

S T U D Y   G U I D E



**FOUNDATIONS**  
— *of* —  
**GRACE**

NEW TESTAMENT

STEVEN J. LAWSON

S T U D Y G U I D E

# Foundations of Grace: New Testament

Steven J. Lawson



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

*Renew your Mind.*

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# Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	3
<i>Study Schedules</i>	5
1. <i>The Long Line Continues</i>	7
2. <i>The Grace &amp; Love of God</i>	15
3. <i>Grace throughout the Ages</i>	22
4. <i>Man's Sin in the Synoptics</i>	31
5. <i>God's Grace in the Synoptics</i>	38
6. <i>Depravity &amp; Election in John</i>	45
7. <i>The Love of God in Christ</i>	53
8. <i>Our Calling &amp; Security</i>	61
9. <i>The Evangelism of Acts</i>	69
10. <i>Acts &amp; the Apostle Peter</i>	76
11. <i>Gospel Grace in 1 Peter</i>	84
12. <i>Gospel Grace in 2 Peter</i>	92
13. <i>Paul's Magnum Opus</i>	99
14. <i>Grace in Eternity</i>	107
15. <i>Grace in Providence</i>	115
16. <i>The Saints in Corinth, Part 1</i>	123
17. <i>The Saints in Corinth, Part 2</i>	131
18. <i>Salvation in Galatians &amp; Ephesians</i>	138
19. <i>Practical Truth for the Christian Life</i>	146
20. <i>Grace to Thessalonica</i>	154
21. <i>Grace to Timothy and Titus</i>	162
22. <i>A Sermon of Grace</i>	169
23. <i>Grace in James, John, &amp; Jude</i>	176
24. <i>The Marvel of Revelation</i>	184

# Introduction

The doctrines of grace are not a sixteenth-century invention. They are God’s doctrines, revealed in His Word, rooted in eternity past, and accomplished in history. It is therefore no surprise that a long line of godly men can be traced throughout the Old and New Testaments, all of whom proclaim the truth of God’s sovereign grace in salvation. In this two-part series, Dr. Steven J. Lawson surveys the entire Bible to demonstrate that salvation is the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit from beginning to end.

This study guide is a companion to the video teaching series. Whether you are using the DVDs, streaming the videos on Ligonier.org, or going through the course in Ligonier Connect, this resource is designed to help you make the most of the learning experience. For each message in the series, there is a corresponding lesson in this guide. Here is what you will find in each lesson:

INTRODUCTION	<p>The introduction is a brief paragraph that summarizes the content covered in the lecture and considered in the study guide lesson.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use the introduction to each lesson to get a sense of the big picture before watching the video. Refer to these statements as you work through the study guide to remind you of what have already covered and where you are headed.</p>
LEARNING GOALS	<p>The learning goals are the knowledge and skills the study guide lesson will endeavor to equip you with as you work through the lecture content.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging its contents. Keeping the overall purpose in mind as you watch each video and reflect on or discuss the questions will help you get the most out of each lesson.</p>
KEY IDEAS	<p>The key ideas are the major points or takeaways from the lecture.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use these ideas to prepare yourself for each lesson and to review previous lessons. They describe specifically the knowledge each lecture is communicating.</p>

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS	<p>The questions are the guided reflection and/or discussion component of the lesson that are intended to help you prepare for, process, and organize what you are learning.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Reflect on individually or discuss in a group the questions in the order in which they appear in the lesson. The timestamps in the right margin indicate where the answers to questions during the video can be found.</p>
PRAYER	<p>The prayer section offers suggestions for how to close the lesson in prayer with respect to what was taught in the lecture.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Consider using each lesson's prayer section as a guide to personal or group prayer. These sections follow the ACTS prayer model, which you can learn more about in R.C. Sproul's Crucial Questions booklet <i>Does Prayer Change Things?</i> This helpful guide is available as a free e-book at <a href="http://Ligonier.org">Ligonier.org</a>.</p>
REVIEW QUIZ	<p>The review quiz is a set of six multiple-choice questions that appear at the end of each lesson.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use each quiz to check your comprehension and memory of the major points covered in each lecture. It will be most beneficial to your learning if you take a lesson's quiz either sometime between lessons or just before you begin the next lesson in the study guide.</p>
ANSWER KEY	<p>The answer key provides explanations for the reflection and discussion questions and answers to the multiple-choice questions in the review quiz.</p> <p><b>How to use:</b> Use the answer key to check your own answers or when you do not know the answer. Note: Do not give in too quickly; struggling for a few moments to recall an answer reinforces it in your mind.</p>

# Study Schedules

The following table suggests four plans for working through *Foundations of Grace: New Testament* video teaching series and this companion study guide. Whether you are going through this series on your own or with a group, these schedules should help you plan your study path.

