WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

What Sinners Hate To Hear

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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

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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

Pastor John Weaver - What Sinners Hate to Hear

Part One of Two

December 03, 2012

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

Major Themes

The Necessity of Spiritual Hearing

Salvation requires not just external hearing of the Word but internal, spiritual hearing enabled by God's grace.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Many have the ability to hear externally and outwardly, but... no one has the ability to hear inwardly and spiritually apart from the grace of God.' (99.8-134.7s)

Distinction Between Ability and Responsibility

Sinners are fully responsible to obey God's commands (repent, believe) but have lost the natural ability to do so due to the Fall; ability must be given by God.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Every sinner has a responsibility to repent and believe, but no sinner has the ability to do so. Only God can give him the ability to fulfill his responsibilities.' (2616.4-2649.8s)

Repentance and Faith as Divine Gifts

Both repentance and faith are not inherent human capacities but gifts from God, granted through Christ's work.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Acts 5:31, 'Him hath God exalted... to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins,' and Ephesians 2:8-9, 'by grace are you saved through faith... it is the gift of God.' (2002.7-2071.3s; 2405.7-2440.8s)

The Insufficiency of Human Decisions

A mere human decision, prompted by persuasive speech or pressure, does not constitute true salvation; only God's power can save.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'A decision does not save. Jesus Christ is the one that saves... psychology, oratory, persuasive arguments, and pressure is often enough to make... someone into a decision.' (2791.9-2892.0s)

Divine Drawing and Revelation

Coming to Christ requires being drawn by the Father through illumination and education, not human wisdom or effort.

Lecture support: Weaver explains John 6:44-45, 'No man can come unto me except the Father... draw him... they shall all be taught of God.' (2962.8-3062.2s)

The Lordship of Christ in Salvation

Saving confession of Jesus as Lord, enabled by the Holy Spirit, implies submission to His authority and obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'When you confess Jesus Christ as your Lord, you're saying... He's the boss... the evidence that we have savingly acknowledged Jesus Christ is Lord is that we're enabled to submit our lives to Him and we obey Him.' (3492.1-3564.4s)

Salvation as Entirely of the Lord

Salvation is not a cooperative work between God and man but a sovereign work of God from beginning to end.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Jonah 2:9, 'Salvation is of the Lord,' and concludes, 'Everything rests upon Jesus Christ.' (3723.8-3776.4s)

Key Arguments

Hearing is essential for salvation, but spiritual hearing requires grace.

Weaver argues from Isaiah 55:3 that hearing is commanded for life, yet only God can grant the internal hearing needed for salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Hear and your soul shall live... no one has the ability to hear inwardly and spiritually apart from the grace of God.' (54.8-134.7s)

The Fall rendered all humans unable to please God, but responsibility remains.

Through Adam's sin, all lost the ability to obey God, but as creatures they remain accountable to His commands.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Adam and all of his posterity lost their ability to please God, but they did not lose their responsibility.' (694.1-785.3s)

Scripture repeatedly declares human inability in salvation.

Weaver cites multiple 'cannot' passages in John to prove that fallen man cannot see, enter, come, hear, or believe without divine enablement.

Lecture support: Weaver lists John 3:3, 3:5, 6:44, 8:43, 12:39-40, concluding, 'It should be an obvious fact from Scripture... fallen man has lost his ability to please God.' (1220.6-1530.1s)

God commands repentance and faith, but they are gifts He must give.

Weaver demonstrates that while God commands all men to repent (Acts 17:30) and believe (1 John 3:23), Scripture shows these are gifts (Acts 5:31, Ephesians 2:8-9) that sinners cannot produce.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Repentance, like faith, is the gift of God. God must give it. If God does not give it, I cannot repent.' (1912.9-2002.6s)

Human wisdom and persuasion cannot produce genuine conversion.

Weaver argues from 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 that Paul deliberately avoided manipulative rhetoric so that faith would rest on God's power, not human wisdom.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes, 'My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.' (2737.2-2790.0s)

True coming to Christ requires the Father's drawing through teaching.

Weaver explains John 6:44-45, showing that the Father draws by teaching, and those who learn from the Father come to Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'How does God the Father draw men to Christ? The answer is through illumination and education... they are taught of God.' (3018.5-3062.2s)

Saving confession of Christ's lordship is a work of the Holy Spirit.

