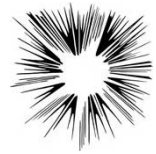




# Grace Snap Shot



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

## The Problem With Sand

Written by Art Henkel

Donna-Mae and I had just parked our car in a brand new shopping mall’s outdoor parking lot. Over each of the parking lanes there were large suspended structures which posted a height restriction. Each of these structures was supported by two tall cement, steel columns standing on both sides of the lanes. As we were walking to the store we couldn’t help but notice something odd in the next parking lane. There we saw a lady standing beside her car which had just been crushed by one of these overhead structures. I mean the whole thing (columns and all). It seems that a moving truck had hit the overhead structure and the whole thing had come tumbling down, right on her car.

This seemed really odd to us. How could this happen in a public parking lot that had only been open for a few months? There had to have been some pretty strict building codes to be followed for the sake of public safety. Obviously something was up (well actually lying down).

Donna-Mae and I both decided to play private inspectors as we took a little stroll over to the scene of the crime. On close inspection we found why this structure fell over. Yes, it was hit by a truck but we could see that both columns on either side of the parking lane had simply been sitting in about 18’ of sand. On the bottom of each column there were large bolts but these bolts had not been utilized. As you know, sand may be good to put your feet in but not to build on. Someone’s in trouble!

This reminds me of the tale of the wise and foolish men that Jesus spoke of. As a child I grew up singing a song about it;

<i>The wise man built his house upon the rock</i>	<i>The foolish man built his house upon the sand</i>
<i>The wise man built his house upon the rock</i>	<i>The foolish man built his house upon the sand</i>
<i>The wise man built his house upon the rock</i>	<i>The foolish man built his house upon the sand</i>
<i>And the rains came tumbling down</i>	<i>And the rains came tumbling down</i>
<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>	<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>
<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>	<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>
<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>	<i>The rains came down and the floods came up</i>
<i>And the house on the rock stood firm</i>	<i>And the house on the sand went splat!</i>

I remember growing up hearing how the wise man was the Christian in the story and the foolish man was the unsaved person in the story. The rock represented Jesus and the sand represented things other than Jesus. To me this was a salvation story.

I'd like to present a little different twist on this tale. What if both wise and foolish men were Christians? Both were new creations in Christ standing righteous before God, their destiny secured. The difference is in their understanding and experiential living. The wise man walks through life here on earth enjoying the freedom, rest and blessings of life in Jesus. He realizes the Christian life is Jesus living His life in and through him. The foolish man is the person that has faulty thinking about his identity and so constantly struggles with self effort religion which can look real good and stable but is really only about 18" deep. He walks through life kind of hit and miss, not quite knowing all that he has in Jesus. His life is a life of ongoing effort and striving for what's already his. Paul called the Galatians, "foolish Galatians" because they were trying to mix the covenant of law with the covenant of grace. I say to you, "don't be a foolish builder." Jesus' work is complete and final. It's all been done for you so put your feet in the sand and enjoy your secured life. "*Don't worry, be happy.*"