**WEAVER STUDY GUIDES**

# What the World Wants

*Study Guide*

New Testament Studies

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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

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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 the World Wants

*Part One of Two*

February 12, 2012

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-22 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

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## Major Themes

### Biblical Definition of 'World'

The word 'world' (kosmos) has various meanings in Scripture, and context determines whether it refers to the universe, earth, world system, all humanity, unbelievers, or believers.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites John 1:10, Acts 17:24, John 13:1, John 12:31, Romans 3:19, John 15:18, Romans 11:12, John 1:29, John 6:33, John 12:47, 1 Corinthians 4:9, 2 Corinthians 5:19, and 2 Peter 2:5 to illustrate different uses.

### Rejection of Accountability

The ungodly world desires a world without accountability to God, demonstrated by the husbandmen's violent rejection of the servants sent to collect fruit.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'They did not want to be held to account for their sins. They did not desire repentance.' He references the beating, killing, and stoning of the servants in Matthew 21:35.

### Seizing Christ's Inheritance

The world wants to take the inheritance that belongs to Christ, seeking control over the earth and its people for selfish gain.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains Matthew 21:38, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance,' and connects it to the leaders' desire to maintain power in John 11:47-50.

### Divine Judgment on Rebellion

Those who reject Christ bring judgment upon themselves, as seen in the destruction of Jerusalem and the loss of the kingdom.

**Lecture support:** Weaver points to Matthew 21:41, 'He will miserably destroy those wicked men,' and notes the fulfillment in 70 A.D. and the prophecy of the stone grinding to powder.

### The Believer's Inheritance in Christ

While the world cannot have what it wants, believers are joint-heirs with Christ and will inherit all things through Him.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 and states, 'In Christ, the kids get it all.'

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## Key Arguments

### The world's definition must be clarified from Scripture.

Weaver argues that assuming 'world' means every individual is drastically wrong; context reveals specific meanings.

**Lecture support:** He says, 'If you assume that is what the word "world" means, then may I tell you that your assumption is drastically wrong,' and provides multiple examples.

### The ungodly world rejects God's messengers because they reject accountability.

The husbandmen beat and killed the servants because they did not want to answer to the owner, reflecting the world's hatred of God's truth.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'They did not want to be instructed as to their duty... They did not want to be held to account for their sins.'

### The world's contempt for God is demonstrated by its treatment of His servants.

The violent maltreatment of prophets and preachers shows utter contempt for God and His Word.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'All of this maltreatment just demonstrates one thing... The absolute, utter contempt that the world has for God and His Word and those that represent Him.'

### The world seeks to kill Christ to seize His inheritance.

The husbandmen's plot to kill the son reveals the world's desire to take what belongs to Christ for their own benefit.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'They were willing to murder the Son of God in order to benefit themselves financially and temporarily.'

### The religious leaders pronounced their own condemnation.

By answering the parable's question, the chief priests and elders condemned themselves, paralleling Nathan's confrontation with David.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'He makes the chief priests and the leaders and the rulers of the people pronounce their own condemnation.'

### There is no Judeo-Christian heritage; it is a Christian heritage.

Weaver argues that Judaism, in its rejection of Christ, has nothing to do with Christianity, which is built solely on Christ.

**Lecture support:** He states, 'There is no such thing as a Judeo-Christian heritage. It's only a Christian heritage.'

### The world will never have what it wants.

The ungodly will never achieve a world without accountability or seize Christ's inheritance; judgment is certain.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'What the world wants, it can never have, and never will have,' citing Acts 17:30-31.

### Religious and civil powers oppose Christ to maintain usurped authority.

All anti-Christian forces must deny Christ's rightful ownership to establish their own pretended authority.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'They must deny His rightful authority and ownership in order to establish their usurped authority and pretended ownership of this planet.'

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## Scripture References

### Matthew 21:33-46

The parable of the householder, the primary text of the sermon.

### John 1:10

Used to show three different meanings of 'world' in one verse.

### Acts 17:24

Example of 'world' meaning the universe.

### John 13:1

Example of 'world' meaning the earth.

### John 12:31

Example of 'world' meaning the world system.

### Romans 3:19

Example of 'world' meaning the entire human race.

**John 15:18**

Example of 'world' meaning humanity minus believers.

**Romans 11:12**

Example of 'world' meaning nations minus Israel.

**John 1:29**

Example of 'world' meaning believers only; Christ takes away the sin of the world of believers.

**John 6:33**

Christ gives life to the world of believers.

**John 12:47**

Christ came to save the world of believers.

**1 Corinthians 4:9**

Believers are made a spectacle to the world, showing separation.

**2 Corinthians 5:19**

God reconciled the world of believers to Himself.

**2 Peter 2:5, 9**

Example of the world of the ungodly.

**Psalm 80:8-16**

Old Testament background of the vineyard parable referring to Israel.

**Isaiah 5:1-7**

The vineyard of the Lord is the house of Israel.

**James 5:7**

God is patient like a husbandman waiting for fruit.