Weaver interprets 1 Corinthians 12:3 to mean that no one can savingly acknowledge Jesus as Lord except by the Holy Spirit, and this confession results in a life of submission.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'No man can savingly say that Jesus is Lord but by the Holy Ghost... the evidence... is that we're enabled to submit our lives to Him and we obey Him.' (3360.8-3564.4s)

Salvation is entirely God's work, not man's decision.

Weaver concludes that salvation is by grace through faith, authored and finished by Christ, leaving no room for human boasting.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Salvation is not by decision. Salvation is by grace through faith. Salvation is the work of God and not the work of man.' (3675.1-3720.0s)

Scripture References

Isaiah 55:3

Weaver reads this verse to introduce the message, emphasizing that hearing God's Word is linked to the soul living and the everlasting covenant.

Matthew 13:19

Referenced as an example of Jesus commanding those with ears to hear.

Matthew 15:10

Cited as Jesus calling the multitude to hear and understand.

Mark 4:24

Quoted to show the command to take heed what you hear.

Luke 8:18

Quoted to show the command to take heed how you hear.

John 10:27

Quoted to establish that Jesus' sheep hear His voice and follow Him.

John 8:47

Read to show that those who are of God hear God's words, and those who do not hear are not of God.

John 8:31

Read to show that continuing in Christ's word is evidence of genuine discipleship.

Romans 5:12

Read to explain that sin and death entered the world through Adam, and all sinned in him as federal head.

Ephesians 2:1

Quoted to describe man as dead in trespasses and sins, unable to do anything spiritually.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Read to show that the natural man cannot receive or know the things of the Spirit of God.

Romans 8:6-8

Read to demonstrate that the carnal mind is enmity against God and cannot please God.

John 3:3

Read to show that unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5

Read to show that unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 6:44

Read to show that no one can come to Christ unless the Father draws him.

John 8:43

Read to show that unbelievers cannot hear Christ's word because they are of their father the devil.

John 12:39-40

Read to show that some could not believe because God had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts.

Acts 17:30-31

Read to show that God commands all men everywhere to repent because He has appointed a day of judgment.

Luke 13:1-5

Read to show that unless people repent, they will all likewise perish.

Acts 5:30-31

Read to show that Christ is exalted to give repentance and forgiveness of sins.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between external hearing and internal hearing of God's Word, and why is internal hearing necessary for salvation?

Consider: Weaver distinguishes between physical hearing and spiritual hearing, stating that only God's grace enables the latter (99.8-134.7s).

2. How does the concept of federal headship in Adam (Romans 5:12) affect our understanding of human ability and responsibility?

Consider: Weaver explains that all sinned in Adam, losing ability but not responsibility (870.3-992.9s).

3. Why is it important to distinguish between 'may' (permission) and 'can' (ability) when discussing biblical commands like repentance and faith?

Consider: Weaver clarifies the linguistic distinction to show that God commands what humans cannot do apart from grace (1275.6-1313.8s).

4. In what ways might modern evangelism rely on human wisdom and persuasion rather than the power of God, and what are the dangers?

Consider: Weaver warns that decisions can be coerced through psychology and pressure, but true conversion requires the Spirit's work (2791.9-2892.0s).

5. What does it mean to be 'drawn' by the Father to Christ, and how does this drawing occur according to John 6:44-45?

Consider: Weaver explains that drawing happens through illumination and education, being taught of God (2962.8-3062.2s).

6. How does the confession 'Jesus is Lord' (1 Corinthians 12:3) serve as evidence of genuine salvation, and what does it imply for daily living?

Consider: Weaver states that saving confession by the Spirit results in submission and obedience to Christ's authority (3492.1-3564.4s).

7. What should a sinner do when they realize they are responsible to repent and believe but lack the ability?

Consider: Weaver urges sinners to throw themselves at Christ's feet, begging for mercy, repentance, and faith (2350.6-2364.7s; 2616.4-2649.8s).

8. How does the truth that 'salvation is of the Lord' (Jonah 2:9) provide assurance and humility for believers?

Consider: Weaver concludes that everything rests on Jesus Christ, not on human effort or decision (3723.8-3776.4s).

