WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Why Do We Forsake God?

Study Guide

Old Testament Studies

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

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

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Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Why Do We Forsake God?

Part One of Two

October 25, 2013

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-18 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Lightly Esteeming God Leads to Forsaking Him

The primary reason people forsake God is that they hold Him in contempt, treating Him as vile and worthless. This was true for Israel and remains true today.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:15 says Israel 'lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation.' Weaver defines the Hebrew word 'nobel' as to dishonor, make vile, treat as foolish, regard with contempt.

The Unity of Honor Between Father and Son

One cannot honor the Father while dishonoring the Son, or vice versa. To forsake Christ is to forsake God, as they are one.

Lecture support: John 5:22-23 states that all should honor the Son as they honor the Father; he who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father.

The Danger of Loving This Present World

Demas forsook Paul because he loved this present age more than Christ. Esteeming temporary pleasures over eternal ones leads to apostasy.

Lecture support: 2 Timothy 4:10 and the explanation of 'aion' as age; contrast with Hebrews 11:25 and Psalm 16:11.

Worship Reflects Our Estimation of God

The quality and sincerity of our worship, service, and sacrifice reveal how highly we esteem God. Israel's polluted offerings showed their contempt.

Lecture support: Malachi 1:6-13 describes offering blind and lame sacrifices, calling the Lord's table contemptible.

Key Arguments

Forsaking God begins with lightly esteeming Him

Before one can forsake God, they must first hold Him in contempt, counting Him as worthless. This internal devaluation precedes outward departure.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:15: 'Then he forsook God... and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation.' Weaver emphasizes the Hebrew word 'nobel' meaning to treat as foolish.

Experiencing miracles does not prevent forsaking God

Israel saw God's mighty works yet still turned to idols. External experiences cannot sustain faith without a high esteem for God.

Lecture support: Numbers 14:22: 'All those men which have seen my glory and my miracles... have tempted me now these ten times.'

Dishonoring the Son is dishonoring the Father

Because Jesus is God incarnate, rejecting or despising Him is equivalent to rejecting God the Father. There is no neutral ground.

Lecture support: John 5:23: 'He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.'

Loving this present age leads to apostasy

Demas esteemed the present age more than Christ, leading him to forsake Paul and the faith. This love of the world is a root cause of falling away.

Lecture support: 2 Timothy 4:10: 'Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world.' Weaver explains 'aion' as age.

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 32:15

Primary text: Israel waxed fat and kicked, forsook God, and lightly esteemed the rock of his salvation.

2 Timothy 3:5

Some have a form of godliness but deny its power, referenced in introduction about false professors.

1 John 2:19

Those who leave were never truly of us, showing that apostasy reveals a lack of genuine conversion.

2 Timothy 4:10

Demas forsook Paul, having loved this present world; used as an example of forsaking God.

Hebrews 11:25

Moses chose reproach with Christ over the pleasures of sin for a season, contrasting Demas.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Things seen are temporal, things unseen are eternal; used to contrast temporal and eternal pleasures.

Psalm 16:11

At God's right hand are pleasures forevermore, contrasting temporary sinful pleasures.

Deuteronomy 4:34-35

God showed Israel signs and wonders to know He alone is God.

Exodus 14:24-31

Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore after the Red Sea crossing.

Deuteronomy 4:10-15

God spoke to Israel at Horeb, giving them His covenant and commandments.

Deuteronomy 8:2-5

God led Israel 40 years, humbling and providing for them to teach reliance on His word.

Numbers 14:22

Those who saw God's miracles yet tempted Him ten times.

Deuteronomy 32:15-18

Israel forsook God, sacrificed to devils, and forgot the God who formed them.

Malachi 1:6-13

God accuses priests of despising His name by offering polluted sacrifices, showing contempt.

Isaiah 37:16

God alone is God over all kingdoms, maker of heaven and earth.

Isaiah 45:5-6

There is no God beside the Lord; He alone is God.

John 5:22-23

The Father has committed all judgment to the Son so that all should honor the Son as they honor the Father.

Matthew 10:40

Receiving Christ's disciples is receiving Christ and the Father who sent Him.

Luke 10:16

Despising Christ's messengers is despising Christ and the Father.

Isaiah 53:1-4

Christ was despised and not esteemed; people considered Him stricken by God.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'lightly esteem' God, and how might we do this in our daily lives without realizing it?

Consider: Based on the definition of 'nobel' and the examples from Malachi.

2. How can we guard against loving this present age more than Christ, as Demas did?

Consider: From the discussion of 2 Timothy 4:10 and the contrast with eternal pleasures.

3. Why is it impossible to have a different attitude toward God the Father and God the Son?

Consider: Based on John 5:22-23 and the unity of the Godhead.

4. In what ways does our worship (or lack thereof) reflect our estimation of God?

Consider: From the application about service, sacrifice, and worship reflecting estimation.

