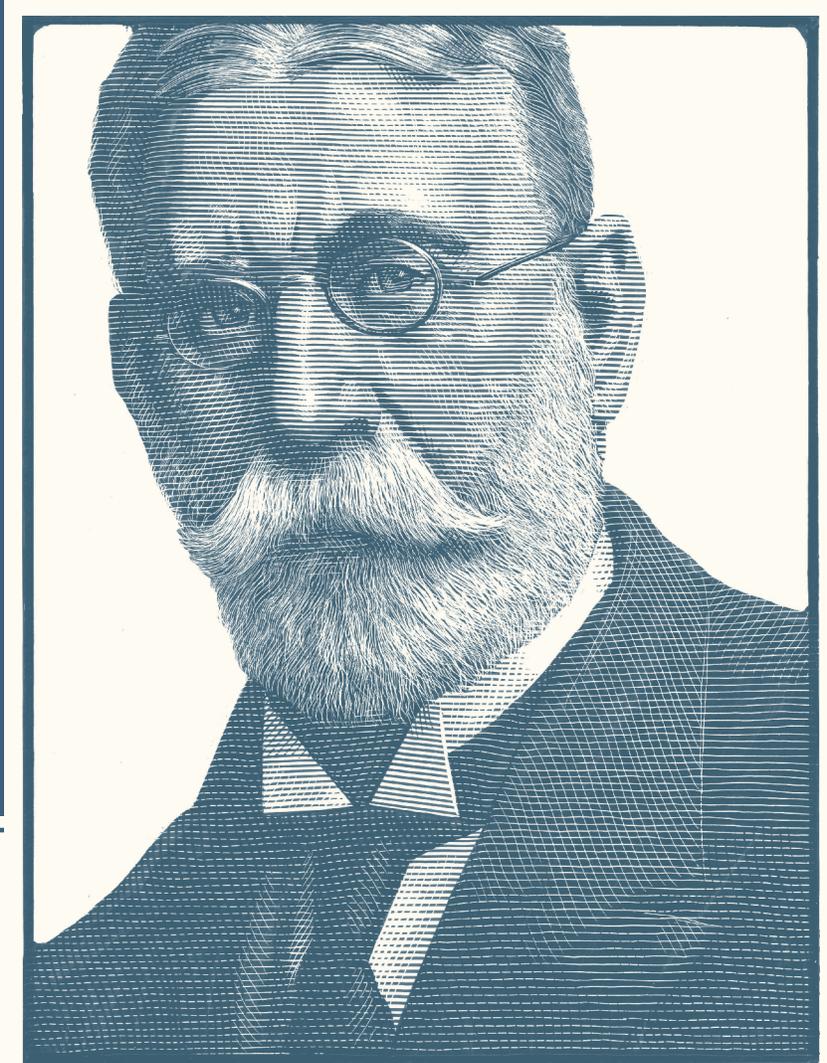


FOREWORD BY MICHAEL A. G. HAYKIN

FRED G. ZASPEL



WARFIELD
on the Christian Life

LIVING LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

STUDY GUIDE

WARFIELD

on the Christian Life

LIVING IN LIGHT OF THE GOSPEL

FRED G. ZASPEL

STUDY / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

For use in Sunday Schools, Small Groups, and Personal Study



Warfield *on the* Christian Life
STUDY / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

FRED G. ZASPEL

We have appreciated the enthusiastic response to Warfield on the Christian Life: Living in Light of the Gospel by Fred G. Zaspel. Several people have remarked that it provides a good series of lessons for Sunday School and Small Group settings, and to facilitate this we provide here some study/discussion questions to help guide you through a study. These questions assume that both teacher and student have read the book, but they may be used also as a guide for the teacher in presenting the material from each chapter himself. In either case, you will want to make sure that you spend time examining the Scripture passages that are viewed in each section, grounding always your teaching and understanding in God's Word. We trust this will assist even more of God's people to live joyfully "in light of the gospel"!



Warfield *on the* Christian Life
STUDY / DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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CHAPTER 1 — WARFIELD: THE MAN AND HIS WORK

1. In what respect is it accurate to describe Warfield as “the theologian of the doctrine of inspiration”?
2. In what respect is this description perhaps misleading?
3. To what specific area of theological study did Warfield devote most of his attention in writing?
4. Review the life of B. B. Warfield. What are the important points? What was he like, both personally and professionally?
5. How might the ill-health of Warfield’s wife have contributed to his work?

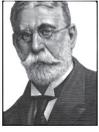


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CHAPTER 2 — TRUTH AND LIFE

1. According to Warfield, what is the role of divinely revealed truth in the Christian life? Provide some examples.
2. What are some implications of this role with regard to our own responses and responsibilities?
3. How is it significant that God not only saved us but also revealed his plan of redemption to us?
4. What do you think of Warfield's claim that Christianity aims first at the mind?
5. How are study and devotion related?



