

**GARAGE SALE CHRISTIANITY**

Having grown up in a small community, I know that a garage sale is one way of meeting neighbors, making friends, and helping people by offering clothing and other items for less than retail prices. Garage sales are usually small endeavors, sometimes by one or more families who can "get rid of" old clothes, games, which they or their families have outgrown. If the quality of these items for sale is good, these articles can be used by other families and everyone benefits.

Big businesses sometimes take advantage of this concept by having within their store a table or aisle full of items they have marked down in price so that they might clear their inventory. Even some entire stores are built on the idea of a garage sale. A simple building, little or no frills, few clerks, and low prices usually mean that sales will be the real product.

And for the most part, we like this kind of merchandising. I have known of garage sales that have completely sold out of their goods. Rarely, have I known of a garage sale in which no one came. All of us like to think we can get something for less. When the inflation rate climbs and retail goods become higher priced, the neighborhood garage sales become even more appealing.

This "bargain basement" philosophy can also be applied to the religious world as well. Many people shop around for the church of their choice, much like we "shop around" for the best buy on a piece of furniture. In our looking, we are trying to discover the best, quality, longest warranty, best trained personnel; all at the lowest price. We also don't want any strings attached that would cause us to pay more, lose our service and put the warranty in jeopardy. My advice is, in looking for a church let's not take the "first thing that comes along" but be as choosy in our religious preference as we are in searching for a bargain at a garage sale.

Let us be as selective in choosing the right church, as we are in choosing the right shirt or blouse to wear. Does the church I am attending have as its goal going to heaven or making a lot of money? Does the church have the Bible as its guide or the Bible with many other books as well? Does my church take a real interest in me as a person or just my weekly contribution? Does my church have a grave concern for what is right, or who is right? Does my church offer a teaching program (such as Sunday school) that, teaches the Bible, or just good moral stories? Am I a member of church because my parents were, or because of own personal convictions?

These and other questions could be asked and should be asked when deciding what to do in looking for the right church. It is sad to me to see people become very particular in looking for a bargain at the grocery store, retail store, or garage sale, and then give very little thought at, all (if any) as to why they attend the church they do.

Having a Positive Spiritual Attitude (PSA) will include a scrutiny of the practices and doctrines of the church where one attends. And if that church doesn't meet up with what the Bible teaches, we should look for another, searching for a "bargain", a bargain that will eternally save our soul.