

S T U D Y G U I D E



FOUNDATIONS
— *of* —
GRACE

OLD TESTAMENT

STEVEN J. LAWSON

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Foundations of Grace: Old Testament

Steven J. Lawson



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

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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>How to use: 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>How to use: Familiarize yourself with the goals of each lesson before engaging with 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>How to use: 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>How to use: 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>How to use: 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 Ligonier.org.</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>How to use: 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>How to use: 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 the *Foundations of Grace: Old 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.

	Extended 16-Week Plan	Standard 14-Week Plan	Abbreviated 8-Week Plan	Intensive 6-Week Plan
Week	Lesson			
1	*	1	1	1-2
2	1	2	2 & 3	3-5
3	2	3	4 & 5	6-7
4	3	4	6 & 7	8-9
5	4	5	8 & 9	10-12
6	5	6	10 & 11	13-14
7	6	7	12 & 13	
8	7	8	14	
9	8	9		
10	9	10		
11	10	11		
12	11	12		
13	12	13		
14	13	14		
15	14			
16	*			

* 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).

A Long Line of Godly Men

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, there has existed a long line of godly men who have taught the doctrines of grace with one voice. These men were able to speak with one voice because they did not invent or create the doctrines of grace but only remained faithful to the teachings of Scripture. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson provides a panoramic view of the doctrines of grace as consistently taught throughout Scripture, from the Old Testament to the New.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- Name and categorize the five doctrines of grace
- Recognize the doctrines of grace in the overarching narrative of Scripture

KEY IDEAS

- The doctrines of grace are five theological statements about how God saves sinners.
- There is a perfect continuity regarding the doctrines of grace in the Old Testament and the New Testament, a continuity that also extends throughout church history.
- The doctrines of grace are the doxological paradigm through which we rightly see our salvation and rightly worship God in humility and truth.

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.

- Why are you undertaking this study of the doctrines of grace in the Old Testament?
- How familiar are you with the doctrines of grace? Can you name them? Have you ever struggled with believing them?

Scripture Reading

“You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior. I declared and saved and proclaimed, when there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and I am God. Also henceforth I am he; there is none who can deliver from my hand; I work, and who can turn it back?”

—Isaiah 43:10–13

- What does this passage reveal about the nature and actions of God as a Savior?

During the Video

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

Only One Gospel

0:00–10:02

- How were people saved in the Old Testament?
- What three words are a succinct summary of the doctrines of grace?
- What is God saving us from by His sovereign grace?

All Glory to God

10:02-23:23

- Where do the doctrines of grace find their origin and their consummation?
- How do the doctrines of grace humble us?

After the Video

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

- List the doctrines of grace using the popular acronym TULIP. What were some of the other phrases that Dr. Lawson used to describe these doctrines?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss why some the alternative phrases to the popular acronym TULIP can be helpful in describing the doctrines of grace.

- How can the doctrines of grace be categorized in terms of their relationship to man and to the Trinity?

If you are in a group, have the members discuss the idea that a person must either accept or reject all five of doctrines of grace. How does the way someone views one of the doctrines influence how they view the others? Consider questions like this: If someone were to reject the doctrine of unconditional election, how would he think of irresistible grace or perseverance of the saints?

- In this lecture, two illustrations were used to describe the doctrines of grace as a linked chain and as a teeter-totter, or a seesaw, on a playground. What truths do these two illustrations teach us about the doctrines of grace?

If you are in a group, have each member discuss Dr. Lawson's varied description of the doctrines of grace as pride-crushing, life-giving, joy-producing, soul-humbling, knee-bending, and jaw-dropping. How do the doctrines of grace make you feel? Why?

PRAYER

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

- Praise God for the majesty of His unfailing love displayed in the doctrines of grace.
- Confess the infrequency of your praise to God for fully securing your salvation.
- Thank God for His perfect work as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in saving you.
- Ask God to answer any difficult questions you have about the doctrines of grace.

REVIEW QUIZ

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

1. Which of the following statements best summarizes the origins of the doctrines of grace?
 - a. The doctrines of grace were developed by Augustine.
 - b. The doctrines of grace began as a response to the Remonstrants.
 - c. The doctrines of grace appeared with the first advent of Christ.
 - d. The doctrines of grace are rooted in eternity past.
2. What other word, besides *total*, was used to describe the extent of our depravity?
 - a. Effectual
 - b. Radical
 - c. Definite
 - d. Sovereign
3. Which of the following doctrines of grace primarily deals with man?
 - a. Total depravity
 - b. Irresistible grace
 - c. Limited atonement
 - d. Unconditional election
4. How does Dr. Lawson define the verb *save* in this lecture?
 - a. To heal or restore purity
 - b. To set free from temptation
 - c. To deliver from destruction
 - d. To maintain or preserve life
5. The doctrines of grace fundamentally teach how God has made salvation possible.
 - a. True
 - b. False
6. Which theologian used the illustration of a teeter-totter to stress the importance of the doctrines of grace?
 - a. C.S. Lewis
 - b. John Calvin
 - c. Martin Luther
 - d. James Montgomery Boice

Answer Key—A Long Line of Godly Men

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 does this passage reveal about the nature and actions of God as a Savior?

