

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Truth and the Interpretation of Scripture

Study Guide

Apologetics

John Weaver

Weaver Bible College

A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: How Deep is Your Faith	4
Major Themes	4
Key Arguments	5
Scripture References	6
Discussion Questions	8
Applications	10
Personal Application and Notes	11
 Lesson 2: Three Reasons to Interpret and Six Things Needed - Part Four	12
Major Themes	12
Key Arguments	13
Scripture References	14
Discussion Questions	16
Applications	18
Personal Application and Notes	19
 Lesson 3: So, you got all you Wanted, is That all That Matters?	20
Major Themes	20
Key Arguments	21
Scripture References	22
Discussion Questions	24
Applications	26
Personal Application and Notes	27
 Lesson 4: Pastor John Weaver - The Best Illustration of Humanism	28
Major Themes	28
Key Arguments	29
Scripture References	30
Discussion Questions	32

Applications	34
Personal Application and Notes	35
Lesson 5: Pastor John Weaver - Providential Wisdom and Understanding . . .	36
Major Themes	36
Key Arguments	37
Scripture References	38
Discussion Questions	40
Applications	42
Personal Application and Notes	43
Lesson 6: Repentance According to the Scriptures	44
Major Themes	44
Key Arguments	45
Scripture References	46
Discussion Questions	48
Applications	50
Personal Application and Notes	51
Online Lecture Resources	52

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

How Deep is Your Faith

February 17, 2013

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-20.

Major Themes

Temporary Faith vs. Saving Faith

The sermon distinguishes between temporary belief that withers under trial and genuine, persevering faith that endures.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'there is such a thing as a temporary believer' and cites Matthew 13:21, Mark 4:17, and Luke 8:13 to show some 'believe for a while' but fall away.

The Deceptiveness of Immediate Joyful Response

Joyful reception of the Word does not guarantee salvation; true conversion requires deep conviction of sin, not just emotional excitement.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'not all joyful response to the word of God is a saving response' and uses Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8 as an example of a joyful but false believer.

Perseverance as Evidence of Genuine Faith

True believers continue in faith and repentance; those who fall away under persecution demonstrate they were never truly saved.

Lecture support: Weaver cites John 8:31, Colossians 1:23, and Hebrews 3:14 to show that continuing in the faith is the mark of true disciples, and 1 John 2:19 to show that those who leave were never of the faith.

The Necessity of Conviction of Sin

Without the 'sharp needle of the law' breaking the stony heart, any response to the gospel is shallow and temporary.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes the Puritan saying, 'The sharp needle of the law must precede the scarlet thread of the gospel,' and explains that without conviction, the seed cannot penetrate a stony heart.

Trials as a Purifying Test

Persecution and tribulation serve to separate true believers from false, purging the church of those with shallow faith.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'persecution, tribulation does? It separates the wheat from the chaff' and notes that only genuine Christians remain under pressure.

Key Arguments

The stony ground hearer is lost, not saved.

Weaver argues that the stony ground hearer is in the same lost condition as the wayside hearer, based on Jesus' phrase 'these are they likewise' in Mark 4:16.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'our Lord says the stony ground hearer is lost as well' and points to the parallel with the wayside hearer who had the word stolen.

Temporary believers exist but are not true Christians.

Scripture describes people who 'believe for a while' but fall away, proving they were never regenerated; true Christians cannot apostatize.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Luke 8:13 ('which for a while believe') and 1 John 2:19 to show that those who leave were never truly of the faith.

Joyful response without conviction is worthless.

Immediate joy at hearing the Word, without deep conviction of sin, indicates a shallow heart that will not endure.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'immediate joy without conviction of sin is absolutely worthless' and uses the example of Simon the sorcerer who believed and was baptized but remained lost.

Perseverance proves preservation.

Those whom God preserves will persevere in faith; continuing in the Word is the evidence of being a true disciple.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Our preservation comes to light in our perseverance' and cites John 8:31 and Colossians 1:23.

Trials reveal the genuineness of faith.

Fair-weather Christians abandon the faith under persecution, showing they were never truly saved; trials are necessary to purge the church.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Anyone who forsakes the faith due to trials and tribulations is just revealing the fact that he was never, ever a Christian to begin with' and references Acts 14:22.

Scripture References

Mark 4:5-6

The seed falling on stony ground, springing up quickly but withering under the sun because it had no root.

Mark 4:16-17

Jesus' interpretation: the stony ground hearers receive the word with gladness but have no root and fall away when affliction or persecution arises.

Mark 4:3

Jesus begins the parable with 'Hearken,' emphasizing the call to listen.

Mark 4:23

Jesus ends the parable with 'If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.'

Matthew 13:21

The stony ground hearer endures for a while but is offended when tribulation or persecution arises.

Luke 8:13

Those on the rock believe for a while but in time of temptation fall away.

Mark 4:14-16

The sower sows the word; the wayside hearer has the word stolen by Satan; the stony ground hearer is 'likewise' lost.

1 John 2:19

Those who went out from the church were not truly of them, revealing they were not genuine believers.

John 10:14

Jesus says, 'I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.'

