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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.
 - then 4. Religiously : Come be like me. Profitable.
- ALL 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.
- b. Eph. 2:8. God saves you by grace. Easy.
- 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.
- b. Proof text: Ephesians 1:3-12. Read 2:8-10.
- 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.

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- 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."
- e. No forgiveness for that. Matt. 15:8-9.
- 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.

*Suppose -
Lamb's Soul a leg. 5?*

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

Truth is: You cannot be saved in unbelief.
Nor in disobedience. Acts 17:30.
Nor in silence. Matt. 10:32.
Nor in your sins. Acts 2:38.

Believe.
Repent.
Confess.
Baptized