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the remedy? Get rid of it and search for quality in religion by studying the Bible (Acts 17:11).

The religion of Christ as revealed in the New Testament is without defect or deceit. It is the new and living way, not the worn-out product of men (Heb. 10:20; 1 Pet. 1:18-19). It will take you down the narrow road and help you avoid the potholes of sin (Matt. 7:13-14). Too, unlike the lemon religions of men, it will not break down on you and leave you stranded on the way to your destination—heaven (1Pet. 1:3-9; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).

- Steven F. Deaton

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# Hebron Herald

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## “Used-Car” Religion

When you think of used-car salesmen, what comes to mind? Do you think of cheap suits, fast talk, less-than-honest dealing, or a “puffy” pitch? This is the typical impression we get from advertisements and dealings with such men. Most of us despise such. Surprisingly, many who avoid used-car salesmen often prefer a “used-car” preacher, except for the cheap suit.

Used-car salesmen will tell you what you want to hear. They will be positive about the car, while avoiding anything negative. “Used-car” preachers say what makes people feel good inside. They do not condemn them for their sins. Their “pitch” is free from pain and sacrifice. That is, they do not tell people they must give up sin, change their lifestyle, and wholly submit to God’s commands (Acts 2:38; 3:19).

Paul warned Timothy about such men.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears from the truth, and be turned aside to fables (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

“Used-car” preachers are filled with razzle-dazzle—and the people love to have it so! They are flashy, charismatic, can “sell” the gospel to anyone, and will use many “gimmicks” to get the job done. Holiday celebrations, pizza parties, softball teams, bicycle give aways, and many other things are used to draw in the children. Adults are appealed to with financial seminars, divorce recovery groups, singles dances, and “it’s a great place for your kids.” It is all carnality.

When a person buys a car from a stereotypical used-car salesman, what do they soon find out? The car is a lemon. Friend, if you have a “used-car” religion, pawned off on you by a “used-car” preacher, you have a lemon. What is the

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## Things Men Turn Upside Down

### Jesus' Kingdom

Men: Of this world—1,000 year reign in Jerusalem.

Bible: Not of this world (Jn. 18:36).

### Church

Men: Irrelevant.

Bible: Important & imperative (Eph. 5:25; Acts 20:28).

### Emotional Feelings

Men: Give knowledge of salvation.

Bible: Arise from knowledge of salvation (Acts 8:36-39).

### Salvation

Men: Salvation = Belief (Calvinism).

Men: Belief = Salvation + Baptism later (Baptist Doctrine).

Men: Baptism = Salvation + Belief later (Catholicism).

Bible: Belief + Baptism = Salvation (Mk. 16:16).

### Love for Man

Men: Accepting men in sin.

Bible: Telling men to get out of sin (2 Tim. 4:2; Rev. 3:19).

### Love for God

Man: Do what I want and claim it is out of love for God.

Bible: Keep His commandments (Jn. 14:15; 1 Jn. 5:1-3).

### Grace

Men: Permits.

Bible: Restricts (Titus 2:11-12).

### Law

Men: Legalism.

Bible: Liberty (Jas. 1:25; cf. Rom. 6:16-17).

- Steven F. Deaton

## Are You Yoked?

A yoke joins two things together, usually a team of animals that pull a plow or cart (cf. Num. 19:2; 1 Sam. 11:7). It often represents a hardship (1 Kgs. 12:4). In the New Testament, there are three spiritual yokes mentioned, two are a burden, one is a blessing.

**Yoke of the Law** When Judaizing teachers tried to bind the Law of Moses on Gentiles, Peter said, “Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?” (Acts 15:10). Paul called it a “yoke of bondage” (Gal. 5:1). Those who go back to the Law of Moses for religious authority are putting on a “yoke of bondage.” Seventh Day Adventists who use Exodus 20:8 for Sabbath keeping are under a “yoke of bondage.” Catholics who use Leviticus for a separate priesthood are under a “yoke of bondage.” Protestants who use the Psalms for instrumental music in worship are under a “yoke of bondage.” Are you under a “yoke of bondage?”

**Unequal Yoke** Paul warned, “Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Cor. 6:14). He explained righteousness and lawlessness have no fellowship; light and darkness have no communion; Christ has no accord with Belial (2 Cor. 6:14-15). Therefore, believers and unbelievers have not part together (2 Cor. 6:15). As such, the temple of God does not agree with idols (2 Cor. 6:16). Today, Christians have no business being religiously joined to non-Christians. A Christian cannot donate time or money to the Salvation Army. A Christian cannot condone denominational holiday plays or pageants by attending them. Are you “unequally yoked together with unbelievers?”

**The Lord's Yoke** Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light” (Matt. 11:29-30). Instead of a burden, the yoke Christ offers is a blessing. Those who labor under the bondage of sin can find rest. He will help in the struggle against Satan. He will comfort in times of sorrow. All one needs is to join with Christ by obeying His will (Mk. 16:16; Gal. 3:26-27; cf. 1 Jn. 5:1-3). Are you yoked to Christ?

- Steven F. Deaton