

## What does the BIBLE say?

As you read this study, I encourage you to study the corresponding scriptures for yourself so you can develop a personal, confident understanding of biblical truth. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that need not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. Study like the Bereans, who listened to Paul but did not take his word for it. They studied the scriptures for themselves so they would know for sure.

Acts 17:11 “These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.” I ask that you do the same with this study. Please pray before you begin.

### **Satan’s Deceptive Strategy (Law and Grace)**

Our study today looks at the devil’s strategy to deceive people in the last days. In a previous study, we explored how the devil has attempted to weaken Christian faith through Daniel 7 and Revelation 13. (Review this if needed.) Today, we will focus on the strategy that God indicates the enemy of souls will use to deceive people in the last days.

We find this in Dan. 7:25. The crucial phrase that uncovers Satan’s tactic is “he (the little horn) shall think to change times and laws.” Satan has launched an all-out attack against God, His law, and His faithful followers. It states that he wears out the saints of the Most High and opposes God’s law.

The obvious question is, why does the devil want to change God’s law? We want to answer that today because the answer reveals Satan’s strategy to deceive millions. We don’t need to be deceived because the Bible clearly reveals his strategy. This is why it is so valuable to study the Bible as we are doing.

Let’s examine what the Bible says about why Satan encourages people to believe that God’s law has been altered. Turning to 1 John 3:4, we see that sin is defined as the transgression of God’s law—often called “lawlessness” in modern Bible translations. Satan’s goal in attempting to change God’s law is to create confusion about what sin truly is. Currently, some believe that killing, sexual immorality, perversion, and stealing are not sins. This deception aligns with Satan’s purpose: to make us think that God’s law has been changed and that sin no longer exists.

**Why might he want us not to understand what sin is? Two reasons:**

**1. Romans 6:23 says, “The wages of sin is death.” Satan aims for us to die—he wants us to persist in willful sin so that we face eternal death in hellfire. He despises God and seeks to hurt Him by causing as many humans as possible to be lost, which is why he encourages us to keep sinning.**

**2. Romans 6:23 (second part): “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” Although everyone has sinned and deserves eternal separation from God, He has provided His Son to pay the penalty for our sins. Jesus died on the cross so we wouldn't have to die for our sins ourselves. However, we must do something to receive this gift—accept it. Salvation cannot be earned; it is a gift from God. Still, we need to surrender our lives entirely to God and accept Him as our Savior and Lord.**

**The only way we will truly recognize our need for a Savior from sin is first to recognize that we are sinners. What does God use to reveal our sinfulness? Rom. 7:7 (Answer: His law.) If Satan alters the law, he can deceive us into thinking we aren't sinful and that we don't need a Savior. That's why he “thinks to change times and laws.” Our eternal life depends on this understanding. It's a serious matter.**

**Let's take a moment to refresh our memories of what God's law says. See Exodus 20:3-17. These are the ten commandments. Their meaning is clear. But we have seen attacks on these laws by two groups.**

**The first group to attack God's law is secular humanism. In many parts of our country, the display and teaching of God's law have been outlawed. We live in a very secular society today. Few people believe in moral absolutes. Our society believes anything is acceptable.**

**Secularism claims it has found freedom outside the moral constraints of God's law. However, in reality, secular society faces defeat. Laws are created to safeguard our happiness and well-being. God isn't trying to ruin our fun; He understands that true happiness comes from accepting Him and living according to His law. The increase in crime, broken families, and suffering today stems from the belief that there are no moral absolutes—that we can do whatever feels right in the moment. God doesn't want us to ruin our lives through sin. While He is willing to forgive us if we repent, the pain, scars, and consequences from sin often cannot be undone. There will always be consequences to our actions.**

**The second group that opposes God's law might be unexpected—it originates from within Christianity itself, rather than from secular humanists. I say this because some Christians**

**have promoted harmful teachings that have caused many to believe that God's law is abolished and that there are no longer ten commandments from God. These teachings have led to negative consequences.**

**Four false teachings circulating in some Christian circles lead people to disobey God's law. I want to cover each of these four false teachings with you so that you can be aware of them and know what the Bible has to say about them, because they are part of the little horn's strategy to make people believe the law has been changed.**

