

# The Saints in Corinth, Part 2

## INTRODUCTION

The gospel is the power of God for salvation for all people, yet it remains veiled for all who are hardened in unbelief. This reality proves that the atonement is not universal, and that salvation must be accomplished through a sovereign act of God. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson teaches the doctrines of grace within the context of 2 Corinthians, explaining why some reject the gospel while others experience God's power.

## LEARNING GOALS

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

- Locate the doctrines of grace in the book of 2 Corinthians
- Understand passages that may appear to teach a form of universal atonement
- Explain the significance of Paul's language about the power of God

## KEY IDEAS

- The devil can blind the minds of unbelievers from seeing the light of the gospel.
- The power of God to shine light into darkness at creation is the same power by which He shines the light of the gospel into darkness in regeneration.
- Those whom the Father chose are those for whom Christ died and those whom the Spirit calls, whom He brings to faith, and whom He empowers in the ministry of reconciliation.

## 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.

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- Have you ever shared the gospel with someone only to find it woefully rejected? Why was this the case?
  - What are some analogies for regeneration that communicate the fullness of God's power?

### *Scripture Reading*

*But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.*

—2 Corinthians 4:7–11

- According to this passage, for what purposes do Christians endure suffering?

### During the Video

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

#### *Darkened in Unbelief*

0:00–9:45

- How does Dr. Lawson explain the concept of the gospel's being “veiled” to unbelievers?
- What is Satan called in 2 Corinthians 4:4? What type of power does he possess?
- What imagery does Paul use to describe God's power in regeneration?

#### *Living in the Light of the Gospel*

9:45–23:36

- What does the “pledge” of the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 5:5 mean?

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- “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died” (2 Cor. 5:14). What does “therefore all have died” mean?
  - What does God entrust to believers as a result of reconciliation?

#### After the Video

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

- What happens to us as Christians when we die?
- How does Paul invoke creation as a picture of regeneration in 2 Corinthians? Why does he do this?
- “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died” (2 Cor. 5:14). What might someone assume after reading this verse?

#### PRAYER

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

- Praise God for unveiling His glory in the face of Jesus Christ for you.
- Confess your remaining sins of self-ambition and self-fulfillment to the neglect of the glory of God.

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- Thank God for the assuring work of the Holy Spirit in your sanctification.
  - Ask God to provide you with opportunities to fulfill His work in the ministry of reconciliation that has been given to you in Christ.