

# Gospel Grace in 2 Peter

## INTRODUCTION

In his second letter, Peter writes to protect God's people from false teachers, and he sets himself apart from such teachers by heralding the doctrines of grace so that God's people might confirm their calling and election and persevere to the end. In this lesson, Dr. Lawson highlights the key texts of 2 Peter that teach the doctrines of grace, with a particular emphasis on the doctrines of total depravity and irresistible grace.

## LEARNING GOALS

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

- Identify verses that teach the doctrines of grace in 2 Peter
- Navigate difficult texts in 2 Peter in defense of the doctrines of grace

## KEY IDEAS

- What is true of false teachers is true of the heart of every unconverted person.
- God only calls those who are chosen, and all who are chosen will be called.
- We confirm our calling and election by living a life of faith and obedience.
- If we have entered God's eternal kingdom in this world, we can be certain that we will enter the eternal kingdom of the world to come.

## 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.

- Is false teaching an offense to God? Why or why not?

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- Why was it necessary for the Son of God to take upon Himself a human nature?

### *Scripture Reading*

*Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

—2 Peter 3:14–18

- From the conclusion of this second letter from Peter, what can you identify as some of the main concerns of the letter?

### During the Video

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

### *Our Lord and Master*

0:00–11:01

- How does Dr. Lawson interpret the phrase “even denying the Master who bought them” in 2 Peter 2:1?
- What is one of the greatest verses in the New Testament for demonstrating the deity of Christ? Why was it necessary for God to be our Savior?

### *All That We Need*

11:01–24:24

- What does Peter mean by the phrase “the same kind as ours” when referring to faith in 2 Peter 2:1?
- How does Dr. Lawson defend against an interpretation of 2 Peter 3:9 that would suggest that God desires for every person in the world to be saved?

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- What does “eternal kingdom” mean in 2 Peter 1:11?

#### After the Video

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

- What do you consider to be the more problematic verse for the doctrines of grace presented in this lecture: 2 Peter 2:1 or 2 Peter 3:9? Explain why it is challenging.
  
- How does Peter characterize false teachers in his letter? What words does he use to describe them? What definitions did Dr. Lawson provide for some of these words?
  
- What two ways did Dr. Lawson give that we may know that we are elect and have been called by God?

#### PRAYER

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

- Praise God for truth, that there is a standard by which He has made Himself known.
- Confess any proclivity you have to subject yourself to guilt and shame instead of entrusting yourself to the forgiveness that is in Christ.

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- Thank God for the faithful teachers who point you to Christ.
  - Ask God to give you a yearning for sound doctrine and purity of heart.