

Is Your Religion Generic?

by Aubrey C. Belue

There is a lot said nowadays about "generics". Once, you could expect the "brand" name to be better than an "off-brand", but "generics" changed that. We have come to expect "generic" drugs, groceries, clothes, etc., to be just as good as the higher priced "brand" items. Does this lead us to think of all "generics" as equal to the "brand" name?

The fact is, there are still some instances where there is no "generic" substitute for the brand name--this is the case in religion! Mt 7:13 -- "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, that leads to life.." Clearly, all roads do not lead to heaven! Only one does! Biblically, there is no question that, in some instances, there is only one of a thing to be had:

- Jesus is the only Savior Jn 14:6
- His is the only salvation Acts 4:12
- His plan is the only plan Jn 12:48
- His church is the only church Eph 4:5; Acts 20:28; Eph 5:23-33
- His way of worship is the only way Jn 4:23, 24.

Thus, there is no valid "generic" Christ, or plan, or worship, or church--there is only one that is of any value.

One reason we "buy generic" is that we pay less for it. Or, looked at another way, "brand names" cost more. This is indeed true in religion. "Brand name" religion is much more expensive--it costs more in study, in commitment, in popularity, time spent, etc. To really serve God is more expensive than lip-service. But, it is a case of true value vs. going through a "form of Godliness". In this case, you "get what you pay for"! Don't settle for a "generic" religion. It is not worth it.