

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

True Theology

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

Pastor John Weaver - True Theology

Part One of Two

June 19, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-21.

Major Themes

Theology must be based on divine revelation

True theology relies solely on God's self-revelation in Scripture and Christ, not human speculation.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'In order to know God, we must study that which He has revealed concerning Himself.'

God-centered vs. man-centered theology

Calvinism exalts God as the center of all things, while Arminianism exalts man's role and ability.

Lecture support: Weaver contrasts the definitions: Calvinism is 'distinguished by its view of God and His relationship to man,' Arminianism by 'its view of man and his relationship to God.'

Historical continuity of Calvinism

Calvinism is not new but rooted in Scripture, taught by Paul, Augustine, and the prophets.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The history of Calvinism is the history of God's plan to create man for his own glory.'

The sovereignty of God in salvation

Salvation originates with God, not man; man cannot move toward God unless God first moves toward man.

Lecture support: Weaver uses the tabernacle illustration: 'Man could not move toward God until God had first moved toward man.'

The five points as a response to error

The five points of Calvinism were formulated at Dort to refute Arminian errors, not as a complete system.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'The reason there are five points is because the Arminians raised those five points.'

Arminianism as a heresy

Arminianism is traced to Pelagius and semi-Pelagianism, and is denounced as another gospel.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Spurgeon: 'Arminianism appears as the gospel of Christ, but in reality, it is another gospel.'

Key Arguments

Man cannot know God apart from revelation

Human searching cannot discover God; knowledge of God comes only through His self-disclosure in Christ and Scripture.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Job 11:7 and Matthew 11:27 to show that no one knows the Father except through the Son.

Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation

Hebrews 1:1-2 teaches that God has spoken finally through His Son, making additional revelations unnecessary and heretical.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'When you try to add to revelation... you're trying to say... Jesus Christ is not the full and final revelation of God.'

Calvinism is biblical, not Calvin's invention

Calvinism existed before Calvin; he merely systematized truths already in Scripture, like Columbus discovering America.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Calvin did not invent a new teaching any more than Columbus invented America, or Newton invented the law of gravity.'

The chief doctrine of Calvinism is God, not predestination

Predestination is a secondary doctrine; the central focus is God's glory and sovereignty, as seen in Romans 11:36.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The emphasis in Calvinism is on God. God deserves all honor, power, and glory.'

Arminianism is rooted in Pelagian heresy

Arminius based his teachings on Pelagius, who denied original sin and taught man's natural ability to choose God.

Lecture support: Weaver lists Pelagius's seven points, including 'Adam's fall injured himself alone and not the human race.'

The Synod of Dort refuted Arminianism biblically

The Synod examined the Remonstrance using Scripture alone and rejected the Arminian five articles as unbiblical.

Lecture support: Weaver describes the vow taken: 'I will use no human writing, but only the Word of God.'

Salvation is entirely of God, not man

The difference between Calvinism and Arminianism is content: either salvation is by God or by man; it cannot be both.

Lecture support: Weaver asserts, 'Either salvation is by God or salvation is by man. It cannot be both.'

Scripture References

Romans 11:36

Weaver uses this as the foundational text, emphasizing that all things are of, through, and to God.

Job 11:7

Cited to show that man cannot by searching find out God.

Matthew 11:27

Jesus teaches that no one knows the Father except through the Son's revelation.

Colossians 2:9

In Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, affirming His deity.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God has spoken finally through His Son, who is the express image of His person.

John 5:23

All should honor the Son as they honor the Father; not honoring the Son dishonors the Father.

Exodus 25-26

Illustrates God's pattern: God began with the ark inside, working outward; man approaches from outside in.

Romans 8:29-30

Mentioned as containing the five points of Calvinistic soteriology.

Isaiah 53:11

Weaver references this to argue that Christ's death ensures salvation, not just possibility.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it essential that theology be based on divine revelation rather than human speculation?

Consider: Weaver argues that man cannot know God apart from His self-revelation in Scripture and Christ.

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2. How does the tabernacle pattern (Exodus 25-26) illustrate the God-centered approach to salvation?

Consider: Weaver uses the tabernacle to show that God initiates and man responds.

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3. What are the practical implications of believing that Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation of God?

Consider: Weaver warns against adding new revelations, which insults Christ.

4. In what ways does Arminianism exalt man at God's expense, according to Weaver?

Consider: Weaver contrasts the definitions and traces Arminianism to Pelagianism.

5. Why does Weaver insist that the chief doctrine of Calvinism is God and not predestination?

Consider: He explains that predestination is a fruit of the doctrine of God, not the center.

6. How does the history of the Synod of Dort demonstrate the importance of sola scriptura in resolving theological disputes?

Consider: The Synod's vow and process focused solely on Scripture to refute the Remonstrance.

7. What does Spurgeon mean when he says, 'I do not serve the God of the Arminians at all'?

Consider: Spurgeon rejects the Arminian concept of a changeable God who is subject to man's will.