CHAPTER 4 — REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED

1. In the lead paragraph of this chapter Zaspel summarizes several steps in Warfield's thinking with regard to the understanding and thinking of even the unsaved person. What are they?
2. Explain and discuss why Warfield loved to describe Christianity as a "redemptive" religion.
3. How is this redemptive understanding important? With respect to Christian living? With respect to the local church?
4. Explain the "shrunk deity" view of Jesus held by the Liberalism of Warfield's day? By contrast, what is the historic Christian understanding and biblical teaching?
5. Explain the deity of Christ as it is presented in some of the passages Warfield cites on pages 53 and 54. Can you think of any other passages that teach the same?
6. What is the dilemma Jesus pressed on his opponents in Matthew 22:41–46?



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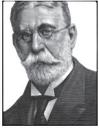
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7. Explain the teaching of Jesus's "two natures." Do you find the biblical teaching about Jesus's humanity surprising in any way? Difficult?

8. How is the teaching of Jesus's two natures important to the gospel? What is the reason, the rationale, for the incarnation? Why did God become man?

9. Why is a "crossless Christ" of no value to us? Take some time to explain the major terms on pages 59–61 in your own words. How do these terms help you understand the gospel?

10. How ought all of this understanding affect your worship?



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CHAPTER 5 — RIGHT WITH GOD

1. What is the meaning of “justification”? What are the “legal” connotations?
2. Warfield stresses that the gospel is not good advice but good news. Discuss the implications of this. What does this say about the nature of the gospel? What does this teach us about the nature of grace? How does this shape our witnessing?
3. How might we say that the problem of justification is a problem that first faces God?
4. How is justification both costly and free?
5. What is “imputation”? What are the three imputations discussed on pages 64 and 65? How does all this inform the doctrine of justification?
6. What, then, is the ground of our justification? On what basis does God declare sinners to be righteous?



CHAPTER 7 — HELP FROM ABOVE

1. What is conviction (John 16:7–11)?
2. In what way does the Spirit of God “convict” us of sin? Righteousness? Judgment?
3. What does it mean to be “sealed” by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30)? What are some implications?
4. What does Scripture mean when it says that the Spirit of God bears witness to our sonship (Rom. 8:16)?
5. How does the Holy Spirit bear this witness to us?
6. In what way are Warfield’s distinctions here important?
7. How does James 4:5 imply that the Holy Spirit loves us?



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CHAPTER 8 — FROM GLORY TO GLORY

1. Explain the doctrine of “union with Christ.” What are some ways the New Testament expresses this doctrine?
2. How is our union with Christ related to Christian living and practical godliness?
3. Summarize the teachings of the “higher life” doctrines that Warfield opposes. Have you encountered this teaching? How has it affected you, whether positively or negatively?
4. According to Warfield, what are some of the problems with this teaching?
5. How is sanctification related to regeneration?
6. What do we mean by “initial” sanctification? What are some passages that teach this? How is this important?



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CHAPTER 9 — RIGHTEOUS AND SINFUL

1. What is meant by Christian “perfectionism”?
2. What are some of the problems Warfield finds with the various perfectionist teachings?
3. What are some ways in which the New Testament teaches (or assumes) that Christians in this life are not yet free from sin?
4. Explain Warfield’s response to Finney’s challenge. How might Paul “seem to have written a great part of his epistles just to answer Mr. Finney’s challenge”?
5. Explain Luther’s teaching that the Christian is at the same time righteous and sinful? Relate this to the doctrine of justification. How does this understanding “belong to the very essence of Christianity”?



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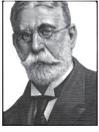
6. What does Warfield mean by “solaced contrition”? How does this relate to Christian joy?

7. Why is it important that we know that we still sin?



CHAPTER 10 — JESUS'S LITTLE ONES

1. How does the teaching and terminology of “children” and “sons” from John and Paul differ or compare?
2. Describe Jesus’s attitude toward little children, as we see him interact with them in the Gospels.
3. When Jesus points to the little children and says “of such is the kingdom of heaven,” of whom is he speaking?
4. What is the “childlikeness” Jesus is speaking of? What are some of the opinions that have been offered? What is Warfield’s understanding? How does this relate to your own conversion experience?
5. Examine some of the passages from the Gospels highlighted on pages 127–128. To whom is Jesus referring with this designation, “little ones” (and related expressions)?
6. What are the most obvious implications of this usage of the term?



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CHAPTER 11 — GOD OVER ALL

1. How is the Christian life one of trust?
2. On what ground(s) can and should God be trusted?
3. How was the doctrine of God's sovereignty falling on hard times in Warfield's day? In our own day?
4. What is the difference between deism and theism and pantheism?
5. Explain the terms "transcendent" and "immanent." What do these terms tell us about God?
6. How does the Old Testament narrative reflect the writers' belief in the universal sovereignty of God?
In what similar ways do the New Testament writers reflect this faith?



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7. How ought this understanding affect our worship? Our trust? Our fears and anxieties?