Applications

Seek God for the gifts of repentance and faith.

Sinners must acknowledge their inability and cry out to God for the repentance and faith they cannot produce themselves.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'He must seek repentance from the Lord Jesus Christ. He must acknowledge his responsibility and yet his inability... the realization of this should make him cry and beg for mercy.' (2350.6-2364.7s)

Rest in Christ's promise to receive those who come.

Believers can have assurance because Jesus promised not to cast out anyone who comes to Him (John 6:37).

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If we come to Him in seeking repentance and faith on His terms, He said, He will in no wise cast us out.' (3635.9-3673.6s)

Examine the basis of your salvation.

If one lacks conviction of sin, God-given repentance and faith, and the Spirit's enabling to confess Christ as Lord, they are not saved regardless of religious activity.

Lecture support: Weaver warns, 'If one is not convicted of his sins, if he is not given repentance and faith, if he is not drawn by the Father... he's not saved.' (3675.1-3720.0s)

Communicate the full truth in witnessing.

When witnessing, believers must condense truth without compromising it, emphasizing human inability and divine sovereignty.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'We need to know what people need to hear in order that we may actually give them the truth... how to condense the truth without compromising the truth.' (190.8-327.1s)

Submit to Christ's lordship in obedience.

True confession of Jesus as Lord must be evidenced by a life of submission and obedience to His commands.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The evidence that we have savingly acknowledged Jesus Christ is Lord is that we're enabled to submit our lives to Him and we obey Him.' (3492.1-3564.4s)

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

What Sinners Hate to Hear

Part Two of Two

December 03, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-40 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Faith vs. Mental Assent

True saving faith is more than intellectual agreement with facts; it is a foundational trust in Christ that transforms life and produces obedience.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Mental assent is not faith... Faith always evidences itself in obedience.' He cites Hebrews 11:1, Luke 6:47-49, and examples like the Israelites and Agrippa.

Salvation by Grace, Not Works

Works contribute nothing to salvation; justification is by faith alone. The law cannot save, and human righteousness is insufficient.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Works do not save us, nor do they help save us.' He references Mark 10:27, Galatians 3:11, Romans 3:20, and Titus 3:5.

The Necessity of Hearing Truth

Sinners must hear the uncompromised truth about their inability, the insufficiency of decisions, and the exclusivity of Christ for salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'Sinners need to hear the truth. They do not need to hear watered down, compromised, flesh-exalting opinions.'

Evidence of Genuine Faith

Authentic faith is demonstrated through good works, which serve as visible proof of salvation to others, though they are not the basis of salvation.

Lecture support: Weaver explains James 2:18, 'I will show thee my faith by my works,' and notes that works are 'good and profitable unto men' (Titus 3:8).

Key Arguments

Mental assent does not save

Agreeing with facts about Christ is not the same as trusting in Christ. Many who assented to truth perished because they lacked genuine faith.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'One may assent mentally that Christ was born of a virgin... and yet be lost.' He cites Hebrews 3:17-4:2 and Acts 26:27-28.

Faith is a foundation that produces obedience

Saving faith is a substructure that results in doing Christ's sayings, not merely hearing them. Without obedience, faith is dead.

Lecture support: Weaver references Luke 6:47-49 and James 2:14-26, stating, 'Faith without works is dead also.'

Works cannot justify

No one can be justified by law-keeping because the law requires perfect, perpetual obedience. Justification is by faith apart from works.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Galatians 2:16, 'a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ,' and Romans 3:20.

Salvation is impossible with men but possible with God

Human effort cannot achieve salvation; it is entirely a work of God's grace, as illustrated by the rich young ruler.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Mark 10:27, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God,' and explains the impossibility of self-salvation.

True faith perseveres

Those with genuine faith continue with Christ, while those with mere mental assent eventually fall away, revealing their lack of true conversion.

Lecture support: Weaver references John 6:66-69 and 1 John 2:19, 'They went out from us, but they were not of us.'

Scripture References

Isaiah 55:3

Introduction: God commands to incline the ear and hear, promising life and an everlasting covenant.