2 Timothy 2:19

The foundation of God stands sure, having this seal: 'The Lord knoweth them that are his.'

John 10:26-27

Jesus tells the Pharisees they believe not because they are not of his sheep; his sheep hear his voice and follow him.

Acts 8:5-23

Simon the sorcerer believed, was baptized, and continued with Philip, but Peter declared his heart was not right and he was in the gall of bitterness.

John 8:30-31

Jesus tells those who believed on him that if they continue in his word, they are his disciples indeed.

Jude 1:1

Believers are sanctified by God the Father and preserved in Jesus Christ.

John 10:27-30

Jesus gives his sheep eternal life; they shall never perish, and no one can pluck them out of his hand.

Colossians 1:23

Paul says believers are reconciled if they continue in the faith, grounded and settled, not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

Hebrews 3:14

We are made partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.

Acts 14:22

Paul exhorted believers to continue in the faith, saying that through much tribulation we must enter the kingdom of God.

John 15:18-21

Jesus warns that the world will hate and persecute his followers because it hated him first.

Ezekiel 33:32

God tells Ezekiel that the people treat him as a lovely song but do not listen or obey.

Discussion Questions

1. What does the parable of the stony ground teach us about the difference between temporary belief and saving faith?

Consider: Weaver explains that the stony ground hearer receives the word with joy but falls away under trial, showing he was never truly saved.

2. Why is immediate joyful response to the gospel not a reliable indicator of genuine conversion?

Consider: Weaver uses Simon the sorcerer as an example of someone who believed and was baptized but remained lost, emphasizing the need for conviction of sin.

3. How does perseverance serve as evidence of true faith, according to the scriptures cited?

Consider: Weaver references John 8:31, Colossians 1:23, and Hebrews 3:14 to show that continuing in the faith is the mark of true disciples.

4. In what ways do trials and persecutions reveal the genuineness of a person's faith?

Consider: Weaver argues that those who forsake the faith under pressure were never truly saved, and that trials separate the wheat from the chaff.

5. What does the Puritan saying 'The sharp needle of the law must precede the scarlet thread of the gospel' mean, and why is it important?

Consider: Weaver applies this saying to stress that without deep conviction of sin, any response to the gospel will be shallow and temporary.

6. How can we examine the depth of our own faith in light of this parable?

Consider: Weaver asks, 'How deep is your faith? Does it produce fruit? Is it evident? And does it manifest itself in perseverance?'

Applications

Examine the depth of your faith

Weaver challenges listeners to assess whether their faith has truly penetrated the heart and produces perseverance and fruit, or is merely shallow and temporary.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'How deep is your faith? Does it produce fruit? Is it evident? And does it manifest itself in perseverance?'

Do not trust in emotional responses alone

Listeners are warned not to equate immediate joy or excitement at hearing the Word with genuine salvation; true conversion requires conviction of sin.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'immediate joy without conviction of sin is absolutely worthless' and uses Simon as a cautionary example.

Persevere in faith through trials

Believers are encouraged to continue in the faith despite tribulations, knowing that perseverance is evidence of God's preserving grace.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Our preservation comes to light in our perseverance' and cites Acts 14:22 about entering the kingdom through much tribulation.

Preach the law before the gospel

Weaver implies that evangelism must include the convicting work of the law to break stony hearts before the gospel can take root.

Lecture support: He quotes the Puritan saying, 'The sharp needle of the law must precede the scarlet thread of the gospel.'

Expect and endure persecution as a Christian

Weaver reminds believers that Jesus promised hatred and persecution from the world, and that such trials are normal and purifying.

Lecture support: He cites John 15:18-21 and says, 'our Lord never promised an easy 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

LESSON 2

Three Reasons to Interpret and Six Things Needed

Part Four

March 27, 2022

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 21-37.

Major Themes

Necessity of an impartial spirit

To interpret Scripture correctly, one must set aside preconceived ideas and approach the Bible with an honest and good heart, practicing exegesis rather than eisegesis.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'practically everyone comes to the Bible with a set of preconceived ideas' and illustrates with personal stories of being wrong and the need for honesty.

Requirement of a humble mind

God reveals truth to the humble, like babes, and resists the proud. A humble mind submits to Scripture even when it does not fully understand.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 11:25, 1 Corinthians 8:1-2, and James 4:6, and gives the example of Lester Roloff's humble acceptance of election.

Importance of a praying heart

Understanding Scripture requires diligent prayer and seeking God for wisdom, as illustrated by the treasure-seeking metaphor in Proverbs 2.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Proverbs 2:1-6 and Psalm 119:36, 73, 133, emphasizing the need to ask, seek, and knock.

Need for a holy design

Motives in studying Scripture must be pure - to become more humble, obedient, and conformed to God's Word - not to argue or show off knowledge.

Lecture support: Weaver asks probing questions about motives and quotes D.L. Moody: 'The Scriptures were not given to increase our knowledge, but to change our lives.'

Insufficiency of tools alone

Having proper study tools is necessary but not sufficient; one must also have an illuminated mind, impartial spirit, humble mind, praying heart, and holy design.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Having the proper tools alone will not make you a biblical scholar any more than having the proper carpentry tools will make you a carpenter.'

