

S T U D Y G U I D E

The
B E A U T Y
of Divine
G R A C E



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The Beauty of Divine Grace

STUDY GUIDE



LIGONIER MINISTRIES

The Beauty of Divine Grace Study Guide

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How to Use This Study Guide

This study guide includes a chapter synopsis, a lesson objective, key passages, key points, and discussion questions from each chapter in *The Beauty of Divine Grace*, as well as questions that focus on a relevant passage of Scripture from each chapter. Participants should first read each corresponding chapter of the book in order to make the best use of this guide.

Chapter Synopsis: This section summarizes the material in the chapter and provides a reminder of what the chapter covered. It serves to help readers remember what they've already read in the book.

Lesson Objective: This section explains the purpose of the chapter and the intended outcome of the study guide lesson.

Key Passages: This section quotes several passages from the chapter so that readers can remember some of the more significant things the author said. It can also serve as a starting point for discussion if the group leader would like to ask questions or provide thoughts related to excerpts from the book.

Key Points: This section outlines many of the basic ideas that the author mentioned in the chapter. It helps readers recall not just the big idea of the chapter but also its supporting ideas and their flow.

Scripture Reading: This section highlights one of the chapter's key points in God's Word. It helps readers identify the scriptural basis of important Christian doctrines and develops their ability to understand Scripture through questions about the reading. These questions are also ideal for group study.

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Reflection Questions: This section provides readers with questions that could be asked of themselves or in a small-group setting. The questions are designed to help readers understand the chapter and apply that knowledge to their lives.

Prayer: This section closes the study with an opportunity to come before the Lord in prayer based on what readers have learned.

One Standard: Scripture Alone

CHAPTER SYNOPSIS

Though many today seek to undermine its authority, veracity, and sufficiency, the Bible remains the only rock on which true faith can be established. It's only when we understand what Scripture is and what it does that we will value it rightly. Only when we believe that the whole of Scripture is divine in origin and that it contains all that is needed for knowing and loving God can we appreciate its power to change our world and us. Then we might consistently claim *God's Word*, rather than our own or anyone else's, as our final and ultimate standard for all of life.

LESSON OBJECTIVE

This chapter will help you establish God's Word as the final authority by which all ideas, words, and actions of men must be judged.

KEY PASSAGES

One will search in vain for anyone in history who had a higher view of the Old Testament than Jesus. (p. 14)

If every word of the Bible is God's Word, we lose the right to pick and choose which teachings we will believe. Biblical authority is a "package deal." Any attempt to surmount this authority is tantamount to idolatry and calls down God's holy wrath. (pp. 15–16)

God's very breath is in our ears when our Bibles are open. When we say we would believe if only we could hear God speak to us, it is almost as if he replies: "I have spoken. It is right here in the Word that I have given you. You can hear me speak anytime you choose." (p. 18)

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We need missionaries who believe deeply in their souls that the primary thing that any culture, in any time, at any place, desperately needs more than anything else is to hear the Word of God. (p. 19)

Why are the Scriptures sufficient to equip us for every good work? Because the New Testament makes clear what was foreshadowed in the Old Testament—namely, that the finished work of Jesus on the cross results in the finished Word of God in our Bibles. (pp. 24–25)

KEY POINTS

All of God's Word (pp. 11–16): The entirety of the Bible is the Word of God, without exception. From beginning to end, God has determined its content. Some believe that certain sections of the Bible, deemed culturally insensitive, are not truly from the Lord. Yet this places man as the judge over Scripture, rather than Scripture's judging the hearts and desires of people.

The Breath of God (pp. 16–18): Scripture is not merely the thoughts and ideas of men about God. Second Timothy 3:16–17 describes the Bible as divinely inspired—breathed out—by the Lord. It has its primary origin from Him. So whenever we want to hear from our Lord, He is only as distant as our nearest Bible.

Not Just Theory (pp. 18–21): The Word of God is useful to accomplish God's purposes for His people. It teaches us about God and all the commands that God requires of us. It exposes our sin and reveals the way of salvation. It enables us, by the Holy Spirit, to do the good works that God has planned for us.

All We Need (pp. 21–24): Scripture is the final authority on all matters that it addresses. Many truths can and even should be uncovered in the natural world, yet even these discoveries are subject to the Word of God. Everything in the world is understood and interpreted correctly in the light of what the Lord has revealed through his inspired Word.

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:23–25 You have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever.” And this word is the good news that was preached to you.

ONE STANDARD: SCRIPTURE ALONE

- According to this passage, what is the difference between the glory of man and the Word of the Lord? How should this difference affect the way that we see God's Word? Give some practical examples.
- What has the Word of God caused in the recipients of this letter? Besides the Word of God, does this passage mention any other agents of salvation? What are you tempted to add to God's Word to bring about the salvation of others?

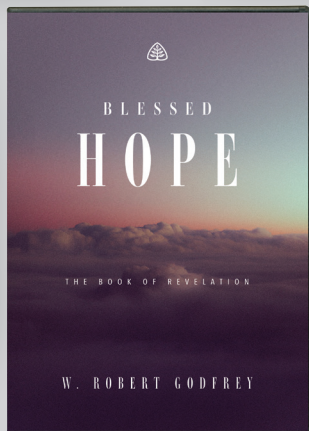
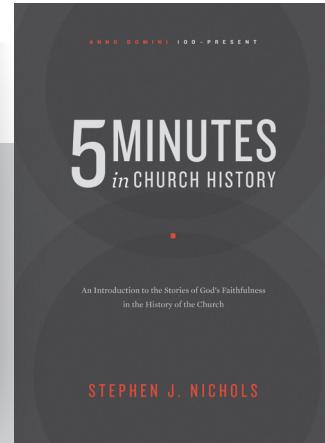
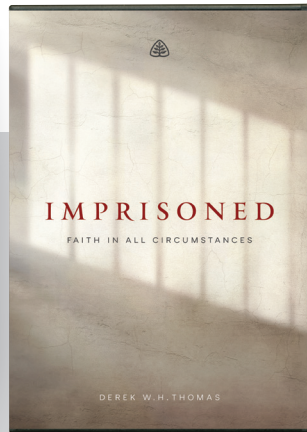
REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What four concepts about *sola Scriptura* are taught in 2 Timothy 3:16–17?
2. Why is it important to the Christian life to believe that the *whole* Bible is God's inspired Word?
3. What are the behaviors and activities of a person who believes in *sola Scriptura*?
4. How can you resist the anti-authoritarian spirit of our age?

PRAYER

- Praise God for revealing His nature to you through His Word.
- Confess your doubts and distrust of the infallibility and inspiration of Scripture.
- Thank God for preserving His Word throughout history.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to grow your love and understanding of the Bible.

We want to see men and women around the world connect
the deep truths of the Christian faith to everyday life.



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