8. How should we respond when we encounter teachings that add to or contradict the finality of Christ's revelation?

Consider: Weaver implies that such teachings should be rejected as heretical.

Applications

Base your theology on Scripture alone

Believers must reject speculation and private interpretations, grounding their knowledge of God solely in the Bible.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Speculation, superstition, private interpretations, have no place in the study of theology.'

Honor Christ as the full revelation of God

Recognize that Jesus Christ is the complete and final revelation; do not seek or accept additional revelations.

Lecture support: Weaver warns that adding to revelation insults Christ and the Father.

Adopt a God-centered worldview

In all things, acknowledge that all is of, through, and to God, giving Him all glory.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Romans 11:36 as the central tenet of Calvinism.

Reject man-centered theology

Be discerning of teachings that exalt man's role in salvation, recognizing them as rooted in Pelagian heresy.

Lecture support: Weaver traces Arminianism to Pelagius and semi-Pelagianism, calling it another gospel.

Study theology humbly

Approach the study of God with humility, recognizing that it humbles the mind and expands the soul.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Spurgeon on how contemplating God humbles and enlarges the mind.

Test all teachings by Scripture

Like the Synod of Dort, use only the Word of God as the infallible rule of faith to evaluate doctrines.

Lecture support: Weaver highlights the Synod's vow to use no human writing, only Scripture.

Understand the historical roots of theology

Be aware of the historical development of doctrines to discern truth from error.

Lecture support: Weaver provides detailed history of Calvinism and Arminianism to equip believers.

Rest in God's sovereignty in salvation

Trust that salvation is entirely God's work, not dependent on human effort or decision.

Lecture support: Weaver asserts that salvation is either by God or by man, and it cannot be both.

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 - True Theology

Part Two of Two

June 19, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-39.

Major Themes

God-Centered vs. Man-Centered Theology

Calvinism centers on God and His sovereignty, while Arminianism centers on man and his free will. True theology is God-centered.

Lecture support: The distinction between Calvinism and Arminianism is far more than just mere emphasis; it is that of content. Because one centers upon God and His relationship to man, and the other centers upon man and his relationship to God. (02:48.0 - 03:01.1)

Salvation is Entirely of the Lord

God alone saves sinners; He does not merely make salvation possible. Every aspect of salvation - faith, repentance, willingness - is a gift from God.

Lecture support: God saves sinners. Yes, we respond. Yes, we believe. Yes, we repent. Yes, we come willingly. But it's God who gives us that faith and gives us that repentance and makes us willing to come to Him. (52:59.9 - 53:35.4)

The Triune God's Unified Work in Salvation

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each perform distinct yet harmonious roles in saving sinners, demonstrating that salvation is a Trinitarian work.

Lecture support: Those that the Father chose, the Son redeemed, the Spirit quickened. Those that the Father predestinated, the Son educated, and the Spirit sealed. (47:22.9 - 48:30.4)

Human Inability and Total Depravity

By nature, man is dead in sin, unable to please God or come to Christ apart from divine grace. Salvation is impossible with men.

Lecture support: It is grace that teaches us that we're dead in trespasses and in sins and that we're totally and completely unable and incapable of doing anything that pleases God. (04:26.6 - 05:01.7)

The Analogy of Faith

Scripture must be interpreted in light of the whole counsel of God, not isolated verses. This principle guards against doctrinal error.

Lecture support: The analogy of faith is just simply the teaching of the whole Word of God. So if I read a verse here... I must interpret this verse in light of the totality of the teaching of the Word of God. (16:01.5 - 16:44.1)

Christ Came for Sinners, Not the Self-Righteous

Jesus' mission was to seek and save the lost, the ungodly, and sinners - not those who consider themselves righteous.

Lecture support: He came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance. Who is a sinner? Those who are guilty and vile and wicked... Those are the ones that our Lord came to seek and to save. (36:01.5 - 36:43.8)

Key Arguments

Arminianism is Man-Centered and Unbiblical

Arminianism makes man's salvation dependent on man himself, viewing faith as man's own work, which contradicts Scripture's teaching that salvation is of God.

Lecture support: Thus, Arminianism made man's salvation dependent ultimately upon man himself, saving faith being viewed throughout as man's own work and because his own, not God's work in him. (07:36.1 - 08:58.6)

God Actually Saves, Not Just Makes Savable

Jesus came to actually save the lost, not merely to offer salvation or make it possible. His name 'Jesus' means 'God saves.'

Lecture support: He came to seek and to save, not make savable, not offer salvation, but He came to seek and to save that which was lost. (25:02.0 - 25:47.4)

Salvation is Impossible with Man

Jesus taught that salvation is impossible with men, but possible with God. Human inability necessitates divine monergism.