Key Arguments

Preconceived ideas hinder interpretation

People naturally trust what they have been taught, but error can be handed down. An impartial spirit is needed to let Scripture correct us.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Error, heresy, and deception are easily handed down from generation to generation' and shares his own experience of being wrong.

Exegesis vs. eisegesis

Exegesis draws out the true meaning of Scripture, while eisegesis reads in preconceived ideas. Only exegesis leads to honesty and submission.

Lecture support: Weaver defines the terms and says, 'Exegesis will make you honest and submissive. Eisegesis will confirm you in your preconceived ideas.'

Pride opposes learning

Knowledge puffs up, and pride leads to destruction. God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble, so a humble mind is essential.

Lecture support: Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 8:1, Proverbs 16:18, and James 4:6, and explains that God fights against the proud.

Diligent seeking is required

Understanding comes to those who seek wisdom as hidden treasure, putting in work and time, and praying for God to give understanding.

Lecture support: Weaver uses Proverbs 2:1-6 and the illustration of digging for buried treasure to emphasize the effort needed.

Motives matter in study

Studying to argue, show off, or put others down is prideful and ungodly. The goal should be life change and conformity to God's Word.

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'What is my motive in reading and studying?' and shares a negative example of a haughty caller.

Scripture References

2 Timothy 2:7

Theme verse for the series: 'Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things.'

Psalms 111:2

Used to deduce that if we do not have pleasure in truth and seek it out, we remain childish and ignorant.

John 1:10

Example of the word 'world' (cosmos) used three times with different meanings in one verse.

Habakkuk 1:13

Illustration of needing to insert an explanatory word: God cannot look upon iniquity 'condoningly'.

Proverbs 15:3

Contrasted with Habakkuk 1:13 to show God does see evil, but does not condone it.

Hebrews 1:1-3

Jesus Christ is the full and final revelation of God; no new revelation today.

Luke 8:15

The good ground hearer has an honest and good heart, illustrating the need for an impartial spirit.

1 Thessalonians 1:4

Example of a verse some ignore due to discomfort with the doctrine of election.

Ephesians 1:4

Lester Roloff's honest response to the doctrine of election: he didn't understand it but believed it.

Matthew 11:25

God hides things from the wise and prudent and reveals them to babes, emphasizing humility.

1 Corinthians 8:1-2

Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies; if anyone thinks he knows anything, he knows nothing yet.

Proverbs 8:13

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

Proverbs 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 Corinthians 10:12

Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

Proverbs 29:23

A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

1 Timothy 3:6

A pastor must not be a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

1 John 2:16

The pride of life is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Isaiah 57:15

God dwells with the contrite and humble spirit to revive them.

James 4:6

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Proverbs 2:1-6

If you seek wisdom as silver and search for her as hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord.

Discussion Questions

1. What are some preconceived ideas you have brought to Scripture, and how can you cultivate an impartial spirit?

Consider: Weaver emphasizes that everyone comes with preconceived ideas and must be willing to let Scripture correct them.

2. How can you practice exegesis rather than eisegesis in your personal Bible study?

Consider: Weaver defines exegesis as drawing out meaning and eisegesis as reading in ideas.

3. In what areas of your life might pride be hindering your understanding of God's Word?

Consider: Weaver teaches that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble.

4. What does it look like to seek wisdom as hidden treasure in your daily routine?

Consider: Weaver uses Proverbs 2 to illustrate the diligent effort required in seeking understanding.

5. How can you examine your motives when studying Scripture to ensure they are holy?

Consider: Weaver asks probing questions about why we study and warns against prideful motives.

Applications

Cultivate an impartial spirit

Approach Scripture willing to have your preconceived ideas corrected, and practice exegesis by drawing out the text's meaning.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We must grasp the fact that what we have heard all of our lives... may not be true' and defines exegesis.

Develop a humble mind

Submit to Scripture even when you don't fully understand it, and reject pride that resists God's teaching.

Lecture support: Weaver cites James 4:6 and says, 'A humble mind is a mind that is willing to submit to truth even though you do not understand the truth.'

Maintain a praying heart

Regularly ask God for understanding, an inclined heart, and ordered steps in His Word, seeking wisdom as diligently as hidden treasure.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Proverbs 2 and Psalm 119, and asks, 'When is the last time you've asked God for understanding?'

Pursue a holy design

Study Scripture with the motive of life change and greater obedience, not to argue or show off knowledge.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Moody and says, 'Our motives are important. Our desires are important, especially when it comes to the word of God.'

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 3

So, you got all you Wanted, is That all That Matters?

February 15, 2012

Read Chapter 3 in the companion book, pages 39-53.

Major Themes

The Danger of Selfish Ambition

Getting what you want without regard for God or others leads to destruction, as seen in Judas and the religious leaders.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'So you got what you wanted, is that all that matters?' and illustrates with Judas's betrayal and the priests' conspiracy.

The Conspiracy Against Christ

The religious leaders repeatedly sought to kill Jesus out of envy and fear, ultimately manipulating the legal system to crucify Him.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 27:1, Mark 11:18, John 11:47-48, and Acts 2:23 to show the conspiracy.