8. What is the difference between fate (or fatalism) and providence?

9. How in the doctrine of divine providence do we learn that “all is well with the world”?

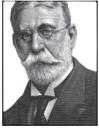


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CHAPTER 12 — LOOKING TO JESUS

1. According to Warfield, how does Hebrews 2 portray Jesus as the ideal man?
2. How does Luke portray Jesus as the model child?
3. Describe Jesus's perfections in specific terms. In what ways did he display human perfection?
4. How might it be right to say that Jesus had no "strong" points of character?
5. In what way is Jesus our "forerunner"?
6. What is the encouragement we are intended to find about Jesus in Hebrews 13:8? Understanding that he is always "the same" is a help to us in what way(s)? How does this understanding promote trust or Christian assurance and confidence?
7. Explain how our Christian life begins, continues, and climaxes in "looking to Jesus."

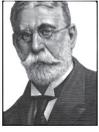


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CHAPTER 13 — CHRISTLIKENESS

1. What doctrine about Jesus Christ does Paul have in view in Philippians 2:5ff?
2. What does it mean that Christ was “in the form of God”?
3. What does it mean that he took “the form of a servant”?
4. How does Christ’s incarnation serve as a model for us in Christian living? What virtue(s) did our Lord exhibit in his incarnation?
5. How might our love for and service to others be called “gospel-like”?

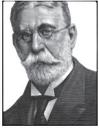


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CHAPTER 14 — THE RELIGIOUS LIFE

1. How ought Christian learning be related to Christian living?
2. Explain Warfield's response to a common dilemma on pages 163–164. What are some implications? How might this change the way you look at Bible reading or “having devotions”?
3. In what ways ought our approach to the Bible be different from our approach to any other book?
4. Warfield suggests that as the author wrote Hebrews 10:23, he may have been snarling! Why does Warfield think this?
5. Why is corporate worship important?
6. How, according to Warfield, ought we approach corporate worship? And what if we find it boring?



CHAPTER 15 — PRAYER

1. What is the implied promise of James 5:16? How should this shape your prayer life?
2. Besides petition, what are some of the other aspects or forms of prayer? Of all these, which are most prominent in your own praying?
3. What do we presuppose about God when we pray? How might we turn all this into a prayer of praise?
4. What are the objective and the subjective conditions of prayer? How does Warfield define the prayer of faith?
5. How is prayer an evidence of spiritual life (Acts 9:11)?
6. What does Warfield mean when he describes prayer as a “means of grace”?

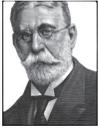


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7. How is prayer an act of humility?

8. What is the meaning of the expression “the Lord is near” in Philippians 4:5? How is this an incentive to prayer?



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CHAPTER 16 — MATTERS OF THE HEART

1. In broad terms, in salvation how is a person changed in the way he thinks and feels?
2. What is the meaning of the Latin phrase, *summum bonum*? What is the *summum bonum*? How is it that there can be nothing greater?
3. It is easy to see how we may seek the glory of God in, say, witnessing for Christ or praying. But how can we seek the glory of God in the mundane activities and routine of life?
4. How is the pursuit of the *summum bonum* also a pursuit of our own highest joy?
5. Survey the “beatitudes” of Matthew 5:3–11, and discuss the qualities and virtues they describe. How are these reflective of Jesus? Are they all reflective of him? And how are these evident in your own life? Which are most prominent? Which are least evident?
6. What specific kind of suffering is in view in the last beatitude? Give some possible examples.



CHAPTER 18 — THE GOOD FIGHT, 2

1. What is the standard, the goal, to which we strive in the Christian life? What does salvation require of us? How does Paul stress this point in 2 Corinthians 7:1? How does Peter stress the same in 1 Peter 1:15?
2. What does this standard of godliness look like in specific details and applications to your life?
3. What does it mean to “work out your salvation” (Phil. 2:12)?
4. What is the significance of the explanatory conjunction—“for”—at the beginning of Philippians 2:13? What is the flow of thought from verse 12 to verse 13? How does this serve as an encouragement in our pursuit of holiness?
5. Trace out Paul’s thinking in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. What is it he is praying for? How is this expressed?

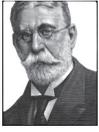


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6. How is this goal (1 Thess. 5:23) realized?

7. Some Christians have remarked that the pursuit of holiness is a discouraging one, knowing as we do that we will never fully succeed in it. From what you have learned from this chapter, how would you respond? What encouragement can you give?



CHAPTER 19 — A BRIGHT HORIZON

1. What does Warfield mean when he says that salvation is given to us not all at once but in stages? In what sense can we say that we have been or are saved? In what sense can we say that we are being saved? In what sense can we say that we will be saved?
2. In what sense(s) is the Christian hope bound up with Christ himself?
3. Summarize in your own words “the Christian attitude toward death” as Warfield expounds it from 2 Corinthians 5:1–10.
4. What, specifically, is Paul eagerly looking toward in these verses? Death? The afterlife? Something else?
5. Theologians distinguish between “the intermediate state” and “the eternal state.” What is meant by these terms?
6. In light of this distinction, explain Paul’s metaphorical language in verses 1–4: “If the tent that is our earthly home destroyed”; “Unclothed” or “naked”; “A building from God”; “A heavenly dwelling.” What does he mean by these terms?

