# If You Could Just Understand Grace ..... You're All Set!



"Religion" can get so complicated!

Just for a minute, forget about what
you were taught at your church.

Don't think about your life or
achievements or your failures. It's not
about you or the people around you-it's about <u>Jesus</u>. See if you can agree
with this.....

### "THE GRACE OF GOD"

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:" (Ephesians 2:8, KJV).

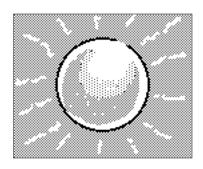
Salvation comes by grace. What is grace?

GRACE IS UNMERITED FAVOR--<u>A GIFT</u>! The Bible says very clearly---we can't work our way to heaven--we are saved BY GRACE!

The GRACE OF GOD is that He sent His Son Jesus, to die on the cross and be raise from the dead, that we might be saved from death, and receive the FREE GIFT of eternal life.

CUT--HERE

# The Pearl



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#### Matthew 13:45-46

"...the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant, seeking beautiful pearls,

...who, when he had found one pearl of great value...

"....went and sold all that he had and bought it."

Why is this story in the Bible? How is this example like "the kingdom of God?" The secret is knowing the identity of the players in the story!

The merchant, is Jesus Christ! Jesus became a man, gave up everything He had, offered His life as payment! He laid down His life.

But what is it that has such great importance to Him? What does the pearl represent..?

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## **Do You Belong to Jesus?**

"Once you were under Gods curse, doomed forever for your sins. You went along with the crowd and were just like all the others, full of sin, obeying Satan, the mighty prince of the power of the air, who is at work right now in the hearts of those who are against the Lord.

All of us used to be just as they are, our lives expressing the evil within us, doing every wicked thing that our passions or our evil thoughts might lead us into.

We started out bad, being born with evil natures, and were under God's anger like everyone else.

But God is so rich in mercy; he loved us so much that even though we were spiritually dead and doomed by our sins he gave us back our lives when he raised Christ from the dead,

only by his undeserved favor (grace) have we ever been saved--and lifted us up from the grave into glory along with Christ, where we sit with him in heavenly realms--all because of what Christ Jesus did.

And now God can always point to us as examples of how very, very rich his kindness is, as shown in all he has done for us through Jesus Christ. Because of his kindness you have been saved through trusting Christ.

And even trusting is not of yourselves; it too is a gift from God.

Salvation is not a reward for the good we have done, so none of us can take any credit for it.