the temple.

1 Thessalonians 1:9

Used to illustrate turning from idols to serve God as a model of repentance.

Ezra 9:1-2

Read to show the specific peoples Israel intermarried with, whom God had commanded to destroy.

Deuteronomy 7

Mentioned as a command not to intermarry with the heathen.

Exodus 34

Mentioned alongside Deuteronomy 7 as forbidding covenants and intermarriage with pagans.

Nehemiah 10:28-31

Read to show the covenant the people made to obey God's law, including not intermarrying or violating the Sabbath.

Leviticus 26

Referenced as containing sanctions for disobedience.

Deuteronomy 28

Referenced alongside Leviticus 26 regarding blessings and curses.

Galatians 3

Cited for the curse on those who do not continue in all things written in the law.

Hebrews 12

Used to teach that God chastises every son He receives; lack of chastisement indicates illegitimacy.

Titus 1:16

Quoted to show that some profess to know God but deny Him by their works.

Acts 2:36

Quoted to prove that God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ.

2 Kings 23:1-25

Read extensively to illustrate Josiah's revival: reading the law, making a covenant, and purging idolatry.

Joel 2:15-17

Read to call for fasting, prayer, and intercession for God's people in time of trouble.

2 Chronicles 29:1-11

Read to show Hezekiah's revival: opening the temple, confessing sins, and making a covenant.

Hebrews 13:20-21

Read to describe the everlasting covenant and God's work to make believers perfect in every good work.

John 14:21, 24

Quoted to show that keeping Christ's commandments is the proof of love for Him.

Romans 13:8-10

Read to demonstrate that love fulfills the law through obedience to the commandments.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'confess' sin in the biblical sense, and how does this differ from merely admitting wrongdoing?

Consider: Weaver defines confession as agreeing with God and viewing sin as He does.

2. How should Christians respond when evangelical organizations compromise biblical truth for financial or political reasons?

Consider: The example of Bethany Christian Services is used to illustrate such compromise.

3. In what ways do professing Christians today live as 'practical atheists,' and how can we avoid this?

Consider: Weaver describes practical atheism as professing God but living in disobedience.

4. Why is it impossible to separate Jesus as Savior from Jesus as Lord, and what implications does this have for salvation?

Consider: Weaver argues from Acts 2:36 and other passages that Jesus is both Lord and Christ.

5. What can we learn from the revivals under Josiah and Hezekiah about the steps to personal and corporate renewal?

Consider: Weaver examines 2 Kings 23 and 2 Chronicles 29 as patterns of confession and covenant renewal.

6. How does the Bible define love for God, and how does this challenge common cultural understandings of love?

Consider: Weaver uses Romans 13 and 1 John to show love is obedience to God's commandments.

7. What are some practical ways we can 'start where we have control' in pursuing obedience to God in our personal lives, families, and churches?

Consider: Weaver encourages beginning with areas under our direct influence rather than despairing over national issues.

8. How should the reality of potential persecution shape our commitment to obedience?

Consider: Weaver states that threats of death should not drive us into disobedience.

Applications

Personal Confession of Sin

Believers must honestly confess their own sins and the sins of their nation, agreeing with God's assessment of wickedness.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we can not only confess our personal sins, but we can confess the sins of the nation.'

Renewed Obedience to God's Law

After confession, Christians should make a deliberate commitment to obey God's commandments in every area of life.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'we need to quit playing church... It's now time that we come back and not only confess and acknowledge our sins, but renew our obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ.'

Start with Personal and Family Reformation

Instead of being overwhelmed by national decline, believers should focus on obeying God in their own lives, families, and churches.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We can control ourselves. We can control our families. We can control our churches... we need to start where we do have control, not where we don't have control.'

Refuse to Compromise for Worldly Gain

Christians must not compromise biblical truth for financial, political, or social acceptance, even under pressure.

Lecture support: Weaver declares, 'our obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ is non-negotiable. Government contract or no government contract... it's non-negotiable.'

Embrace the Lordship of Christ Fully

Salvation requires acknowledging Jesus as Lord in every aspect of life, not merely as Savior from hell.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'you cannot separate the person and work of Jesus Christ... He is the Lord Jesus Christ. And if He saves you, you bow to Him. You acknowledge His Lordship.'

Pray Imprecatory Prayers and Intercede

In times of national trouble, believers should fast, pray, and ask God to spare His people and establish justice.

Lecture support: Weaver references Joel 2 and Psalm 9, urging prayer: 'Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach.'

Prepare for Persecution with Faithfulness

Christians should resolve that persecution will not drive them to disobedience, valuing faithfulness over safety.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'we have to make up our minds that persecution is not going to drive us into disobedience... I had rather die a martyr than to live as a traitor.'

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

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 Trouble We're In And The Way Out - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01610

Open the formatted lecture online



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01610&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: The Trouble We're In And The Way Out - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01611

Open the formatted lecture online



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01611&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.