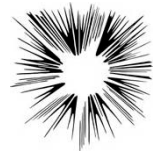




# Grace Snap Shot

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



## Intruders

Written by Art Henkel

This weekend throughout the world, believers will be gathering for church services where thousands upon thousands of sermons will be preached all in the name of the gospel. The odd thing is that many of these so called 'gospel' messages won't even mention the person of Jesus or at best they will speak of Jesus plus something else.

This is actually nothing new. In the book of Galatians Paul had to address a situation where Judiazers were telling gentile Christians that they had to live by the Law. They were basically saying, "It's nice that you have come to faith in Christ but now let us tell you how you have to live." Paul explained to the Galatians that the gospel they were listening to was really a twisted version that was no good news at all and that would only lead to confusion and frustration. Sound familiar?

The other day I saw something that reminded me of the importance of resting in the finished work of Jesus. While I was doing some yard work, I noticed a mother duck and her 6 ducklings walking in single file. They were on a journey from a pond to a larger lake. For these little ones this marathon hike included swimming down a small stream, walking along a fence line, crossing a street and then heading through another yard which neighbored the lake.

I watched for several minutes as this parade of life waddled past me. As momma duck neared the roadside she (pardon the pun) ducked into a nearby bush followed by her chirpy little family. As I waited for their reappearance I was surprised to suddenly hear the loud quaking sound of distress. Within seconds of wondering what had caused such a ciao I spotted a rather sneaky cat running across the road with a duckling in its mouth. I shouted, "Oh, the insanity of it all."

I think Paul must have had similar thoughts as he watched his much loved Galatians being swayed by the false teachings of the Judiazers. In Gal. 5:7 he asks "You were running superbly! Who cut in on you...?" Paul knew that the moment one submits himself to a system of rule keeping, he has basically squandered Christ's hard-won gift of freedom. The truth is that neither our conscientious religion nor our disregard of religion really amounts to anything. It's Jesus that counts. Who he is, what he's done and life in him.

Friends, in life there will be all kinds of teachings that cross your path. Don't allow yourself to be distracted from the simplicity of the good news message by those who teach another gospel. Watch out for those cats.