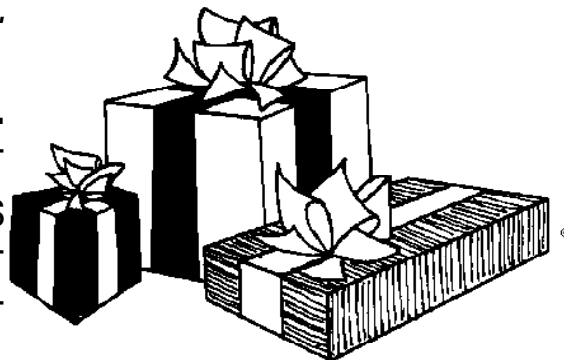


## 4. GRACE

*"But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2).*

Sin separates us from God. God's grace offers us the free gift of the forgiveness of our sins (Rom. 4:15). Even though the gift is free to all, some people will not accept the gift.



How do we accept the free gift of the forgiveness of our sins? We can learn by studying about the apostle Paul. He was not a follower of Jesus when Jesus lived here on earth.

Paul helped persecute the Christians. His name was Saul before he became a Christian. Saul was watching when the men threw stones at Stephen and killed him. The men placed their coats at Saul's feet, and Saul "was consenting unto his death," which means he approved of killing Stephen (Acts 7:58; 8:1).

Saul was a Jew, and he thought the Christians were not pleasing to God. Saul helped put Christians in jail (Acts 8:3). On his way to Damascus, Saul saw a bright light and heard Jesus speak. Jesus told Saul, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be **told** thee what thou must do." God's grace gave Saul a chance to learn what he needed to do to be saved. Saul could obey what he was later told to do, or he could refuse, and be lost.

Saul was blind. He had to be led into the city. He prayed, and did not eat for three days (Acts 9:8-11). God sent a man named Ananias, who healed Saul's eyes.

What was Saul **told** to do? Ananias said, "And now why tarriest thou? arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." When Saul did what he was told, he accepted God's free gift of salvation.

### **True and False**

Write "T" for true, and "F" for false:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Saul was saved when he saw the bright light.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Saul was blind for three days.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Saul had helped put Christians in jail.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. God's grace is like a free gift to us.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Saul accepted God's grace when he was baptized to wash away his sins.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. People can refuse God's grace.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Ananias told Saul what he had to do to be saved.

## Alfred's Example

Alfred was a homeless man. He longed for a nice hot bath, but he couldn't afford one. Alfred started living in a shelter for those who were homeless. He did work so he could stay there every day. Alfred cleaned, took out the trash, and kept up the yard. But he still longed for a nice hot bath.

Mr. Stumbo told Alfred he could have one free bath every week. He would even give Alfred the soap. But Alfred had to agree to take a bath every week.

Alfred accepted the free gift. He took a bath every week.

1. Was the bath a free gift?
2. Was Alfred forced to take a bath?
3. Would Alfred have been given the free bath if he did not agree to take a bath every week?
4. Did Alfred have to do something to accept his free gift of a bath?



Color this picture of Alfred taking a bath. Remember that the bath was a free gift from Mr. Stumbo. To accept the free gift, Alfred had to agree to take a bath every week. He also had to take the bath. God offers us the free gift of salvation. To accept the free gift, we must be baptized and agree to obey God.





Use the code to learn the words to a verse which tells us one way God shows his love for us:



5:8

**NOTE TO THE CUSTOMER:** Learning the meaning of Bible words can be interesting. As you teach them from **RWS #7, Understanding Bible Words, Part 1**, they will learn many of the things they need to know before becoming Christians.

It is the teacher's job to prepare the children in his or her class so they will be ready to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. **RWS #7** instructs on these vital topics: Testament, Mediator, Sin, Grace, Saved, Heaven, Hell, Faith, Repent, Confess, Baptism, Worship, and Faithfulness. It is never too early to teach children what they must do to be saved! These lessons encourage the student to be baptized only when they are old enough to fully understand. Students learn that babies and young children are in a safe condition. The topic of hell is covered truthfully, but tactfully. When I first taught the lesson on hell, one of my students was an extremely sensitive child. He would question his parents about topics that troubled him, and might even have nightmares if he was upset about a concept. With this in mind, I talked to his mother both before and after the class. My lesson on hell did not upset him, so I feel confident that it is suitable for other children.

When the teacher (or parent) finishes **RWS #7**, I highly recommend going on to **RWS #8, Understanding Bible Words, Part 2**, which clarifies the meaning of words all Christians need to understand: Disciple, Blessings, Eternal, Commandments, Devil, Saints, Temptation, Mercy, Submit, Advocate, Fellowship, and Zeal.

We must not **assume** that our children understand the meaning of words they study each day in Bible class. Children studying these lessons will be better prepared to grasp concepts taught in other classes.