Romans 10:13-14

Review: Hearing is essential for calling on the Lord and believing; a preacher is necessary.

Isaiah 55:6-7

Review of responsibility: Sinners are commanded to seek the Lord, forsake wicked ways, and return for mercy.

1 Corinthians 12:3

Review: No one can savingly say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit; mere words do not save.

Hebrews 11:1

Faith defined as substance and evidence; the Greek word means foundation or substructure.

Luke 6:46-49

Illustration of building on a rock: hearing and doing Christ's sayings is like a house with a foundation.

Hebrews 11:6

Without faith it is impossible to please God; faith leads to diligently seeking Him.

Hebrews 3:17-4:2

Israelites heard the gospel but it did not profit them because it was not mixed with faith; they died in unbelief.

1 Corinthians 10:5

God was not well pleased with many Israelites; they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Acts 26:22-28

Agrippa knew the facts about Christ and believed the prophets but was only 'almost persuaded,' showing mental assent without saving faith.

James 2:19

Demons believe there is one God and tremble, demonstrating that mere belief in facts does not save.

John 6:1-2, 24-26, 59-66

Multitudes followed Jesus for miracles and food, assenting to His works, but many disciples left when teaching became hard, revealing unbelief.

1 John 2:19

Those who left were never truly of the faith; their departure manifested their lack of genuine conversion.

John 6:67-69

Peter confesses Christ as the Son of God, demonstrating persevering faith in contrast to those who left.

Mark 10:17-27

The rich young ruler and Jesus' teaching that salvation is impossible with men but possible with God.

Ephesians 2:1

Sinners are dead in trespasses and sins, unable to make themselves alive or good.

Isaiah 64:6

All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; human goodness is worthless for salvation.

Galatians 3:11-13

No one is justified by the law; the just live by faith. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law.

Romans 3:20, 28

By deeds of the law no flesh is justified; a man is justified by faith without deeds.

Galatians 2:16

A man is not justified by works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions

1. What is the difference between mental assent and saving faith, and why does mental assent not save?

Consider: Weaver argues that mental assent is mere agreement with facts, while faith is a foundation that produces obedience.

2. How do the examples of the Israelites, Agrippa, and the disciples in John 6 illustrate the danger of mental assent?

Consider: These groups knew truth but lacked genuine faith, resulting in death or departure.

3. Why can't works contribute to our salvation, according to Galatians 3 and Romans 3?

Consider: The law demands perfect obedience and brings a curse; justification is by faith alone.

4. How does James 2 reconcile with Paul's teaching on justification by faith?

Consider: Weaver explains that James addresses a dead faith that lacks works, while Paul addresses the basis of justification.

5. What does it mean that 'with men it is impossible, but not with God' in the context of salvation?

Consider: Jesus' words after the rich young ruler show that human effort cannot achieve salvation; only God can save.

6. How should the truth that 'real faith works' affect our assurance and our witness to others?

Consider: Weaver says works evidence faith to others and are profitable, though they don't save.

Applications

Proclaim the unvarnished truth to sinners

Believers must not water down the gospel to avoid offense; sinners need to hear of their helplessness and Christ's exclusive sufficiency.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Sinners need to hear the truth. They do not need to hear watered down, compromised, flesh-exalting opinions.'

Examine your faith for genuine fruit

Since real faith produces works, professing believers should examine whether their lives show evidence of obedience and perseverance.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'If we have real, genuine, saving faith, our faith will evidence itself, it will manifest itself in biblical works.'

Trust in Christ's righteousness alone

Abandon any reliance on personal goodness or religious deeds for salvation; rest entirely in the finished work of Christ.

Lecture support: Weaver quotes Paul in Philippians 3, counting all things loss for Christ's righteousness, and shares Moody's 'done' vs. 'do' illustration.

Include essential truths when witnessing

When sharing the gospel, communicate human responsibility and inability, the insufficiency of decisions, the difference between mental assent and faith, and salvation by grace not works.

Lecture support: Weaver concludes, 'if you're going to try to witness to anyone... you need to at least include these four truths.'

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: Pastor John Weaver - What Sinners Hate to Hear - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01334

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01334&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: What Sinners Hate to Hear - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01335

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01335&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.