



Grace Snap Shot

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



Hammer Time

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Have you ever put your trust in someone or something, only to be let down? Have you cheered for your favorite sports team that never seems to get to the finals let alone win the championship? Have you purchased something only to find out that it wasn't as good as the advertisement claimed it to be? How about the trip that was so fun to plan but ended up being a nightmare of an experience? I'm sure we all have our stories to tell. If we could get together we could spend an entire week laughing and crying as we listened to each other's life experiences.

Sometimes the disappointments that we come across are not the fault of someone or something else, but instead they are self induced. This often happens when we make an error in judgment by placing our hope in the wrong things. When we've expected a certain outcome but have trusted in the wrong thing to bring it about. For example; tomorrow you have an early morning appointment that you can't afford to miss. You have to wake up in time to shower, have breakfast and do some final prep work. In all your wisdom you decide to put a hammer on your night table beside your bed, trusting it will wake you up in the morning. Now it's not the hammer's fault that you ended up sleeping in and missing your appointment. The hammer was never made for that purpose, so don't get mad at it. The fact is you had some faulty thinking going on. You were expecting the hammer to deliver a result that it just couldn't. Now if you wanted to nail something together, you would have found the hammer to be a very useful friend. Hammers, hammer!

In the New Testament we see Paul speaking to well meaning Christians who had faulty thinking in regards to the Law. They had trusted Jesus for their salvation but had the opinion that trying to fulfill the Law would help them live out a God honoring, righteous life. Hello! Did you ever hear of the guy who put a hammer on his night table?

Now the Law is not at fault here. There's nothing wrong with the Law. The fact is that the Law was never intended to produce righteousness. If it could then Jesus would never have had to come to earth, die on a cross, lie in a tomb and be raised from the dead. The very purpose of the Law was to bring man to the end of himself, to a place where only Jesus was seen as the answer. Jesus Himself said that he didn't come to abolish the law but to fulfill it.

Today Jesus is still the answer. He is the way, the truth and the life. If you are in Him, you stand righteous before God. Not because of your right doing but because of who you are in Him. There's no need for you to try and live by the Law. Not even a **little Law**.