**Romans 9:4-5**

The advantages belonging to Israel.

**John 15:20-21**

Servants are not greater than their lord; persecution is expected.

**Hebrews 11:37**

Some were sawn asunder, illustrating the vicious killing of God's servants.

Study notes

## Discussion Questions

**1.** How does understanding the different biblical meanings of 'world' affect your reading of Scripture?

**Consider:** Weaver spent significant time defining 'world' from various passages.

**2.** In what ways do people today demonstrate a desire for a world without accountability to God?

**Consider:** Weaver argued that the world rejects God's messengers to avoid accountability.

**3.** Why is the world's contempt for God often directed at His messengers?

**Consider:** Weaver explained that persecution of believers is a continuation of the world's hatred for Christ.

**4.** What does it mean for the world to 'seize the inheritance' of Christ today?

**Consider:** Weaver described the world's desire to control the earth and its people for selfish gain.

**5.** How should Christians respond to the reality that religious and civil powers are often against Christ?

**Consider:** Weaver applied the message by explaining why all anti-Christian forces must deny Christ's authority.

**6.** What comfort can believers take from the fact that 'the kids get it all'?

**Consider:** Weaver concluded with the assurance of the believer's inheritance in Christ.

## Applications

### Reject the notion of a Judeo-Christian heritage.

Weaver argues that Christianity stands alone, as Judaism in its rejection of Christ offers only a history of rebellion.

**Lecture support:** He states, 'There is no such thing as a Judeo-Christian heritage. It's only a Christian heritage.'

### Recognize the futility of the world's desires.

The world will never achieve a world without accountability or seize Christ's inheritance; judgment is certain.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'What the world wants, it can never have,' and cites Acts 17:30-31.

### Understand why the world opposes Christ and Christians.

Religious and civil powers must deny Christ's authority to maintain their own pretended ownership and control.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'They must deny His rightful authority and ownership in order to establish their usurped authority.'

### Rest in the believer's secure inheritance.

Believers are joint-heirs with Christ and will inherit all things, contrasting with the world's failed attempts.

**Lecture support:** Weaver cites 1 Corinthians 3:21-23 and says, 'In Christ, the kids get it all.'

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

# What the World Wants

*Part Two of Two*

February 12, 2012

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 23-38 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

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## Major Themes

### The World's Rejection of Divine Authority

The world of the ungodly consistently opposes Jesus Christ and His truth, refusing accountability to God and seeking to control their own destiny.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'the world of the ungodly or the world system, each one of them are absolutely against Jesus Christ. They are against the truth of God and the Word of God.'

### Political Exploitation of Christ

Politicians, like Pilate, use Christ for personal and political gain, parading as Christians but ultimately betraying biblical values.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Pilate used Christ for political advantage... Politicians have not changed. They still use Christ for political advantage.'

### Preference for Sin Over Righteousness

The ungodly prefer a society where sin abounds rather than submit to Christ, choosing death over life.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'the world of the ungodly had rather have a society where sin and criminal activity... abound rather than to choose Jesus Christ the Son of God.'

### Desire for a Controllable Religion

The world wants a religion that conforms to its will, loving a non-threatening baby Jesus or dead Christ but rejecting the sovereign Lord.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'The world, the world of the ungodly, loves Christ in a manger and they love Christ on a cross because He's no threat to them.'

### The Sovereignty of the Resurrected Christ

Jesus is not dead but is the resurrected, ascended Lord who rules and reigns, demanding submission from all.

**Lecture support:** Weaver declares, 'Jesus Christ is not dead. And Jesus Christ is not a baby. Jesus Christ is the resurrected, ascended Lord of glory, who now rules and reigns.'

### The Futility of Worldly Desires

The world wants salvation without repentance, but no such salvation exists; only those who do God’s will abide forever.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'The world wants to be saved from the penalty of sin so that it may continue to indulge in sin... but no such salvation exists.'

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## Key Arguments

### Pilate’s Guilt Despite Knowledge of Innocence

Pilate knew Jesus was innocent and delivered for envy, yet he condemned Him, adding to his own guilt rather than absolving it.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'Pilate personally knew that Jesus Christ was innocent... Pilate knew that the chief priest had delivered him... for envy.'

### Barabbas Chosen Because He Did Not Challenge Authority

The religious leaders preferred Barabbas, a criminal, because he did not confront their usurped authority, unlike Jesus.

**Lecture support:** Weaver explains, 'Barabbas did not stand in their way. Barabbas did not challenge their usurped authority.'

### The World Loves a Non-Threatening Christ

The nativity and crucifixion are popular because a baby and a dead man are harmless, but the living Lord threatens their sin and autonomy.

**Lecture support:** Weaver argues, 'Who's afraid of a baby?... Who's afraid of a dead man?... But you begin to proclaim a living, resurrected, ascended, enthroned, glorified Lord... they don't like that Christ.'

### God’s Sovereignty Is Hated by the World

Men allow God to be everywhere except on His throne, because a sovereign God demands submission and accountability.

