

A LETTER FROM DR. SEAN LUCAS

January 21, 2021

My dear Friends:

Last week, this week, and next week, I'm teaching a class on Jonathan Edwards for Reformed Theological Seminary. I have ten or so students, and we've been reflecting each evening on some aspect of Edwards's thought and how it applies to contemporary life and ministry. It's been a lot of fun.

Edwards has been hugely influential for me. I have two different books about him: one that is an edited collection with D. G. Hart and Stephen Nichols called *The Legacy of Jonathan Edwards* and the other that is my own take on Edwards's theology, *God's Grand Design*. So, I've spent a lot of time thinking about him, his theology, and his importance.

It was reading Edwards's sermon, "God Glorified in Man's Dependence," which was first published in 1731, that persuaded me about the doctrines related to God's sovereignty in our salvation, doctrines related to predestination and election. Growing up in broad evangelicalism, serving at the time as the children's ministry director at a Free Will Baptist church (that's a fun story), Edwards's exaltation of God's sovereign grace was both bracing and refreshing. It literally changed my life.

For the past thirty years or so, I've come back again and again to his theological thinking, his sermons and treatises, and found fresh insight into God's great work of redemption, his ways with sinners and saints, and his ultimate end in all things—namely, his glory. I commend Edwards to you as a worthy guide to the Christian life. We have a number of his books in our bookstore, and I would encourage you to pick one up for your devotional reading for 2021!

In the grip of God's grace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.