	<b>Extended 26-Week Plan</b>	<b>Standard 24-Week Plan</b>	<b>Abbreviated 12-Week Plan</b>	<b>Intensive 8-Week Plan</b>
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1 & 2	1-3
2	1	2	3 & 4	4-6
3	2	3	5 & 6	7-9
4	3	4	7 & 8	10-12
5	4	5	9 & 10	13-15
6	5	6	11 & 12	16-18
7	6	7	13 & 14	19-21
8	7	8	15 & 16	22-24
9	8	9	17 & 18	
10	9	10	19 & 20	
11	10	11	21 & 22	
12	11	12	23 & 24	
13	12	13		
14	13	14		
15	14	15		
16	15	16		
17	16	17		
18	17	18		
19	18	19		

	<b>Extended 26-Week Plan</b>	<b>Standard 24-Week Plan</b>	<b>Abbreviated 12-Week Plan</b>	<b>Intensive 8-Week Plan</b>
Week	Lesson			
20	19	20		
21	20	21		
22	21	22		
23	22	23		
24	23	24		
25	24			
26	*			

\* For these weeks, rather than completing lessons, spend your time discussing and praying about your learning goals for the study (the first week) and the most valuable takeaways from the study (the last week).

# The Long Line Continues

## INTRODUCTION

The absolute uniformity of the doctrines of grace in the Old Testament carries over with an equal uniformity to the New Testament. The reason for this consistency is that the doctrines of grace did not originate with man. They are God's doctrines. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson introduces this study of the doctrines of grace in the New Testament by providing an overview of five primary characteristics of the doctrines of grace.

## LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Understand the origins of the doctrines of grace
- Name the doctrines of grace and summarize their theology
- Identify five primary characteristics of the doctrines of grace

## KEY IDEAS

- Without exception, all the biblical authors in the Old Testament and New Testaments taught the doctrines of grace—there are no contradictions in the theology of the Bible.
- The doctrines of grace are biblical, clear, precise, Trinitarian, and counterintuitive.
- The five doctrines of grace are taught in the New Testament with such doctrinal precision that there is no room for compromising a single one of them.



## REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Before the Video

#### *What Do You Think?*

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- Who are some people in the New Testament who continue the long line of godly men from the Old Testament?
- Imagine you were able to create your own religion. Would it have anything like the doctrines of grace in it? Why or why not?

#### *Scripture Reading*

*You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

—2 Timothy 3:10–17

- What were sacred writings with which Timothy was acquainted from his childhood? What are they able to do?

### During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

#### *Biblical and Clear*

0:00–8:38

- Why does Dr. Lawson prefer the phrase “the doctrines of grace” over the phrase “the five points of Calvinism”?

- Upon what are the doctrines of grace ultimately founded?
- What are some adjectives that Dr. Lawson uses to describe the clarity with which the doctrines of grace are taught in the Bible?

*Precise, Trinitarian, and Counterintuitive*

8:38–24:20

- Using the acronym TULIP, what are the five doctrines of grace?
- In terms of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is involved in our salvation?
- What does Dr. Lawson mean by saying that the doctrines of grace are “counterintuitive”?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- Which of the five doctrines of grace do you struggle with or have struggled with the most? Why? In your answer, define the doctrine.

If you are in a group, have the members discuss which of the five doctrines of grace they struggle with, or have struggled with, the most and why.

- All of the members of the Trinity are at work for our salvation, yet how may we categorize the primary work of each of the members of the Trinity?

If you are in a group, have the members read Titus 3:1–11. How is the work of the Trinity in our salvation represented? What type of lives are we called to live because of this work?

