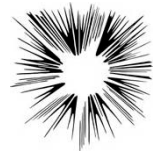




# Grace Snap Shot

“Viewing life through the lens of God’s grace!”



## An Interview with Saint Paul #2

Written by Art Henkel (Paul’s answers are straight from Philipians chapter 3 ‘The Message’)

**Q. Paul, I know that you’ve shared this before but could you remind us of what you said about Old Covenant religious leaders?**

*A. Steer clear of the barking dogs, those religious busybodies, all bark and no bite. All they’re interested in is appearances – knife-happy circumcisers, I call them.*

**Q. You sure have a way of telling it like it is. Tells us, what’s the difference between a so called ‘barking dog’ and a real believer who’s being used of God?**

*A. The real believers are the ones the Spirit of God leads to work away at this ministry, filling the air with Christ’s praise as we do it. We couldn’t carry this off by our own efforts, and we know it – even though we can list what many might think are impressive credentials.*

**Q. What credentials are you referring to?**

*A. You know my pedigree: a legitimate birth, circumcised on the eight day; an Israelite from the elite tribe of Benjamin; a strict and devout adherent to God’s law; persecuting Christians; a meticulous observer of everything set down in God’s law book.*

**Q. Some would see that as quite impressive, like the Old Covenant religious leaders who are always drawing attention to their credentials. Do you find these credentials are important and useful?**

*A. The very credentials these people are waving around as something special, I’m tearing up and throwing out with the trash along with everything else I used to take credit for.*

**Q. Why?**

*A. Because of Christ. Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant – dog dung. I’ve dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ and be embraced by Him. I didn’t want some petty, inferior brand of righteousness that comes from keeping a list of rules when I could get the robust kind that comes from trusting Christ – God’s righteousness.*

**Q. So you’re saying you gave that all up for something better?**

*A. I gave up all that inferior stuff so I could know Christ personally, experience His resurrection power, be a partner in His suffering, and go all the way with Him to death itself.*

Well Paul, once again it’s been very insightful talking with you. I’ve got a lot more questions to ask but perhaps we’ll save them for another day.