5. How should the reality that 'everything we see is temporal' change our priorities and decisions?

Consider: From 2 Corinthians 4:18 and the contrast between seen and unseen.

Applications

Examine Your Estimation of Christ

Evaluate how highly you esteem Jesus Christ. Is He worth your time, thoughts, and devotion, or do you treat Him with contempt by neglecting Him?

Lecture support: Weaver asks, 'What is your estimation of Christ?' and notes that neglecting to think on Christ shows contempt.

Worship Reflects Your Regard for God

Your willingness to gather for worship, study Scripture, and pray reveals how much you value God. Begrudging service indicates a low estimation.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'There's something dreadfully wrong with a professing Christian when you have to beg him to come to church.'

Do Not Love This Present World

Christians must live demonstrating that this world system is not their home. Do not compromise truth for worldly fame, fortune, or honor.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If we genuinely esteem God... we cannot compromise it or sacrifice it for worldly fame, fortune, or honor.'

Highly Esteem God as the One True God

To avoid forsaking God, you must highly esteem Him, value Him, and worship Him as the only true God, not one among many.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'If you do not wish to forsake God... you must learn to highly esteem God, and value Him, and worship Him.'

Study notes

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Pastor John Weaver - Why Do We Forsake God?

Part Two of Two

October 30, 2013

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 19-36 (October 9, 2026 opening-heading corrected edition).

Major Themes

Lightly Esteeming God Leads to Forsaking Him

The central theme is that a low view of God - treating Him as vile or contemptible - causes people to abandon Him. This applies to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Lecture support: Deuteronomy 32:15: 'Then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.'

The Holy Spirit Can Be Grieved and Quenched

Believers are commanded not to grieve or quench the Holy Spirit through sin, rebellion, or neglect, which leads to spiritual hardness and darkness.

Lecture support: Ephesians 4:30: 'And grieve not the holy Spirit of God'; 1 Thessalonians 5:19: 'Quench not the Spirit.'

Esteeming Scripture Is Tied to Esteeming Christ

A light estimation of the Bible reflects a light estimation of Christ, the living Word. High esteem for Scripture is demonstrated by consistent reading and obedience.

Lecture support: John 12:48: 'He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him.'

Contempt for God's Servants Reflects Contempt for God

How believers treat God's messengers is a barometer of their regard for God. Rejecting preachers is equated with rejecting God Himself.

Lecture support: 1 Samuel 8:7: 'They have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me.'

Interconnectedness of Esteeming God, His Word, and His Messengers

Honoring the Father, Son, Spirit, Scriptures, and servants are all linked; failure in one area indicates failure in all.

Lecture support: Weaver states: 'If we highly esteem the Father, we will highly esteem the Son... If we highly esteem the Scriptures, we will also highly esteem those who proclaim the Scriptures.'

God Honors Those Who Honor Him

A reciprocal principle: God will honor those who honor Him, but will lightly esteem those who despise Him.

Lecture support: 1 Samuel 2:30: 'Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'

Key Arguments

Forsaking God is rooted in a contemptuous view of Him

The Hebrew word 'nabal' in Deuteronomy 32:15 means to treat as vile or foolish, showing that forsaking God begins with a heart attitude of contempt.

Lecture support: Weaver explains: 'The Hebrew word for lightly esteemed is the word nabal... It means to dishonor, to make vile, to treat as foolish.'

Blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is deliberate rejection of His work

The Pharisees committed the unforgivable sin by knowingly attributing the Spirit's work to Satan, demonstrating ultimate contempt.

Lecture support: Matthew 12:24, 31-32: 'This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub... blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven.'

Grieving the Spirit involves specific sins that drive Him away

Sins like anger, licentiousness, ingratitude, and neglect cause the Spirit to withdraw His presence, leading to spiritual insensibility.

Lecture support: Albert Barnes: 'open and gross sins... anger... licentious thoughts... ingratitude... neglect' grieve the Spirit.

Quenching the Spirit stifles His influence like putting out a fire

The Spirit's work is compared to a fire that must be fueled by prayer and devotion; worldliness and neglect quench it.

Lecture support: Albert Barnes: 'Fire may be put out by pouring on water... or by neglecting to supply its fuel.'

The economical Trinity shows the Spirit's essential role

All divine operations are out of the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit, making the Spirit indispensable for salvation and sanctification.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'Everything is out of the Father, through the Son, and in the Spirit.'

Esteeming Scripture is inseparable from esteeming Christ

Since Christ is the living Word and the Bible is the written Word, a low view of one necessarily means a low view of the other.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'Would not a light estimation of Christ lead to a light estimation of the Scriptures?'

Rejecting God's messengers is rejecting God

Biblical examples show that when people reject God's prophets, they are actually rejecting God, and this leads to judgment.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 36:16: 'They mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words... until the wrath of the LORD arose.'

Esteeming preachers is necessary for peace among believers

Paul commands believers to highly esteem their leaders, linking this to peace in the church; without it, conflicts remain unresolved.