- How do our natural minds distort the various doctrines of grace?

If you are in a group, have some members select one of the doctrines of grace and describe how the natural mind distorts it.

## PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for the logical consistency of the doctrines of grace.
- Confess any inordinate desire to search into the secret things of God.
- Thank God for revealing Himself as a Trinity in the work of salvation.
- Ask God to work against your natural reasoning about the doctrines of grace.

## REVIEW QUIZ

Use these multiple-choice questions to measure what you learned from this lesson.

1. Why did Dr. Lawson argue for the phrase "the doctrine of grace" over "the five points of Calvinism"?
  - a. Calvin himself would not approve of the idea of Calvinism.
  - b. We shouldn't associate the doctrines of salvation with a man.
  - c. The five points were formed in mere reaction to Arminianism.
  - d. The doctrines of grace preceded the Reformation.
2. Which of the following is *not* an accurate assertion about the doctrines of grace?
  - a. They are biblically based.
  - b. They are clearly stated.
  - c. They are easy to accept.
  - d. They are counterintuitive.
3. Who or what is primarily at work in the work of effectual calling?
  - a. The Father
  - b. The Son
  - c. The Holy Spirit
  - d. The Word of God
4. What argument did Dr. Lawson make for verse-by-verse expository preaching in this lecture?
  - a. Verse-by-verse expository preaching can develop on the key biblical themes.
  - b. Verse-by-verse expository preaching is the only biblical form of preaching.
  - c. Verse-by-verse expository preaching cannot avoid the doctrines of grace.
  - d. Verse-by-verse expository preaching is not dictated by a congregation's needs.
5. Arminian theology fails to see the unity of the Trinity in the work of salvation.
  - a. True
  - b. False

6. Which of the following is a distortion of the doctrines of grace by the natural mind?
  - a. Man cannot exercise faith because he is not morally able.
  - b. God elected some because of a foreseen exercise of faith.
  - c. Man requires the work of regeneration to exercise faith.
  - d. God preserves the elect in faith all the way to glorification.

# Answer Key—

## The Long Line Continues

### REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

*What Do You Think?*

*These are personal questions. The answers should be based on your own knowledge and experience.*

*Scripture Reading*

- What were sacred writings with which Timothy was acquainted with from his childhood? What are they able to do?

*The sacred writings with which Timothy was acquainted from his childhood were none other than the books of the Old Testament. Paul teaches here that the Old Testament is able to make one wise for salvation, so we should expect to find the doctrines of grace taught consistently in both the Old and the New Testaments.*

During the Video

*Biblical and Clear*

- Why does Dr. Lawson prefer the phrase “the doctrines of grace” over the phrase “the five points of Calvinism”?

*Dr. Lawson prefers “the doctrines of grace” over “the five points of Calvinism” because the doctrines of grace long preceded the Reformation. The doctrines of grace were well established in the Old and New Testaments long before the time of the Reformation.*

- Upon what are the doctrines of grace ultimately founded?

*The doctrines of grace were not devised by mortal men. They are founded on the Bible, and since the Bible is the Word of God, they are ultimately founded on Him. God is the author and architect of the doctrines of grace.*

- What are some adjectives that Dr. Lawson uses to describe the clarity in which the doctrines of grace are taught in the Bible?

*In describing the clarity of the doctrines of grace in the Bible, Dr. Lawson used such adjectives as “clearly stated,” “prominently positioned,” and “straightforward.” He also described the doctrines of grace in terms of what they are not: they are “not obscurely hidden,” “not concealed,” “not veiled,” and “not ambiguously taught.”*

*Precise, Trinitarian, and Counterintuitive*

- Using the acronym TULIP, what are the five doctrines of grace?

*The doctrines of grace are often memorized using the popular acrostic TULIP, which stands for total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints.*

- In terms of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is involved in our salvation?

*Dr. Lawson stressed that the doctrines of grace are distinctly Trinitarian. There isn't merely one of the members of the Trinity at work in our salvation. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all at work in our salvation.*

- What does Dr. Lawson mean by saying that the doctrines of grace are “counterintuitive”?