The Insufficiency of Worldly Gain

Judas's 30 pieces of silver became worthless to him once his conscience was awakened, showing that material gain cannot satisfy.

Lecture support: Weaver notes Judas 'cast down the pieces of silver in the temple and departed and went and hanged himself' (Matthew 27:5).

The Wickedness of Rejecting Truth

The priests dismissed Judas's confession of Christ's innocence, showing that the wicked have no use for truth when it conflicts with their desires.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes their response: 'What is that to us? See thou to that' (Matthew 27:4).

Facing the Sovereign Christ

Those who mistreat Christ will one day face Him as the exalted Judge, realizing they are in His hands.

Lecture support: Weaver references Peter's sermon in Acts 2:36, where the hearers are 'pricked in their heart' and ask, 'What shall we do?'

Sin at Christ's Expense

Every sin is committed at the expense of Christ's suffering, and believers should desire nothing that dishonors Him.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Whenever we sin, it's at Christ's expense.'

Love as an Act of the Will

Loving God is a determined choice of the will, not merely an emotion, and requires holy commitment.

Lecture support: Weaver explains David's 'I will love thee, O Lord' (Psalm 18:1) as a volitional commitment.

Key Arguments

Judas's betrayal was motivated by covetousness and ended in despair.

Judas sought money, got it, but when his conscience struck, he returned the silver and hanged himself, showing the emptiness of selfish gain.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Matthew 26:14-16, John 12:4-6, and Matthew 27:3-5.

The religious leaders conspired to murder Jesus out of envy and fear.

They charged Him with blasphemy but sought Roman execution to avoid public backlash, revealing their hypocrisy and malice.

Lecture support: Weaver references Matthew 26:63-66, Matthew 27:1, Mark 14:1-2, and John 19:6-7.

Getting what you want at the expense of Christ leads to eternal ruin.

Both Judas and the priests achieved their immediate desires but faced divine judgment, illustrating that worldly success is not all that matters.

Lecture support: Weaver points to Matthew 26:24 and Acts 1:25 regarding Judas's fate, and Acts 2:36-37 for the priests' realization.

Sinners are miserable comforters and cannot provide true spiritual solace.

When Judas confessed his sin, the priests callously dismissed him, demonstrating the selfishness of the ungodly.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Matthew 27:4: 'What is that to us? See thou to that.'

Believers must determine to love God with a holy will.

Love for God is a commanded act of the will, not dependent on feelings, and requires a dedicated commitment like David's.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Psalm 18:1 and John 15:5, emphasizing 'I will love thee, O Lord.'

Scripture References

Matthew 27:1-10

The passage read at the beginning, detailing the council against Jesus, Judas's remorse, and the purchase of the potter's field.

Acts 2:23

Peter condemns the religious leaders for crucifying Christ with wicked hands.

Acts 4:26-28

Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Israel gathered against Christ as God's determined counsel.

Acts 13:28

Though they found no cause of death in Him, they desired Pilate to slay Him.

Luke 4:28-30

The synagogue crowd tried to throw Jesus off a cliff.

John 8:59

They took up stones to cast at Jesus, but He hid Himself.

John 7:30

They sought to take Him, but no man laid hands on Him because His hour had not yet come.

Mark 11:18

The scribes and chief priests sought how to destroy Jesus because they feared Him and the people.

John 11:47-50

Caiaphas advised that it was expedient for one man to die for the nation.

Matthew 26:63-66

Jesus is charged with blasphemy and declared guilty of death.

Acts 6:11-14

False witnesses were set up against Stephen, accusing him of blasphemy.

Acts 7:56-60

Stephen is stoned to death for blasphemy.

Mark 14:1-2

The chief priests sought to take Jesus by craft but not on the feast day to avoid an uproar.

John 19:6-7

The Jews reveal they want Jesus dead because He made Himself the Son of God.

Matthew 26:14-16

Judas bargains with the chief priests for 30 pieces of silver.

Zechariah 11:13

Prophecy of the 30 pieces of silver cast to the potter.

John 12:4-6

Judas was a thief and cared for the bag.

Matthew 26:24

Woe to the man who betrays the Son of Man; it would be good if he had never been born.

Acts 2:32-37

Peter preaches the exalted Christ, and the hearers are pricked in their heart.

Psalms 18:1

David's determination: 'I will love thee, O Lord, my strength.'

Discussion Questions

1. In what ways do we exhibit the attitude 'I got what I wanted, and that's all that matters' in our daily lives?

Consider: Weaver introduces this as a common selfish statement.

2. How does the conspiracy of the religious leaders reveal the danger of envy and fear in opposing God's work?

Consider: Weaver details their repeated attempts to kill Jesus and their manipulation of Pilate.

3. Why did Judas's remorse not lead to true repentance, and what can we learn from his tragic end?

Consider: Weaver notes Judas repented himself but did not turn to God for forgiveness.

4. How should the reality that Christ suffered for our sins affect our desires and choices?

Consider: Weaver applies that sin is at Christ's expense.

