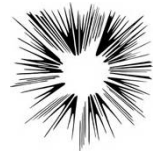




# Grace Snap Shot

*"Viewing life through the lens of God's grace!"*



## Cheap-E Ticket

Written by Art Henkel

If you have flown anywhere over the past several years I'm sure you've gone on line to try and find an inexpensive flight to your destination. As you know there are many sites to check out, you might even have your favorite one that you recommend to others. You no doubt have also come across sites that you wouldn't recommend. Like the sites that offer you cheap flights initially but once you've finished going through all the steps to purchase a ticket, you end up spending a lot more than you had planned.

Let's say you're searching on line for a ticket and you stumble across a site called "Cheap-E Flights."

When you land on this site you're hit with an attractive banner that boldly states, "\$50 Flights Anywhere." This grabs your attention so you type in your travel destination, flight dates and seat selection, all for \$50. This is fantastic! But wait, your not quite finished because up on the screen comes some additional questions and information or you.

1. Did you want a pilot with this flight? Please add an additional \$449.00
2. Did you want a seat inside the plane? Please add an additional \$ 59.99
3. Did you want a washroom on board? Please add an additional \$130.00
4. Did you want to arrive at the right destination? Please add an additional \$75.00
5. Did you want proof that you purchased this ticket? Please add an additional \$2.50

By the time all things are added up, your Cheap-E Flights ticket has ended up costing you \$765.50 plus taxes, airport fees and a lot of headaches. Not quite what you had in mind.

This reminds me of far too many people who come to faith in Christ and soon hear a message from someone wrapped up in self effort religious duty that states, "What Jesus has done for you is great but it's not the end of the story. Sit down and I'll give you the rest of the information, and outcomes the following nonsense;

1. Did you want to enjoy your salvation? Please add 8 hours of service per day
2. Did you want assurance with your salvation? Please add 5 hours of repenting per day
3. Did you want peace of mind with your salvation? Please add 3 hours of worship per day
4. Did you want healing and blessings with your salvation? Please add 4 hours of prayer per day
5. Did you want understanding and wisdom with your salvation? Please add 5 hrs of Bible study per day

By the time all things are added up, your free gift of salvation is demanding 25 hours of committed effort per day.

What a deal!

Of course this kind of nonsense has been going on for years. Paul was addressing similar faulty thinking when he wrote a letter to the church in Galatia. The Galatians that he wrote to were young believers who had responded to the 'Good News' message of God's love through Jesus but were soon approached by some religious junkies who spewed out a mixed message of law and grace that stated, "What Jesus has done for you is wonderful, now here's what you must do for Him."

The fact is that all of your doing put together will not add one thing to your salvation. How can you add anything to Jesus' "It is finished" work? It's not possible. Of course things like serving others, praying and studying scripture are not wrong but their purpose is not so you can earn the right to prior something out of the hands of your reluctant Heavenly Father. No, they are a natural outflow of one's life in Christ. There are no surcharges or hidden fees when it comes to your salvation. Jesus' work is complete and final. Everything you need has been paid by Him and is found in Him. On your life journey He is your pilot, your plane, your runway, our flight pattern and your destination. Enjoy the flight!