**The first false teaching is often stated as, "Since we are saved by grace, we no longer need to follow God's law." This is merely another tactic of the enemy to lead us into sin. Is salvation by grace a license to sin? What does the Bible say? See Rom. 6:1, 2. We are not permitted to break God's law (which, remember, is the Bible's only definition of sin) while we are under grace. See Rom. 6:14, 15. Grace does not free us from the responsibility to obey. Once we are saved by grace, we are even more responsible to obey.**

**Let me illustrate. Imagine a police officer pulls you over for speeding. Legally, you are at fault and responsible for your actions. However, if you sincerely apologize, the officer might say, "I can see you're sorry. I'm going to forgive you—your ticket is dismissed, and you're free to go." This act of forgiving despite guilt is an example of grace. So, what do you feel you are under—the law or grace? (Answer: grace.) The officer's mercy shows you grace.**

**Now, do you speed off and try to break the law again? No, because you're under grace, not the law. The false teaching might suggest you can ignore the speed limit, but in reality, being under grace makes you more cautious, not reckless. When God's grace saves us from sin, it doesn't lead us to sin intentionally. Instead, we become more careful, understanding that grace cost Jesus His life on the Cross. We don't want to sin and, even when tempted, we choose to love Jesus and resist.**

**The second teaching that often misleads people from obeying God's law states, "We don't need to keep the Ten Commandments anymore. The law of love now governs us." Let's examine what God's Word says.**

**See Matthew 22:35-40 highlights that the core message is in verse 40: "On these two commandments hang all the law." Loving God and loving our neighbor summarize the essence of the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments focus on loving God, while the last six emphasize loving others. Without these commandments, we wouldn't know the proper way to love God or others. While we are called to love, Jesus did not say**

**His commandments were abolished. Instead, He reminded the Jews—who had forgotten love—that the commandments guide us on how to love God and others.**

**The third teaching that leads people to think God's law has been changed says, "Jesus kept the law so we don't have to." This is similar to "We are not under the law but under grace." Let's look at John 14:15. Jesus says He wants us to keep His commandments if we love Him. This is clear, isn't it? See 1 John 5:2, 3. If we truly love Jesus, we will not consider it a burden to obey His law because we want to love God and our fellow man.**

**The fourth teaching is arguably the most harmful because it suggests two paths to salvation. It states that there are two "dispensations": one in which people are saved by obeying the law in the Old Testament, and another where salvation is by grace in the New Testament. What is the Bible's perspective on this?**

**See John 14:6. There is only one way to eternal life, and that is through Jesus. No Old Testament person was ever saved by works. See Gen. 6:8 and Ex. 33:17. Noah and Moses both found grace.**

**Heb. 4:2 "The gospel was preached unto them as well as unto us." "Them" refers to the people who lived in the Old Testament (see Heb. 3:16-19 and 4:1, 2). The gospel was preached to them just as it is preached to us. Eternal life comes solely through faith in Jesus' shed blood. Old Testament believers looked forward to the Cross with faith, while New Testament believers look back to it with faith. However, after salvation, obedience becomes essential for all.**

**As shown, the four reasons some offer for ignoring God's commandments conflict with Scripture. We must be cautious of these. Understanding Satan's strategy reveals it as merely part of his plan to trap us in sin. He aims to prevent us from recognizing our need for a Savior and from ceasing sin, because he desires us to accept the wages of sin—death.**

**But when we look at Calvary, we see the immense cost of sin—it caused the death of God's own Son. As we look at Jesus hanging on the Cross, we want to invite Him into our hearts to cleanse us of sin and guide our lives, don't we? I am so thankful that our own works do not save us, aren't you? We would all be lost, wouldn't we, because we have all sinned? But I am thankful that the power of Jesus' grace, which saves us from sin, will also free us from its power so that we can obey Jesus as our Lord.**

**As you prayerfully consider this topic, I want you to know that we are here to help answer any questions you might have. If you have questions, please get in touch with us at <https://freechristianbooks.us>.**