5. What does it mean that love is an act of the will, and how can we cultivate a holy determination to love God?

Consider: Weaver concludes with David's 'I will love thee, O Lord' as a model.

Applications

Examine your desires in light of Christ's honor.

Do not pursue anything that comes at the expense of Christ's person, work, or glory.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'Whenever we sin, it's at Christ's expense.'

Recognize the emptiness of worldly gain.

Like Judas, getting what you want apart from God leads to despair and eternal loss.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates with Judas throwing down the silver and hanging himself.

Do not seek comfort from the ungodly.

Sinners are miserable comforters; true solace comes only from Christ and His people.

Lecture support: Weaver points to the priests' response to Judas: 'What is that to us?'

Make a holy determination to love the Lord.

Love God as an act of the will, committing to obey and honor Him regardless of feelings.

Lecture support: Weaver expounds Psalm 18:1 and emphasizes 'I will love thee, O Lord.'

Study notes

[illegible]

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

Pastor John Weaver - The Best Illustration of Humanism

April 27, 2024

Read Chapter 4 in the companion book, pages 55-72.

Major Themes

Humanism as Practical Atheism

Humanism is living independently of God, denying the need for His Word, prayer, or supernatural guidance.

Lecture support: Humanism, at the maximum, is to be an atheist. At the minimum, it is to walk totally independent of God.

Incompatibility of Christianity and Humanism

One cannot be a Christian and a humanist simultaneously; the philosophies are mutually exclusive.

Lecture support: It is impossible to be a Christian and a humanist at the same time, just like it's impossible to be an honest thief or a sober drunk.

Total Depravity and Human Inability

Because of total depravity, human reasoning is corrupted and cannot reliably discern spiritual truth or choose what is best.

Lecture support: The Bible teaches that man is absolutely, totally depraved... our wills are slaves to our lusts, our desires, and our thinking.

Rejection of God's Word in Favor of Experience

The remnant in Jeremiah 44 rejected God's clear command, trusting their own interpretation of past prosperity while worshiping idols.

Lecture support: They were saying, 'When we were worshiping the queen of heaven... we had plenty... But since we left off... we have wanted all things.'

The Authority and Finality of God's Word

God's word will stand forever and will judge those who reject it; human words and reasoning will fail.

Lecture support: God said, 'We will see whose words shall stand, theirs or Mine.'... God's Word shall stand forever.

Functional Humanism Among Professing Christians

Many professing Christians live as humanists by compartmentalizing their lives and not submitting to Scripture in all areas.

Lecture support: To the degree that you do not submit to the Word of God... to that degree, you're a humanist.

Key Arguments

Humanism is self-defeating because of total depravity

Humanism assumes man can know and choose what is best, but the Bible teaches man's mind and will are corrupted by sin.

Lecture support: How then can a humanist who does not believe in God... have a true and accurate choice of the alternatives? He doesn't even understand the alternatives.

The remnant's hypocrisy reveals humanist thinking

The people claimed to want God's will but had already decided to go to Egypt, demonstrating they trusted their own judgment over God's command.

Lecture support: They said, 'Thou speakest falsely: the Lord our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt to sojourn there.'

Misinterpreting experience leads to idolatry

The remnant attributed their past prosperity to idol worship, not God's patience, and used this misinterpretation to justify continued rebellion.

Lecture support: They did not understand the only reason they prospered as long as they did was because of the mercy and the patience of God.

God's word will ultimately judge all

Jesus taught that His word will judge those who reject it; human autonomy will be exposed as rebellion.

Lecture support: He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Christians must submit wholly to Scripture

Partial obedience is functional humanism; believers must allow the Bible to interpret their experience, not the reverse.

Lecture support: You always allow the Bible to interpret your experience. You never allow your experience to interpret the Bible.

Scripture References

Galatians 1:13-16

Paul's conversion separated him from Judaism, showing Christianity and Judaism are distinct.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man cannot understand spiritual things because they are spiritually discerned.

Ephesians 4:18

Unbelievers are alienated from God through ignorance due to hardened hearts.

Isaiah 1

Describes total depravity from head to foot.

Jeremiah 42:1-6

The remnant asks Jeremiah to pray for God's guidance, promising to obey whatever He says.

Jeremiah 42:7-22

God commands the remnant to stay in Judah and not go to Egypt, warning of judgment if they disobey.

Jeremiah 43:1-7

The leaders accuse Jeremiah of lying and take the remnant to Egypt against God's command.

Jeremiah 44:1-14

God reminds the remnant in Egypt that Jerusalem was destroyed for idolatry, and they will face judgment for continuing.

Jeremiah 44:15-19

The people defiantly refuse to listen, claiming their idol worship brought prosperity.

Jeremiah 44:20-30

Jeremiah corrects their misinterpretation; God declares His word will stand and He will judge them.

Luke 6:46

Jesus asks why people call Him Lord but do not obey Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You are bought with a price; glorify God in your body and spirit.

John 12:48

Jesus' word will judge those who reject Him at the last day.

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.** In what ways might professing Christians today live as functional humanists without realizing it?