**Lecture support:** Weaver quotes Spurgeon: 'Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne... when God ascends His throne, His creatures then gnash their teeth.'

### The Resurrection Reverses the Power Dynamic

Those who crucified Christ realized at Pentecost that He is now Lord, and they are in His hands to dispose of as He wills.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'We're now in His hands and He can do with us as He wills. No wonder they were upset.'

### Salvation Requires Repentance and Submission

The only true salvation is in Christ, who demands repentance; those who hate Him love death.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The only salvation there is, is in Jesus Christ. And therefore he demands that men repent and submit to him.'

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## Scripture References

### Luke 23:20-25

The primary text of the sermon, describing Pilate's release of Barabbas and delivery of Jesus to the will of the people.

### John 1:10

Used to illustrate the multiple meanings of 'world' in Scripture - earth, universe, and inhabitants.

### John 12:31

Referenced to show the existence of a world system ruled by the prince of this world.

### Romans 2:6

Cited to affirm that God will render to every man according to his deeds, implying accountability.

### Matthew 27:18

Mentioned to show Pilate knew the chief priests delivered Jesus out of envy.

### Mark 15:10

Parallel to Matthew 27:18, confirming Pilate's awareness of the priests' envy.

### John 11:47-48

Explains why the chief priests wanted to kill Jesus - to preserve their place and nation.

**Matthew 27:19**

Pilate's wife's dream warning him to have nothing to do with that just man.

**Matthew 27:24**

Pilate washing his hands, declaring innocence of Christ's blood, which Weaver says added to his condemnation.

**Luke 23:6-12**

Pilate sending Jesus to Herod, leading to their reconciliation; used to show political use of Christ.

**Luke 13:31-32**

Jesus calling Herod a fox, indicating his cunning and craftiness.

**Acts 3:13-14**

Peter's accusation that the people denied the Holy One and desired a murderer.

**Proverbs 8:35-36**

Quoted to show that those who find Christ find life, but those who hate Him love death.

**Hebrews 12:1**

Referenced to highlight that Jesus endured the cross, despising the shame.

**Acts 2:32-37**

Peter's Pentecost sermon proclaiming the resurrected, exalted Lord, causing the hearers to be pricked in heart.

**1 John 2:15-17**

Command not to love the world; the world passes away, but he who does God's will abides forever.

**John 17**

Alluded to when Weaver says believers are in the world but not of it.

## Discussion Questions

**1.** In what ways do modern politicians use Christ for political advantage, similar to Pilate?

**Consider:** Weaver argues that politicians parade as Christians but betray biblical values once in office.

**2.** Why does the world prefer a society where sin goes unpunished, and how does this manifest today?

**Consider:** The sermon states that the ungodly prefer injustice and sin over righteousness and Christ.

**3.** How does the world's love for a baby in a manger or a dead Christ on a cross reflect a desire for a controllable religion?

**Consider:** Weaver explains that these images are non-threatening, unlike the living, sovereign Lord.

**4.** What does Spurgeon's statement 'Men will allow God to be everywhere except on His throne' mean for our understanding of human rebellion?

**Consider:** The quote is used to show that people reject God's right to rule over them.

**5.** How should the reality of Christ's resurrection and sovereignty affect the way we live and share the gospel?

**Consider:** The sermon emphasizes that Jesus is not dead but is the reigning Lord who demands submission.

**6.** Why is it impossible to have salvation without repentance, and how does this challenge common misconceptions?

**Consider:** Weaver states that the world wants salvation from penalty without turning from sin, but no such salvation exists.

# Applications

### Recognize the World’s Futile Desires

Understand that the world wants a salvation without repentance and a controllable Christ, but these are impossible; only true salvation in Christ satisfies.

**Lecture support:** Weaver says, 'The world wants that which they can never have. They want a Christ who will conform to their will and a salvation that they desire.'

### Rejoice in God’s Transforming Grace

Believers should be thankful that God has changed their desires and translated them from darkness to light, no longer wanting what the world wants.

**Lecture support:** Weaver states, 'Since I've been saved, I do what I want to do, because God changed my want tos.'

### Submit to the Sovereign Lord

Acknowledge that Jesus is not a baby or a dead man but the resurrected, reigning King who demands our submission and obedience.

**Lecture support:** Weaver declares, 'Jesus Christ is the resurrected, ascended Lord of glory, who now rules and reigns.'

### Study the Bible to Align with God’s Will

We must learn and study Scripture to ensure our desires match God’s will, living as those not of this world.

**Lecture support:** Weaver exhorts, 'We need to learn our Bibles. We need to study our Bibles. We need to make sure that we want what God wants.'

### Reject Temporary Worldly Power

Like Herod and Pilate, those who pursue temporary power and pleasure will pass away; only those who do God’s will abide forever.

**Lecture support:** Weaver notes, 'They were willing to crucify Christ for temporary power and temporary pleasure. This world... will pass away.'

## 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 the World Wants - Part One of Two**

Lecture JW01261

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01261&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

**Lesson 2: What the World Wants - Part Two of Two**

Lecture JW01262

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01262&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.