

A Better Deal?

Joe Slater

Inflation running wild has us hunting for bargains! We search the internet, scour the ads that come in the mail, and watch carefully for those unadvertised specials. We want a better deal! But what about our spiritual lives?

A better deal on merchandise involves lower cost, better quality, and wider availability so we don't waste gas shopping around. Let's apply those to Christianity.

Jesus purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Every Christian has been redeemed "*with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot and without blemish*" (1 Peter 1:19). No discount price could ransom us! Nor does the Lord mark down the cost of discipleship. Jesus said anyone who would come after Him must "deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matthew 16:24). Before we commit to being His disciple, we must count the cost, and it is great! "*Whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple*" (Luke 14:33).

As to quality, who could ask for anything greater than the religion of Christ? He saves "*to the uttermost*" (Hebrews 7:25). All spiritual blessings are found in Him (Ephesians 1:3). And His is the highest standard of ethics and morals.

Fortunately for everyone, Christianity is a universal religion. It is available worldwide to "whosoever will"! Jesus commissioned His apostles make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19), preaching His gospel to every creature in all the world (Mark 16:15). Christ broke down barriers like race, social standing, and gender as they relate to salvation: "*There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ*" (Galatians 3:28).

You won't find a better deal than being a Christian!

Your Child Deserves

...to hear you pray earnestly and often.

...to go to worship AND Bible Classes weekly.

...to see you sacrifice time and effort for the Lord.

...to hear you talk to others about becoming Christians.

...to go with you to visit the sick and bereaved.

...to be taught the Bible BY YOU.

...to hear you praise the church and her leaders.

...to never hear you speak evil of another person.

...to be encouraged by you to seek and obey the Truth always.

...to see you putting the Lord first in your giving.

...to know the Christ living in you.

Your child deserves the best!

"And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

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You Be You?

"You be you" is Satan's counterfeit to God's "Be holy, for I am holy."

I don't want to be me. God had to save me from me!

I stand with the apostle Paul, who said, "*I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me*" (Galatians 2:20).

--Dale Partridge (via Facebook)

PAY ATTENTION TO THE ADJECTIVES

It's been a long time since I have been in English class. I surely do wish I had paid better attention then - I honestly believe that it would have greatly improved my Bible reading and study today.

One aspect of grammar I do not remember studying much is the adjective (I must have slept through that whole semester!). An adjective is "a word used to describe or modify a noun," such as "white" in the phrase "a white house."

Now that our English primer is over, let's go to the Bible. I wonder sometimes if we pay too much attention to the nouns and too little to the adjectives when we read the Word of God. Contemplating the adjectives can bring the message of the Scriptures into full flavor. Take for example 1 Peter 2, where we read that each Christian is a stone (v.5), house (v.5), generation (v.9), priest (v.9), nation (v.9), and person (v.9) of God. While these should hold great meaning for us, please don't skip over the adjectives. Pay attention to what they add to the text. Christians are **living** stones in a **spiritual** house, a **chosen** generation, a **royal** priesthood, a **holy** nation, and **His own special** people.

Through the sacrifice of Christ, God is the one who can make us alive, immortal, elect, important, blameless, and exceptional. Because of this, it shouldn't be hard to remind ourselves of another adjective in 1 Peter 2 - that of concerning His "**marvelous** light" (i.e. salvation), and that should give us reason to "*proclaim the praises of Him*" (v. 9).

--Edd Sterchi (Campbellsville, KY)