Consider: Weaver claims most professing Christians are humanists and do not realize their departure from God.

- 2.** How does the doctrine of total depravity undermine the core assumptions of humanism?

Consider: Humanism assumes man can know and choose what is best, but the Bible teaches man's mind and will are corrupted.

- 3.** Why did the remnant in Jeremiah 44 reject God's clear command, and how does their reasoning mirror modern humanist thinking?

Consider: They trusted their own interpretation of past prosperity while worshiping idols, rejecting God's word.

4. What does it mean to 'allow the Bible to interpret your experience' rather than the reverse?
Can you give an example?

Consider: Weaver states this principle as essential to avoid the error of the remnant.

5. How does the concept of Jesus as 'Lord' (kurios) challenge compartmentalized obedience in our lives?

Consider: Weaver references Luke 6:46, emphasizing that calling Jesus Lord demands total obedience.

Applications

Examine your life for functional humanism

Evaluate areas where you live as if God does not exist or His Word does not apply, and repent of practical atheism.

Lecture support: Most professing Christians are humanists and do not even realize their departure from God and His Word.

Submit every area of life to Scripture

Do not compartmentalize your life; bring all decisions, desires, and behaviors under the authority of God's Word.

Lecture support: To the degree that you do not submit to the Word of God... to that degree, you're a humanist.

Let the Bible interpret your experiences

When evaluating past events or seeking guidance, always filter your interpretation through Scripture rather than relying on personal reasoning.

Lecture support: You always allow the Bible to interpret your experience. You never allow your experience to interpret the Bible.

Trust God's Word over human reasoning

When God's commands conflict with your understanding or desires, choose obedience, trusting His omniscience and goodness.

Lecture support: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not to thine own understanding.

Recognize the danger of misinterpreting God's patience

Do not mistake God's temporary patience with sin as approval; past prosperity during disobedience does not justify continued rebellion.

Lecture support: They did not understand the only reason they prospered as long as they did was because of the mercy and the patience of God.

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

Pastor John Weaver - Providential Wisdom and Understanding

February 09, 2025

Read Chapter 5 in the companion book, pages 73-91.

Major Themes

God's Sovereign Providence

God rules the world through His sovereign providence; there is no luck, chance, or fate. All events are acts of God's eternal decrees coming to pass in time.

Lecture support: I've often said that there is no such thing as luck, chance, fate, or fortune in a world that's ruled by God. There are only acts of God's sovereign providence.

The Necessity of Praise and Thanksgiving

Believers are repeatedly commanded to praise the Lord for His goodness and wonderful works, offering the 'rent' of thanksgiving for His blessings.

Lecture support: Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Distress as a Catalyst for Crying to God

In each illustration, distress leads people to cry to the Lord, and He delivers them. Trouble often drives us to genuine prayer.

Lecture support: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

Observing God's Works to Understand His Lovingkindness

The wise observe and contemplate God's providential acts in their lives, others' lives, and history to gain understanding of His lovingkindness.

Lecture support: Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

Learning from God's Work in Others

We are responsible to learn from God's work in the lives of others, as illustrated by the Pharisees' failure to repent when they saw publicans and harlots believe.

Lecture support: For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward.

The Goodness of God to All Creation

God's goodness extends to all people (saved and unsaved) and to all creation, providing for animals and the natural world.

Lecture support: He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man... The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God.

Key Arguments

Providence reveals God's attributes and purposes

God's providential acts in time are important because they reveal His attributes and purpose, and we are to observe them to understand His lovingkindness.

Lecture support: That truth emphasizes that God's providential acts in time, in history, are exceedingly important because they reveal his attributes and they also reveal his purpose.

Praise is the required response to deliverance

The repeated refrain 'Oh that men would praise the Lord' shows that praise is the proper response to God's deliverance from distress.

Lecture support: Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!

Distress leads to prayer

The word 'then' in each distress narrative indicates that when people reached the end of their own resources, they cried to God, and He delivered them.

Lecture support: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses.

Observing means deep contemplation, not mere sight

The word 'observe' in Psalm 107:43 means to contemplate, meditate, study, and apply, not just to see or look at.

Lecture support: The word 'observe' does not simply mean to see or to look at. The word 'observe' means that we contemplate, that we meditate, that we study, that we think upon, that we comprehend, that we understand, and ultimately, that we apply the truth that is communicated.

We must learn from God's work in others and in history

We are duty-bound to learn from what God does in the lives of others and in historical events, as nothing happens by accident.

Lecture support: We're also duty bound and obligated and responsible to learn what God does in time and in history, because nothing happens by accident.

Praise glorifies God

Offering praise is a direct way to glorify God, as stated in Psalm 50:23.

Lecture support: Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God.

Scripture References

Psalm 107:43

The main text: the wise observe God's works and understand His lovingkindness.

Psalm 107:1-2

Command to give thanks and let the redeemed say so.

Psalm 50:23

Offering praise glorifies God.

Psalm 107:8, 15, 21, 31

The repeated refrain to praise the Lord for His goodness.

Acts 14:17

God left not Himself without witness, doing good and giving rain and fruitful seasons.

Matthew 5:45

God makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and unjust.

