

Grace in Eternity

INTRODUCTION

There isn't a systematic approach to the doctrines of grace quite like the one found in the book of Romans. It is filled with lofty theology that can only be matched by its soaring doxology for the God from whom, through whom, and to whom are all things. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson traces the Apostle Paul's argument for the doctrine of sovereign election in eternity past throughout Romans, while also demonstrating the particular nature of Christ's death for the elect.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- Identify where the doctrine of unconditional election is taught in Romans
- Identify where the doctrine of limited atonement is taught in Romans
- Understand Paul's line of argument in Romans 9

KEY IDEAS

- Just as Paul narrowed his focus onto the doctrine of total depravity in Romans 1–3, so he narrows his focus onto the doctrine of election in Romans 8, 9, and 11.
- Misinterpretations of divine foreknowledge presented in terms of God's ability to look down the corridors of time and elect those who exercise faith are not scriptural.
- The doctrine of election should first make us question why God has mercy on anyone at all as opposed to asking why not everyone will be saved.
- Those for whom Christ intercedes at the right hand of the Father are those for whom Christ interceded at Calvary.

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 is grace often called “amazing grace”?
- Why do people object to the doctrine of election? What do they not understand about God’s mercy and God’s justice?
- Do you still struggle with the doctrine of election? If so, what is your attitude toward God in these struggles?

Scripture Reading

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die—but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

—Romans 5:6–11

- What does this passage reveal to be some of the benefits of Christ’s death?

During the Video

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

God’s Foreknowledge & Election

0:00–9:35

- What is a common misunderstanding of God’s foreknowledge? What did Dr. Lawson say is the source of this misunderstanding?

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- What are two arguments against this mistaken view of God's foreknowledge?
 - What is the key phrase in Romans 9:11? What does it indicate?

God's Free Choice

9:35–22:57

- What fallacy does Paul expose in the logic of anyone who questions whether there is injustice in God because of the doctrine of election?
- What imagery is used in Romans 9:20–21 to depict the sovereignty of God's choice? From where does Paul get this imagery?
- What is the referent of "us all" in Romans 8:32, according to Dr. Lawson?

After the Video

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

- How does Paul respond to the objection concerning the injustice of God in election? What does such an objection fundamentally misunderstand about justice?
- How does Paul respond to the objection that God should no longer find fault on account of His sovereignty?
- In this lecture, what stood out to you as an exceptional argument for the doctrine of election or definite atonement? How does it prove that doctrine without a doubt?

PRAYER

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

- Praise God for the righteous life and atoning death of Jesus Christ.
- Confess your tendency to question God about the things you do not understand.
- Thank God for His powerful Spirit and His ability to work all things in accordance with His perfect will.
- Ask God to help you see that the true cost of sin was His own Son.