Who Wants a Bargain Counter Religion?
2 Samuel 24:24; I Chronicles 21:24
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INTRODUCTION
1. David had numbered Israel and God was displeased with it – I Chron. 21:7; 21:1.
2. Because of David’s sin, God gave him the choice of three things – I Chron. 21:12; 21:10:
   a. 3 years of famine.
   b. 3 months to be destroyed before his foes.
   c. 3 days of pestilence.
5. The Lord then stopped the angel that destroyed – I Chron. 21:15.
6. David then was told to set up an ALTAR in the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite – I Chron. 21:18.
7. David told Ornan he wanted to buy the threshing floor at “THE FULL PRICE” – I Chron. 21:22.
8. Ornan said he would GIVE it to him – I Chron. 21:23.
9. David said he would BUY IT because he would not offer to the Lord that which cost him nothing – 2 Sam. 24:24.
10. David was not hunting a “Bargain Counter” religion.
11. Sad, but true, thousands of people today are hunting a “Bargain Counter” religion.
   a. They want a religion that costs them nothing.
   b. They don’t want to:
      ii. To study – 2 Tim. 2:15.
      iii. To attend services – Heb. 10:25.
      iv. To live dedicated lives – Tit. 2:11 – 12.
      v. To give – 2 Cor. 9:7.
12. There is no way to serve God without sacrifice – Rom. 12:1.

I. JESUS DID NOT COME TO EARTH TO ESTABLISH AN EASY AND COMFORTABLE RELIGION.
   a. Jesus was not looking for something that cost Him nothing.
   b. He came to fulfill God’s purpose in Him – Eph. 3:11; Matt. 5:17.
   c. To fulfill that purpose, He had to keep the Father’s commandments – John 15:10; John 4:34; John 17:4.
   d. That purpose was the salvation of men – Luke 19:10; John 3:16.
   e. To carry out that purpose the church had to be bought and built:
      i. Jesus bought the church with His blood – Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25.
      ii. He built His church on Pentecost – Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47.
   f. He had to die to save man from sin – 1 Pet. 3:18; 1:18 – 19.
   g. He had to die on the cross to do away with the Law – Col. 2:14.
   h. He sought only one objective – that was to do the Father’s will – Matt. 26:36 – 44.
   i. Jesus was NOT hunting a “Bargain Counter” religion.

II. THE APOSTLES WERE NOT HUNTING A “BARGAIN COUNTER” RELIGION
   a. Peter said they had “LEFT ALL” to follow Jesus – Mk. 10:28 – 30.
b. Paul talked about the "LOT" of the Apostles – 1 Cor. 4: 9 – 14.
e. They were glad to “SPEND AND BE SPENT” for others – 2 Cor. 12:15.

III. THE EARLY CHURCH DID NOT WANT A “BARGAIN COUNTER” RELIGION.
a. The church in Jerusalem:
   ii. They taught the Word daily – Acts 5:42.
   iv. When scattered abroad, they went everywhere preaching the Word – Acts 8: 4.
   v. They took joyfully the spoiling of the their goods – Heb. 10:34.

IV. FELIX AND THOSE LIKE HIM ARE HUNTING A “BARGAIN COUNTER” RELIGION
   b. He made a plea for a “bargain counter” salvation.
   c. He wanted a selfish man's religion – he wanted to do as he pleased and serve God at his convenience.

V. WHAT DOES THE RELIGION OF CHRIST REQUIRE OF ME?
a. WORK – Phil. 2: 12; James 2:24; I Cor. 15:58; 2 Tim. 3: 16 – 17.
b. SACRIFICE – Rom. 12:1
   i. Sacrifice of TIME – Eph. 5:16.
   ii. Sacrifice of MONEY – I Cor. 16:1 – 2; 2 Cor. 9: 6 – 7; Acts 20:35.
   iii. Sacrifice of PLEASURE – 2 Tim. 3:4
   c. PRAYING – I Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; James 5:16.
   e. Some TEARS over the sins of men – I Cor. 5:2.
   f. When you put something into your religion it will mean something to you!

CONCLUSION
1. What kind of religion have you been hunting?
2. If it's been the “Bargain Counter” kind, I hope you can see from this lesson that kind of religion won't save.

Preached at River Bend 1996; Hebron Lane 1988; Underwood Hts. 1980