

RELIGION: IT'S NOT LIKE BUYING A NEW CAR!

Religion today has become a self-service, have it your own way commodity, full of clever sales gimmicks. One can pick and choose from a seemingly endless amount of sources to create a religion that is comfortable, convenient, and conscience soothing. I wonder why Jesus, Stephen, Paul and others did not choose this approach, but instead suffered greatly for their faith and duty.

Different groups use different tactics to attract potential "customers". Some use entertainment as a means of attraction. They have the most exciting services and activities with raffles, plays, bands, and Krispy Kreme doughnuts. Others preach love for all, but what they really mean is universal acceptance and no accountability. Everyone is taken into these groups no matter what is believed or practiced and there are no real consequences for sin. Still others will use the old "health and wealth" argument. That is, those who are part of this group, give their money, and truly believe, will be healthy and well off monetarily and the rest just aren't faithful enough. The sheer number of "packages" available can be overwhelming.

This process is akin to buying a new car. One must settle on the brand name desired, then settle on a particular model that is appealing. Once these steps have been taken, one must decide on the options that suit their desires most. Next comes haggling over the price, obtaining a loan, and then driving it home, to be paid for over the next few years. Again, many take this approach when searching for a religion. But is it right?

No, it is not! The religion of Jehovah is not like this. Paul in Eph. 4:4-6 tells us that there is one body, spirit, hope, Lord, faith, baptism, God and Father. There are no makes and models of religion! There is no picking and choosing, there is only one true religion. Jesus says the very same in John 14:6. He also states that we will be judged on his words (John 12:48). I would hate to be standing before Christ at judgment day trying to answer for why I ignored the Scriptures and practiced my own religion! Examine the scriptures for yourself and see!

MJW