Lecture support: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: 'Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.'

Scripture References

Deuteronomy 32:15

Foundation text showing that Israel forsook God because they lightly esteemed Him.

John 6:66

Example of disciples forsaking Christ after His teaching on the bread of life.

John 5:22-23

All judgment committed to the Son so that all should honor the Son as they honor the Father.

Hebrews 10:29

Warning against doing despite to the Spirit of grace, meaning to insult or hold in contempt.

Matthew 12:23-32

Pharisees commit blasphemy against the Holy Spirit by attributing Christ's miracles to Beelzebub.

Isaiah 63:10

Israel rebelled and vexed the Holy Spirit, causing God to fight against them.

Ephesians 4:30

Command not to grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom believers are sealed.

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Command not to quench the Spirit, meaning not to stifle His influence.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction.

John 1:1-4, 14

Christ as the living Word, connecting to the written Word.

John 12:48

Rejecting Christ and His words leads to judgment; the spoken word will judge.

Job 23:12

Job esteemed God's words more than necessary food.

Psalm 119:128

David esteemed all God's precepts as right and hated every false way.

Jeremiah 15:16

Jeremiah ate God's words and they were his joy and rejoicing.

1 Samuel 8:1-8

Israel's request for a king was a rejection of Samuel and ultimately of God.

2 Chronicles 36:15-16

God sent messengers, but they mocked them and despised His words, leading to wrath.

Matthew 10:40

Receiving Christ's messengers is receiving Christ and the Father.

John 13:20

Receiving those Christ sends is receiving Christ and the Father.

Romans 10:13-15

Salvation requires calling on the Lord, which requires hearing a preacher who is sent.

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13

Command to know and highly esteem those who labor among believers, for peace's sake.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to 'lightly esteem' God, and how does that lead to forsaking Him?

Consider: Based on the definition of 'nabal' and the examples from Israel's history.

2. In what ways might we be guilty of grieving or quenching the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?

Consider: Considering the lists of sins and neglect mentioned by Barnes, Clarke, and Henry.

3. How does our view of Scripture reflect our view of Christ, and what practical steps can we take to esteem God's Word more highly?

Consider: Connecting John 1 and John 12:48, and the examples of Job, David, and Jeremiah.

4. Why is the way we treat God's messengers a barometer of our relationship with God?

Consider: Drawing from 1 Samuel 8 and 2 Chronicles 36.

5. How can esteeming church leaders 'very highly in love' contribute to peace among believers?

Consider: Based on 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13 and the illustration of resolving disputes.

6. What are some things that our culture highly esteems that are an abomination to God, and how can we resist that influence?

Consider: Application from Luke 16:15.

7. How does the principle 'them that honour me I will honour' challenge or encourage you in your walk with God?

Consider: Reflecting on 1 Samuel 2:30 and the reciprocal nature of honor.

8. In what practical ways can we learn to esteem other believers better than ourselves?

Consider: Application from Philippians 2:3 and the call to serve one another.

Applications

Highly esteem God to avoid forsaking Him

Believers must cultivate a high view of God's sovereignty and worth to prevent drifting away, as contempt leads to abandonment.

Lecture support: Weaver: 'If you and I do not wish to commit the same sins... we have to highly esteem and honor Him and worship Him.'

Avoid grieving and quenching the Holy Spirit

Christians should actively avoid sins and neglect that grieve or quench the Spirit, instead fueling devotion through prayer, Scripture, and watchfulness.

Lecture support: Barnes: 'A man has no more religion than he intends to have... He has no deadness to the world which is not the object of his sincere desire.'

Esteem Scripture as God's Word to you

Read, study, and meditate on the Bible consistently, valuing it more than physical food, as Job did.

Lecture support: Job 23:12: 'I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.'

Honor God's servants as representatives of God

Show respect and high esteem for pastors and preachers, recognizing that how you treat them reflects your attitude toward God.

Lecture support: 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: 'Esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake.'

Align your values with God's, not the world's

Learn to esteem what God esteems and hold in contempt what He despises, rather than following cultural standards.

Lecture support: Luke 16:15: 'That which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.'

Esteem fellow believers highly

In humility, consider other Christians better than yourself, which enables service and prevents forsaking them in need.

Lecture support: Philippians 2:3: 'In lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.'

Control your tongue to be esteemed wise

Knowing when to speak and when to be silent is part of esteeming rightly and maintaining peace.

Lecture support: Proverbs 17:28: 'Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise.'

Honor God to receive His honor

Live in a way that honors God, knowing that He reciprocates: honoring those who honor Him and lightly esteeming those who despise Him.

Lecture support: 1 Samuel 2:30: 'Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.'

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: Why Do We Forsake God? - Part One of Two

Lecture JW01366

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01366&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Lesson 2: Pastor John Weaver - Why Do We Forsake God? - Part Two of Two

Lecture JW01369

Open the formatted lecture online

https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW01369&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.