*By describing the doctrines of grace as being “counterintuitive,” Dr. Lawson means that the doctrines of grace are entirely antithetical to the natural mind. The logic of the doctrines of grace is the opposed to the logic of the flesh.*

## After the Video

- Which of the five doctrines of grace do you struggle with, or have struggled with, the most? Why? In your answer, define the doctrine.

*The answer to this question is personal and should name one of the doctrines of grace that you find, or have found, particularly difficult to embrace or understand. In your answer, there should be a definition of the doctrine based on the lecture.*

- All of the members of the Trinity are at work for our salvation, yet how may we categorize the primary work of the each of the members of the Trinity?

*All of the members of the Trinity are at work for our salvation such that we can describe each of Them as Savior. Just as the members of the Trinity are one God, They are unified in Their work of salvation, yet the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit can be understood in terms of Their primary work in salvation. As Dr. Lawson described it, the Father authored salvation, the Son accomplished salvation, and the Spirit applies salvation.*

- How do our natural minds distort the various doctrines of grace?

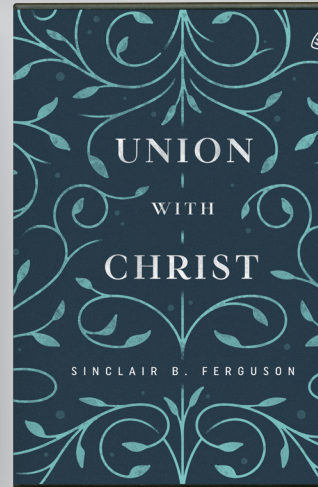
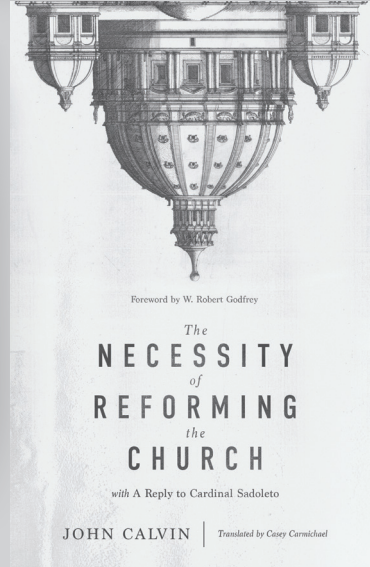
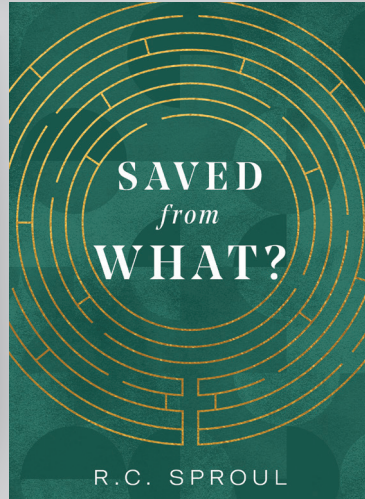
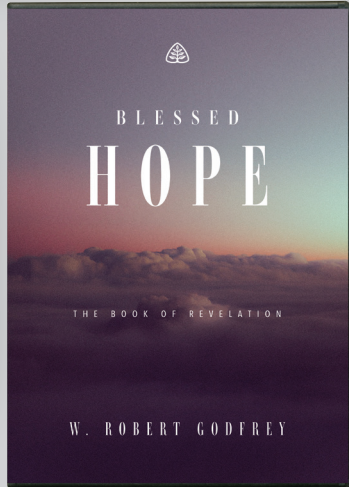
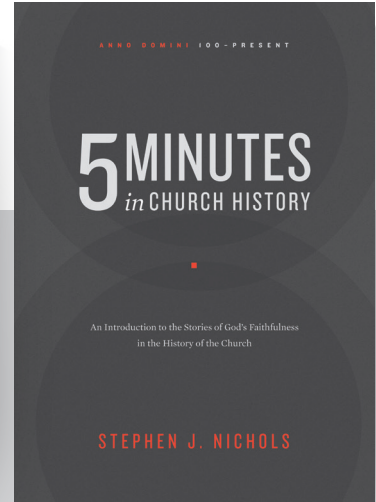
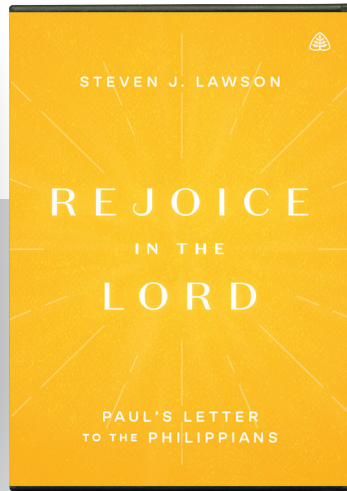
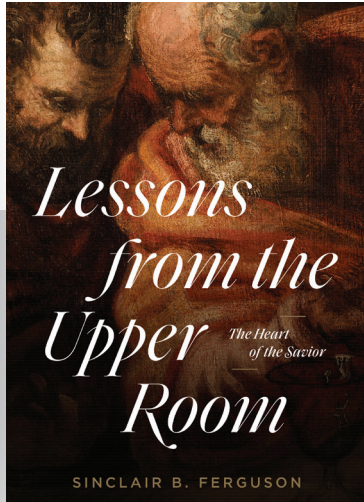
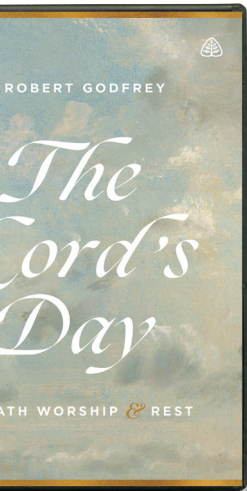
*Our natural minds distort the doctrines of grace in numerous ways. We naturally reject total depravity by concluding that man is basically good. We reject unconditional election by reasoning, on the basis of man's natural ability, that man can choose God and that God elects man in accordance with a foreseen faith. We reject limited atonement by reasoning that Jesus must have made salvation possible for everyone if man has an innate ability to place faith in Him. We reject irresistible grace by reasoning that faith then precedes regeneration. We reject the perseverance of the saints by reasoning that, since it our responsibility to believe to get into the kingdom, then it is ultimately in our hands to stay in the kingdom.*

