

Man's Sin in the Psalms

INTRODUCTION

Studying the doctrines of grace in the book of Psalms can be a massive undertaking. With 150 different psalms collected over a thousand-year period, there is significant ground to cover. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson begins a study through the book of Psalms, highlighting passages that plainly teach about the reality of sin and thus affirm the doctrine of total depravity.

LEARNING GOALS

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

- List basic facts about the book of Psalms
- Locate particular psalms that teach the doctrine of total depravity
- Understand the balance between man's depravity and God's sovereignty

KEY IDEAS

- The book of Psalms is a book of high theology intended to promote high doxology.
- The book of Psalms underscores the depravity of man in such a way that it highlights the necessity of God's sovereignty in salvation.
- God's sovereign election should elicit praise in the knowledge that we have not been given what we deserve on account of our sin.

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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- What is the purpose of the book of Psalms?
 - Do you use the book of Psalms in your devotional life? If so, how do you use it?
 - Have you ever heard the saying “God hates sin but loves the sinner” ? Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Scripture Reading

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

—Psalm 51:1–6

- What are some notable phrases from this passage about God and about sin?

During the Video

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

Raging in Vain

0:00–11:15

- How is Psalm 2 a clear declaration of the total depravity of the entire human race?
- Who is the Lord’s Anointed in Psalm 2?
- What is God’s response to the nations in antagonism against Him? What are they commanded to do?

- What phrase in Psalm 5 is quoted in Romans 3?
- What does the Bible say about atheists?
- What does the phrase “in sin did my mother conceive me” mean?

After the Video

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

- What are some of the basic facts about the book of Psalms that introduced this lecture?
- How is total depravity defined by Dr. Lawson?
- In consideration of Psalm 37, how does the phrase “eternal life” argue in and of itself for the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints? In Psalm 65, what does the phrase “bring near” imply about the nature of God’s election?

PRAYER

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

- Praise God for giving His people a reason for praise in His work of salvation.
- Confess your failures to bring your sin before the Lord as quickly as you ought.
- Thank God for His promises to forgive you when you come before Him.
- Ask God to help you see your sin as David did—as against God alone.