



Grace Snap Shot

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



Visiting the Zoo

Written by Art Henkel

It was a great day to visit the local zoo. As my family and I strolled throughout the grounds we were able to view some pretty incredible animals. We stood amazed as we watched the tiger and lions being fed through a chain link fence just five feet from us. As we stood on a tall platform, we actually got to touch the top of the giraffe's heads as they came right up to the edge of their enclosure. Our stomachs slightly turned as we watched the wild pigs rooting in the dirt of their pen. We laughed as the monkey's chased each other in their cage. And we quietly stood gazing at the silver tripped grizzly bear sleeping in its compound.

We enjoyed our time of observing an incredible assortment of wild life. Some animals that we had only heard of prior to our visit were found standing right before us in plain view. As enjoyable as our experience had been I couldn't help but notice one very obvious thing. None of these animals were in their natural habitats. All of them were being contained in some kind of fenced in enclosure. Now, I realize the need for this but I couldn't help but think that this is not really what God had intended for them.

Did you know that there are many people who live their lives just like the animals we found in the zoo? They are beautiful people, but they are not experiencing the life that God intended for them. Instead of living freely and with divine purpose, they find themselves enclosed and hemmed in by self-effort, systems of rules, and even religious practices. In their honest pursuit to discover freedom and purpose they have unintentionally entrapped themselves in dead end works.

You were made for relationship not self achievement. Your Heavenly Father loves you not because of what you do but because of who you are. The good news is that Jesus holds the key to set you free from an enclosed life. *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* John 8:36. Jesus was speaking to Jewish people when He made these comments. People who lived under the demanding weight of the old covenant. Just a few verses prior to this He stated *'Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'* By knowing Jesus 'the truth' and what He has accomplished on the cross, you and I can experience incredible freedom in life. Freedom from; *Enslaving Sin *Condemnation *Fear of man *Religious duty *Human striving. Live in freedom my friends and discover your natural habitat. The refreshing freedom that only comes through knowing life in Jesus *'...the way, and the truth, and the life...'* **John 14:6**