

Salvation in Galatians & Ephesians

INTRODUCTION

The books of Galatians and Ephesians are full of rich doxology precisely because they are full of rich theology. This is particularly true in Ephesians 1:3–14, a beautiful passage that outlines Paul’s theology of election. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson highlights the truth of election and the nature of the atonement in Galatians and provides a lengthy study of election in Ephesians 1.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- Identify key verses in the book of Galatians that teach the doctrines of unconditional election and limited atonement
- Appreciate the beauty of Ephesians 1 as a robust presentation of the doctrine of election and the straight-forward truth of man’s depravity in Ephesians 2
- Understand the nature of the relationship between theology and worship

KEY IDEAS

- The atonement of Jesus Christ should be understood a victorious work that actually secured salvation for the elect.
- The concept of election involves God’s making a choice out of many possible choices, meaning He selects a smaller group out of a larger group.
- Ephesians describes depravity in the strongest of terms, using the language of spiritual deadness.
- High theology produces a high doxology.

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.

- If Christ's death did not surely accomplish salvation for anyone, what does this imply about His role as a Savior?
- Should a new Christian study the doctrines of grace? Why or why not?

Scripture Reading

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Let me ask you only this: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the law or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain—if indeed it was in vain? Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness”?

—Galatians 3:1–6

- How would you describe Paul's tone with the Galatians? What does this passage teach us about justification and sanctification?

During the Video

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

Salvation in Galatians

0:00–4:40

- From what does Jesus Christ deliver us, according to Galatians 1:4?
- For what two reasons did God set apart the Apostle Paul?

- What is the context of Ephesians 1? What does this teach us?
- “Choose this day whom you will serve” (Josh. 24:15). How can this verse help us think about election?
- What language is used in Ephesians 1:5 that argues against the common misconception that predestination is a harsh doctrine?
- How does Ephesians 2:1 reveal the necessity of God’s election and sovereign regeneration?

After the Video

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

- What does the theological substance of Ephesians 1 presuppose?
- What is the highest aim and purpose of the doctrine of election? Explain why salvation can’t be a joint effort.
- Read Ephesians 1:3–14. What phrases stand out to you the most? Is it possible for someone to deny the doctrine of unconditional election after reading this passage? Why or why not?

PRAYER

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

- Praise God for the beauty and clarity of Scripture.
- Confess any longings you feel to return to the sins to which you were at one time enslaved.
- Thank God that He has forgiven your trespasses in Christ, according to the riches of His grace and for the praise of His glory.
- Ask God to deepen your appreciation and love for His kindness and mercy to you as a sinner saved by grace.