This passage reveals that God is a Savior, and furthermore, that there never has been nor will there ever be one besides Him. This passage describes His actions as Savior in vivid language. It is God who has chosen, declared, proclaimed, and saved; each of these actions are directly connected to His identity as God, and He cannot be opposed.

During the Video

Only One Gospel

- How were people saved in the Old Testament?

People were saved in the Old Testament in the same way set forth in the New Testament: by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. The gospel of Jesus Christ remains the same whether we refer to it in terms of the Old Testament or the New Testament.

- What three words are a succinct summary of the doctrines of grace?

Dr. Lawson has provided a succinct three-word summary by which to think about the doctrines of grace comprehensively: God saves sinners. These three words are all you need to know to affirm the doctrines of grace in their totality.

- What is God saving us from by His sovereign grace?

As defined by Dr. Lawson, God saves us from destruction and rescues us from eternal ruin. Ultimately, God saves us from Himself. Because all have fallen short of the glory of God and the wages of sin are death, God saves us from the deserved wrath to come and rescues us from the final judgment that would lead us to eternal hell (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

All Glory to God

- Where do the doctrines of grace find their origin and their consummation?

The doctrines of grace do not find their origin in church history or even in the Bible; they find their origin in eternity past, with God Himself, spanning the entirety of time. We see this in God's foreknowledge and predestination and in what will be our glorification, in which the doctrines of grace find their full consummation in eternity future.

- How do the doctrines of grace humble us?

The doctrines of grace humble us by putting God in His rightful place. They help us to see our salvation rightly as the sole work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Because of this, the doctrines of grace bring us to our knees in humility, with grateful and thankful hearts, totally dependent on God for His work of salvation in our lives.

After the Video

- List the doctrines of grace using the popular acronym TULIP. What were some of the other phrases that Dr. Lawson used to describe these doctrines?

The doctrines of grace are often memorized using the popular acronym TULIP, which stands for total depravity, unconditional election, limited atonement, irresistible grace, and perseverance of the saints. Dr. Lawson also used these phrases to alternatively describe the doctrines of grace: radical corruption, sovereign election, definite atonement, effectual calling, and preserving grace.

- How can the doctrines of grace be categorized in terms of their relationship to man and to the Trinity?

Of the five doctrines of grace, the first primarily deals with man, describing the state of man in sin. The other four focuses on the work of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father elects us, the Son atones for us, the Spirit calls us, and all three work together to preserve us.

- In this lecture, two illustrations were used to describe the doctrines of grace as a linked chain and as a teeter-totter, or a seesaw, on a playground. What truths do these two illustrations teach us about the doctrines of grace?

The illustration of a linked chain teaches us the truth that the doctrines of grace cannot be separated; they are joined together in such a way that rejecting one of the them means rejecting them all. The illustration of the teeter-totter teaches us how the doctrines of grace help us esteem God rightly in His work for our salvation. As with a teeter-totter, if God is lifted up, then we look up to Him, giving Him all the glory for our salvation.

REVIEW QUIZ

Lesson 1

1. **D.**

Although the doctrines of grace were an important part in developing the five points of Calvinism in response to the Arminian doctrines of the Remonstrants, they did

not begin there, or with Augustine, for that matter. The doctrines of grace are found throughout the Old and New Testaments precisely because they are God's doctrines, rooted in eternity past.

2. **B.**

Another term commonly used to describe the extent of our depravity is radical. You hear this term being used in the phrase radical corruption, which is synonymous with the phrase total depravity.

3. **A.**

Total depravity is the doctrine of grace that primarily deals with man, as it describes man in his state of sin. The other four doctrines of grace, while certainly concerned with man, primarily deal with God's work as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in saving a people for Himself.

4. **C.**

While all of these relate to salvation to some degree, Dr. Lawson used a particular definition for the verb "save" in this lecture, namely, "to be delivered from destruction" or "to be rescued from ruin." This definition truly captures the sense that, when God saves us, He saves us from His coming wrath—destruction and ruin apart from His saving love in Christ.

5. **B.**

In a very real sense, God has made salvation possible through His sovereign will, but Dr. Lawson explicitly stated that the doctrines of grace teach that "God does not merely make salvation possible." Rather, the doctrines of grace teach that God actually saves and that He does so from start to finish.

6. **D.**

James Montgomery Boice used the illustration of a teeter-totter as a way to stress the importance of the doctrines of grace. This illustration shows how our view of salvation positions ourselves in relation to God. If we view salvation as something we accomplish, then we exalt ourselves over God. On the other hand, if we view salvation as something God accomplishes, then we exalt Him.

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the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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