Lecture support: And Jesus, looking upon them, saith, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.' (31:11.6 - 31:46.7)

Faith and Repentance are Gifts from God

Both faith and repentance originate from God, not from man's free will. Scripture explicitly states that God grants repentance and that faith is a gift.

Lecture support: For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God... Acts 11:18: 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.' (48:31.1 - 49:56.7)

The Trinity is Essential to Salvation

Each person of the Trinity performs a necessary work in salvation; to deny the Trinity is to deny salvation itself.

Lecture support: Salvation is the work of the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. If you deny the Trinity, you deny salvation. (47:22.9 - 48:30.4)

Scripture References

Romans 11:36

Main text: 'For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory forever. Amen.' Weaver explains 'of Him' as originally, 'through Him' as providentially, and 'to Him' as ultimately.

Revelation 4:11

All things were created for God's pleasure and glory.

Proverbs 16:4

The Lord has made all things for Himself, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Romans 8:7-8

The carnal mind is enmity against God and cannot please God.

Luke 9:56

The Son of Man came not to destroy men's lives but to save them.

Luke 19:10

The Son of Man came to seek and to save that which was lost.

Matthew 1:21

Jesus' name means 'God saves'; He shall save His people from their sins.

Colossians 1:12-13

The Father has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son.

Mark 10:23-27

Jesus teaches that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom, and that with men salvation is impossible, but with God all things are possible.

Hebrews 12:2

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

Luke 5:32

Jesus came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Romans 5:6-8

Christ died for the ungodly; while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 1:3-14

Extended exposition showing the work of the Father (chose, predestined, made accepted), the Son (redemption, wisdom, inheritance), and the Spirit (quickened, sealed, earnest).

Ephesians 2:1

We were dead in trespasses and sins, but God quickened us.

Jonah 2:9

Salvation is of the Lord.

Ephesians 2:8-9

By grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.

Acts 11:18

God has granted repentance unto life to the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

If God peradventure will give them repentance.

Philippians 2:13

It is God that works in us both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

John 6:44

No man can come to Christ except the Father draws him.

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 or other markings on the paper.

Discussion Questions

1. What are the practical implications of believing that salvation is entirely of the Lord versus believing that man cooperates in his salvation?

Consider: Weaver argues that God saves sinners, not merely helps them save themselves. This question explores how this doctrine affects assurance, humility, and worship.

2. How does the doctrine of the Trinity shape our understanding of salvation, and why is it essential?

Consider: Weaver demonstrates from Ephesians 1 that each person of the Trinity has a distinct role in salvation. This question encourages reflection on the Trinitarian nature of redemption.

3. Why is it important to interpret Scripture according to the 'analogy of faith,' and how can we practice this in our personal study?

Consider: Weaver explains that the analogy of faith means interpreting verses in light of the whole Bible. This question prompts discussion on hermeneutics and avoiding proof-texting.

- 4.** In what ways does the natural man's enmity against God manifest itself, and how does grace overcome it?

Consider: Weaver states that by nature we are born Arminians and hate God. This question explores total depravity and the necessity of divine intervention.

- 5.** How should the truth that Christ came to save sinners, not the self-righteous, affect our evangelism and our own self-examination?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that Jesus is the friend of sinners. This question applies the doctrine to outreach and personal humility.

Applications

Ascribe All Glory to God for Salvation

Believers should constantly confess that salvation is entirely of the Lord, giving Him all honor and glory, and not boasting in their own decision or faith.

Lecture support: I ascribe my change wholly to God... Those who understand that salvation is of the Lord will honor the Lord the most. (52:25.7 - 52:59.4)

Interpret Scripture by the Whole Counsel of God

When studying the Bible, always interpret individual verses in light of the totality of Scripture to avoid doctrinal error.

Lecture support: I must interpret this verse in light of the totality of the teaching of the Word of God. I cannot take one verse and take it out of context or make it mean something that the rest of Scripture does not teach. (16:44.7 - 18:05.6)

Recognize Human Inability and Depend on God

Acknowledge that apart from Christ we can do nothing, and rely wholly on God's grace for every aspect of salvation and sanctification.

Lecture support: Without Me you can do nothing... For without Him, we can do nothing. (50:56.6 - 51:36.8)

Embrace the Triune God's Work in Your Life

Rest in the assurance that the Father chose you, the Son redeemed you, and the Spirit seals you, giving confidence in salvation.

Lecture support: Those that the Father chose, the Son redeemed, the Spirit quickened... Salvation is the work of the triune God. (47:22.9 - 48:30.4)

Reject Man-Centered Theology

Guard against any teaching that makes man's free will the decisive factor in salvation, and instead uphold the God-centered gospel of grace.

Lecture support: If any man ascribes anything of salvation, even the very least of it, to the free will of man, he knows nothing of grace. (52:25.7 - 52:59.4)

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: Pastor John Weaver - True Theology - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01306

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01306&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - True Theology - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01307

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01307&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.