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Bargain-Counter Religion

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BARGAIN-COUNTER RELIGION

Amos 2:4-6

INT:

We live in competitive world. Some good, some bad.

1. Commercially: Come trade with me. Profitable.

2. Socially: Come run with me. Profitable.

3. Politically: Come vote for me. Profitable.

Religiously: Come be like me. Profitable.

TMI a matter of choice except religion. None really.

Religious shopping deadly as playing with a cobra.

I. TOO MANY PICK THEIR RELIGION LIKE GOING TO A SALE.

A. Visit churches like counters at a dept. store.

B. Many counters prepared, like many denominations.

1. BARGAIN COUNTER. Sure to like this easy way.
   a. Acts 16:31. All you have to do is believe.
   c. Suggests this cost you nothing; yet passes plate at every service and puts you in the hardest working folk I know.
   d. Know only one member who was consistent.

1. Took them at their doctrine. Did nothing!

2. REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE. Think should appeal to all.
   a. Every man's conscience is his guide. As many guides as have men. No authority.
   b. How it works: Ill. Unitarian preacher and "hell-fire and brimstone preacher" One of is lying and these folks know it!
   c. Mark 16:15-16.

3. HALF-OFF or HALF PRICE SALE. Predestination.
   a. God does it all. Nothing you can do.
      (1) Nothing sinner can do to be saved.
      (2) Nothing Christian can do to be lost.
   c. God does it all vs. our partnership with Him.

4. CONVENIENT TERMS. Suited to man's desires.
   a. Religion watered down to man's wants regardless of the standard in the Bible.
   b. Bible designed to challenge and raise man.
c. Ill. Lawyer: "I've found the kind of religion I've been looking for!"

d. Ill. Soldier: Drunk and filthy on Sun. morning. "Where's the nearest church. Got to go to worship and get forgiven for all this."


f. Forgiveness if accept God's standard.

INV: Concluding the figure used in this lesson.

God's religion like going into store where the merchandise is the best. Prices fixed. Pay the price get the best. John 8:31-32.

"By the truth and sell it not." Prov. 23:23.

Truth is: You cannot be saved in unbelief. Believe.
Nor in your sins. Acts 2:38. Baptized