



# Grace Snap Shot

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



## Smudginess

Written by Art Henkel

Recently one of our sons borrowed our vehicle to go snowboarding up at Whistler and Blackcomb Mountains. When he returned the car, he told me about his adventurous drive back from the ski hills.

It seems that he wasn't quite sure how to use the fluid release for the windshield wipers. There was more than enough fluid to use, he just didn't know how to get at it. No matter what he tried, he couldn't get it working so instead of a nice clean windshield to look through, he was stuck trying to peer through a smudgy mess. Rather than enjoying the ride, his whole trip was spent concentrating on the mess right in front of his eyes. It was not only distracting but also dangerous. It wasn't until he pulled over and stopped to take a close look that he found how the release really worked. When that was discovered, it was just one simple push and surprise, a clean windshield appeared.

For many years my Jesus experience was very similar to our son's car ride. What started off to be a beautiful drive, unexpectedly turned out to be a far to frequent struggle of trying to peer through the muck of Christian **religion**. I'd experience momentary glimpses of beauty but it always seemed to be interrupted with miles of smudginess.

With good intentions I'd try to rectify the situation, with what I thought would do the trick. "I'll just apply a little more Christian discipline, be more committed to Christian activity, and try to get more God in my life." The approach was all wrong and it only made the situation worse. I thank the Lord that one day I pulled over and stopped to take a closer look.

What I found was that my life in Jesus had nothing to do with Christian religion. And whenever I tried to combine the two it only made things smudgy. You see, in Christ things are finished and complete but with Christian religion, nothing is finished. There's always more to be done, always some self propelled tactic, or enterprise that will get you closer to the One. As a Jesus Person I'm not trying to get more of God because I understand is my very life. The "Gotta keep going" of Christian religion has been replaced with the "It is finished" of Jesus. I'm experiencing the beauty of Jesus in me, living His life through me, as me. I don't have to add anything to his completed work or my position in Him. Today, I'm happy to report that the smudginess is gone. All thanks to Jesus.