## REVIEW QUIZ

## Lesson 1

1. **D.**  
*Dr. Lawson firmly asserted that the doctrines of grace are biblically based. Because of this biblical foundation, Dr. Lawson prefers the phrase “the doctrines of grace” as opposed to “the five points of Calvinism.” The doctrines of grace were rooted in the Bible long before the Reformation and are thus rooted in the very mind of God.*
2. **C.**  
*In this lecture, the doctrines of grace were described as biblical, clear, and even as counterintuitive. They were not described as easy to accept or understand. Based on the idea that they are counterintuitive to the natural mind, one can expect some resistance in affirming them without the work of the Holy Spirit.*
3. **C.**  
*Dr. Lawson discussed the Trinitarian nature of the doctrines of grace, which can be categorized in terms of the particular work of the Trinity. He asserted that we can think of salvation in terms of the Father authoring it, the Son accomplishing it, and the Spirit applying it. Effectual calling should be understood as part of the application of salvation. Thus, the Holy Spirit is primarily at work in effectual calling.*
4. **C.**  
*In this lecture, Dr. Lawson made an argument for verse-by-verse expository preaching. His argument was based on the clearly stated nature of the doctrines of grace in Scripture. If someone preaches through entire books of the Bible, then the doctrines of grace cannot be avoided. The doctrines of grace will naturally present themselves because they are clearly stated in Scripture.*
5. **A.**  
*Dr. Lawson asserted that the Arminian “divides the Trinity.” The reason for such an assertion can be seen in detail in Dr. Lawson’s breakdown of how the natural mind twists the doctrines of grace. One example of this division within the Trinity is the Arminian belief that Jesus died for everyone’s sins, yet only some are elected by the Father.*
6. **B.**  
*All of the doctrines of grace are logically consistent. The only answer to this question that is not consistent with the doctrines of grace understands election on the basis of a foreseen faith. Election is unconditional, so it cannot be based on something someone does. It is not earned and is not based on a work of faith.*

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