

### Is Your Religion Generic?

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.

By Aubrey C. Belue

### Notes and reminders:

Continue prayers for those on our list, for those in authority, and for the free course of the gospel and obedient hearers.

*"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."  
1 John 5:14*

Editor: Steve Frazier

### Meeting times of the church

Sunday:

9:00 am Bible classes

10:00 am Morning Worship

5:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday: 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

Phone: 904-210-5036

[www.mariettacoc.com](http://www.mariettacoc.com)

Hebrew 10:23—25 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works. Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as is the manner of some." But, exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

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## Glad Tidings

Romans 10:15

March 13, 2022

### The First Beatitude in Psalms

The book of Psalms opens with a beatitude. *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful,"* (Psa. 1:1).



This is a description of a God-centered life. Those who live this way are "blessed." That frequent biblical word contains more than what we call "happiness" in contemporary use. Our

*"I walk with the Savior each step of the way; I trust Him to guide me, by night and by day. Not dreading tomorrow, nor what it may bring. I'm safe in the keeping, of Jesus the King. With joy we shall enter, the city up there. Of wonderful beauty and mansions all fair; His own shall be changed and made like Him that day, Because we've walked with Him each step of the way." Each step of the way, by night and by day, Leads nearer the home eternally fair. Where we shall meet loved ones, awaiting us there; Who walked here with Jesus, each step of the way."*

*Thelma M. Jordan*

word "happy" has to do with "happenings." Something happens that makes us happy. The biblical concept of "blessedness" goes much deeper; it signifies a deep sense of joy based on your God-centered way of life. "Happiness" in modern use depends upon events or happenings; "blessedness" in biblical use is not influenced by events, it is based on one's good relationship with God. An illustration of this is - Jesus spoke to His disciples about the joy or blessedness they would have; in the same conversation He told them they would be hated and persecuted. "Blessed are you when men persecute you." The "man" or person of Psalms 1:1 possesses blessedness because his life is God-centered. There is a depth of comfort, satisfaction and contentment he enjoys regardless of the events of life because His life doesn't depend upon events but upon His relation-

ship with God.

He walks not in the council of the ungodly. Think about a child of God, staying close to his Father; walking with God, joining with others who walk with God. This child of God does not seek the counsel of the ungodly! This person gains motivation and guidance from his father, and good influence and association from his brothers and sisters. The God-centered person does not walk in the counsel of the ungodly. (Can you imagine attempting to gain self-improvement and spiritual stimulation by watching the Jerry Springer Show?)

He does not stand in the path of sinners. Apparently, the God-centered person is very careful about companionship. And, if you are walking in the pathway of righteousness (with God, toward heaven, following Christ) - why would you stand in the path of sinners? The path of sinners

moves in the opposite direction from your destination!

He does not sit in the seat of the scornful. It is possible that the Holy Spirit is picturing for us a steady digression away from God and into sin. Walking, standing and then sitting may replicate that digression away from God. The point is, the God-centered person doesn't do this. The godly person avoids sin, stays on the right pathway, shuns the counsel of the ungodly, etc. In other words, this kind of person stays far away from sin and close to God. The result is - this person is blessed; biblical blessedness, not worldly happiness.

Is your life God-centered? Are your thoughts, decisions, attitudes and actions ordered by the Word of God, or do you take the advice of deceitful, wicked men? The person who lives a God-centered life "shall be like a tree planted" in fertile, well-watered soil that brings forth fruit in it's season!

**By Warren E. Berkley**