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Gospel Grace in 1 Peter

INTRODUCTION

Gospel grace is found throughout 1 Peter because the letter bears witness to a salvation that is all from God. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson examines 1 Peter to demonstrate the doctrines of limited atonement, irresistible grace, and the perseverance of the saints. From this study, we will see how the doctrines of grace are ultimately doctrines of comfort.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- Identify passages in the book of 1 Peter that teach the doctrines of grace
- Understand the historical context of 1 Peter and the aim of the letter to comfort persecuted Christians suffering for righteousness' sake

KEY IDEAS

- The key to identifying the doctrine of limited atonement in 1 Peter is to understand what pronouns such as "you" or "our" are referring to in passages about the death of Christ.
- The letter of 1 Peter was written to Christians facing persecution; thus, its emphasis on the sovereignty of God is a source of assurance and comfort for God's people in all ages.
- The Bible speaks about salvation in manifold ways, referring to it as an event in the past, present, and future.

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.

- What type of persecution have you faced as a Christian?

- Are you certain that if you were to die right now that you would be in heaven? Why or why not?

Scripture Reading

Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

—Matthew 5:10–11

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. But let none of you suffer as a murderer or a thief or an evildoer or as a meddler. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in that name.

—1 Peter 4:12–16

- What do these passages reveal about an appropriate Christian attitude toward suffering for righteousness' sake? What reasons do these passages give for such an attitude?

During the Video

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

Purchased and Called *0:00–13:15*

- What word is particularly important to note in 1 Peter 1:18? To whom does it refer?

- What does "all" mean in 1 Peter 3:18? Why is this significant?

- How can the doctrine of effectual calling be demonstrated in 1 Peter 2:9?

An Eternal Inheritance *13:15–24:19*

- Who is the immediate audience of 1 Peter?

- What language is used in 1 Peter 1:4 to describe our inheritance?

- What are the "three installments" of salvation?

After the Video

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

- Dr. Lawson demonstrated an important way of interpreting Scripture in this lecture. In order to determine to what a pronoun is referring, we must trace it back to its antecedent. Imagine someone were to say that "you" in 1 Peter 1:18 refers to all people and therefore Christ died for all people. Tracing back from 1 Peter 1:18, what are some antecedents to "you" that you find when you look back from that would prove otherwise?

- What do you consider to be the strongest case for any one of the doctrines of grace in this lecture from 1 Peter? Why?

- How is the emphasis on God's sovereignty and the doctrines of grace a comfort to the first-century audience of 1 Peter?

If you are in a group, have the members reflect on the areas of their life that are made difficult on account of the faith. Does anyone suffer persecution and need the comfort offered in 1 Peter? If so, pray together as a group addressing these needs.

PRAYER

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

- Praise God for His sovereign control, especially over our trials.
- Confess how you struggle to turn to Him in humility when you suffer.
- Thank God for the perfect example of suffering for righteousness' sake in Christ.
- Ask God to give you courage to endure and not run from suffering for the faith.