Psalm 103:1-5

Bless the Lord and forget not all His benefits: forgiveness, healing, redemption, lovingkindness, satisfaction.

Psalm 104:10-24

God's provision for animals and creation, showing His goodness to all.

Psalm 107:4-9

The weary lost travelers cry to the Lord and are led to a city; call to praise.

Psalm 107:10-16

Captives in darkness and affliction cry to the Lord and are brought out; call to praise.

Psalm 107:17-22

Fools afflicted for their transgressions cry to the Lord and are healed; call to praise and sacrifice of thanksgiving.

Psalm 107:23-32

Mariners in storms cry to the Lord and are brought to desired haven; call to praise and exalt Him.

Matthew 21:32

The Pharisees saw publicans and harlots believe but did not repent; we must learn from God's work in others.

Isaiah 28:21

God's judgment is called His strange act.

Hosea 14:9

Who is wise shall understand these things; the ways of the Lord are right.

Psalm 145:8-10

The Lord is gracious, full of compassion, good to all; all His works shall praise Him.

Deuteronomy 8:1-3

God humbled Israel and let them hunger to teach them that man lives by every word of God.

Psalm 111:2

The works of the Lord are great, sought out by those who have pleasure in them.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God.

Hebrews 13:12-15

By Jesus we offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, the fruit of our lips giving thanks.

Discussion Questions

- 1.** In what ways have you experienced God's deliverance from distress, and how did you respond?

Consider: The four illustrations of distress and deliverance in Psalm 107.

- 2.** What does it mean to 'observe' God's providential acts in your life, and how can you cultivate a habit of doing so?

Consider: The definition of 'observe' as contemplation and application.

- 3.** How can we learn from God's work in the lives of others, and why is this important?

Consider: The example of the Pharisees failing to learn from the publicans and harlots (Matthew 21:32).

4. Why do you think distress often drives people to pray more earnestly?

Consider: The repeated 'then they cried' in each distress narrative.

5. What are some practical ways to 'sacrifice the sacrifice of thanksgiving' in your daily life?

Consider: Hebrews 13:15 and the call to offer praise through Christ.

6. How does recognizing God's providence change your perspective on difficult circumstances?

Consider: The overall message that nothing happens by accident.

Applications

Cry to God in distress

When you find yourself helpless and hopeless, cry to the Lord, for He delivers those who call on Him.

Lecture support: Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.

Observe God's providence

Pay close attention to what God is doing in your life, in the lives of others, and in world events, and meditate on His purposes.

Lecture support: Whoso is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the Lord.

Give continual praise and thanks

Offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually through Jesus Christ, thanking Him for all His blessings and deliverances.

Lecture support: By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

Learn from God's work in others

Be attentive to how God works in the lives of fellow believers and even unbelievers, and apply those lessons to your own walk.

Lecture support: And ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him.

Do not take blessings for granted

Recognize that every good thing - life, health, food, protection - comes from God's gracious providence, and thank Him specifically.

Lecture support: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

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 6

Repentance According to the Scriptures

August 10, 2025

Read Chapter 6 in the companion book, pages 93-111.

Major Themes

The Necessity of Repentance

Repentance is not optional; God commands it, and the only alternative is perishing. It was central to the preaching of Jesus, John the Baptist, and the apostles.

Lecture support: Luke 13:1-5: 'Except you repent, you shall all likewise perish.' Acts 17:30: 'God now commandeth all men everywhere to repent.'

Repentance as a Gift of God

Repentance, like faith, is a gift that God must grant; fallen man cannot produce it by his own will or effort.

Lecture support: Acts 5:31: 'Him hath God exalted... to give repentance to Israel.' Acts 11:18: 'Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.' 2 Timothy 2:25: 'If God peradventure will give them repentance.'

Conviction Precedes Repentance

True repentance begins with bemoaning oneself - being convicted of sin by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, recognizing one's lost condition.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:18: 'I have surely heard Ephraim bemoaning himself.' John 8:9: 'They went out being convicted of their own conscience.'

Human Helplessness and Divine Enablement

The sinner is like an untamed bullock, unable to turn to God without divine intervention. The cry 'Turn thou me, and I shall be turned' acknowledges that ability belongs to God.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:18: 'Turn thou me, and I shall be turned.' John 6:44: 'No man can come unto me except the Father... draw him.'

The Fruit of Repentance: Godly Sorrow and Shame

Genuine repentance produces godly sorrow over sin, shame, and a changed life. This sorrow is distinct from worldly regret over consequences.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:19: 'I was ashamed, yea, even confounded.' 2 Corinthians 7:10: 'For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.'

The Perseverance of Repentance

God's gifts of faith and repentance are without repentance (irrevocable); believers continue repenting throughout their lives as they grow in sanctification.

Lecture support: Romans 11:29: 'For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.'

Key Arguments

Repentance is not optional but commanded by God

Jesus explicitly taught that unless one repents, they will perish. God now commands all men everywhere to repent because a day of judgment is appointed.

Lecture support: Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30-31

Repentance is a gift, not a human work

Multiple scriptures show that God must give or grant repentance; it is not something man can produce by his own will or effort.

