



Of all the wonders of God's goodness to mankind, none has been so attacked, confused, or counterfeited like grace. No surprise – Satan blinds unbelievers' minds to it. But surprise! – many Christians also distort and mutilate grace. Time to expose 'grace-killers'.

1. Satan blinds the minds of unbelievers (2 Cor. 4.3-4)
2. Careless Christians drift away from grace (Heb. 4.1-4; 13.9)
3. Casual Christians fail to grow in grace (2 Tim. 2.1; 2 Pet. 3.18)

*Was it for crimes that I had done  
He groaned upon the tree?  
Amazing pity! Grace unknown!  
And love beyond degree!*

Isaac Watts



## Digging Deeper

1. Grace is an idea that is intrinsically connected with the biblical truths about God in human history. From Genesis to Revelation grace shines, so it is not surprising that Satan hates it. But why is grace often attacked in *religion*? Why is it virtually unknown outside of Christianity? What is it that draws people to a system of do's and don'ts, instead of a God who forgives and redeems? And here's the real kicker: Why do so many *Christian* pastors, teachers, authors, and theologians make eternal life something a person will receive only if they do 'good works'? There may be many answers to these questions, but if you distill them all down to a fundamental issue, what is it?
2. We might sum up Satan's mission in the world as being to keep people from apprehending God's grace. This begins with those who are unsaved. Read 2 Corinthians 4.3-4. In what ways does Satan 'blind the minds' of unbelievers? Would you agree that he even uses *religion* to do this?
3. While Satan keeps unbelievers from accepting the gospel, his tactics with Christians are all designed to distract us from the provisions of God's grace which are ours. The book of Hebrews is a good illustration of this; these Christians faced persecution for their faith (Heb. 10.32-34), and it was tempting for them to return to their religious traditions. In 13.9, the author contrasts grace with 'strange teachings' and 'food' (a reference to ritual meals). In Heb. 2.1-4, what does the author warn Christians of 'drifting away from'?
4. Read 2 Tim. 2.1 and 2 Pet. 3.18. If *grace* is a reference to God's *unmerited favor* and the free gift of eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ, what does it mean to 'be strong in grace'? How do we 'grow in grace'?