Lecture support: Acts 5:31; Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25

Conviction is the starting point of repentance

Ephraim's bemoaning represents the work of the Holy Spirit convicting of sin, making the sinner aware of his lost condition and need for a Savior.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:18; John 16:8; Matthew 9:12-13

The sinner is helpless and must be turned by God

The image of a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke illustrates the sinner's uncontrollable nature. Only God can turn the sinner, who then repents.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:18-19; John 6:44-45

True repentance produces lasting godly sorrow and shame

After being turned, Ephraim smote his thigh in grief and was ashamed. This godly sorrow is a mark of genuine repentance and continues in the believer's life.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:19; 2 Corinthians 7:10

Man is responsible to seek God for the gift of repentance

Though unable to repent in his own strength, the sinner is still accountable to God and must seek Him for the ability to fulfill the command to repent.

Lecture support: Romans 11:29; 1 John 3:23

Scripture References

Jeremiah 31:18-19

Primary text: Ephraim's bemoaning, acknowledgment of chastening, plea for God to turn him, and subsequent repentance with shame.

Luke 13:1-5

Jesus teaches that unless you repent, you will all likewise perish; repentance is not optional.

Acts 17:30-31

God commands all men everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day of judgment through Jesus Christ.

Matthew 3:2

John the Baptist preached, 'Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Matthew 4:17

Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Mark 1:15

Jesus said, 'Repent ye and believe the gospel,' linking repentance and faith.

Mark 6:12

The disciples went out and preached that men should repent.

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

The Thessalonians turned from idols to serve God, illustrating repentance.

Matthew 3:8

John the Baptist demanded fruits meet for repentance.

Luke 3:8

John the Baptist demanded fruits worthy of repentance.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Faith is a gift of God, not of works.

Acts 5:30-31

God exalted Jesus to give repentance to Israel.

Acts 11:18

God granted repentance unto life to the Gentiles.

2 Timothy 2:24-26

God may give repentance to the acknowledging of the truth.

John 8:9

The accusers of the adulterous woman were convicted by their own conscience.

Isaiah 6:5

Isaiah bemoaned himself, 'Woe is me! for I am a man of unclean lips.'

Matthew 9:10-13

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

John 16:8

The Holy Spirit will reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

John 6:44-45

No man can come to Christ unless the Father draws him; all are taught of God.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation; worldly sorrow worketh death.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why is the doctrine of repentance often neglected or watered down in modern churches?

Consider: The sermon notes that repentance upsets modern man and can hinder building a large ministry.

2. What does it mean that repentance is a gift of God, and how does that affect our understanding of evangelism?

Consider: The sermon argues from Acts 5:31, Acts 11:18, and 2 Timothy 2:25 that God must grant repentance.

3. How does the image of a 'bullock unaccustomed to the yoke' describe the sinner's condition before God?

Consider: Jeremiah 31:18 uses this metaphor to illustrate human stubbornness and inability to submit to God.

- 4.** What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow, and why is that distinction important?

Consider: 2 Corinthians 7:10 is cited to show that true repentance involves sorrow over sin itself, not just consequences.

- 5.** How should the truth that 'the gifts and calling of God are without repentance' encourage believers in their ongoing struggle with sin?

Consider: Romans 11:29 is applied to assure believers that God will not revoke the gifts of faith and repentance.

- 6.** In what ways are we responsible to seek God for the ability to repent, even though we cannot repent on our own?

Consider: The sermon emphasizes human accountability to obey God's command to repent, despite inability.

Applications

Examine your repentance for genuine fruit

True repentance will always produce evidence in changed attitudes and actions; claims without fruit are false.

Lecture support: Matthew 3:8; Luke 3:8

Cry out to God for the gift of repentance

Since repentance is a gift, sinners must seek God for the ability to turn from sin, acknowledging their helplessness.

Lecture support: Jeremiah 31:18: 'Turn thou me, and I shall be turned.'

Cultivate godly sorrow over sin

Believers should maintain a tender conscience, grieving over sin because it offends God, not merely because of consequences.

Lecture support: 2 Corinthians 7:10; Jeremiah 31:19

Continue in lifelong repentance

Repentance is not a one-time event but a continual practice as God reveals more sin; it is essential for sanctification.

Lecture support: Romans 11:29; the speaker's testimony of ongoing repentance

Fulfill your responsibility to seek God

Though unable to repent in your own strength, you are accountable to seek God for the ability to obey His command.

Lecture support: Acts 17:30; 1 John 3:23

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: How Deep is Your Faith

Lecture JW00623

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00623&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00623&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Three Reasons to Interpret and Six Things Needed - Part Four

Lecture JW00229

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00229&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00229&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 3: So, you got all you Wanted, is That all That Matters?

Lecture JW01271

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01271&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01271&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 4: Pastor John Weaver - The Best Illustration of Humanism

Lecture JW01748

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01748&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01748&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 5: Pastor John Weaver - Providential Wisdom and Understanding

Lecture JW01778

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01778&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01778&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 6: Repentance According to the Scriptures

Lecture JW01798

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01798&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01798&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

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.