

February 9, 2018

“We Get Jesus with our Christianity”

This Wednesday all day long, we begin our Lenten journey toward Holy Week and Easter. So, you know one thing for sure—when you come to have ashes imposed during our worship service (6:00 pm in the Worship Center) then know that you get God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit with the deal. Lent is when we prepare for the resurrection of Christ. We also have this opportunity to make a good start toward our relationship in Christ. Lent is the penitential time we prepare for the joy of Easter.

Motivational speaker Bill Gove tells a story about Harry, who ran a small appliance store in Phoenix, Arizona. Harry was used to price-shopping by young couples. They would ask detailed questions about features, prices, and model numbers and one of them always took notes. Harry knew that when they left the store they would head for a discount appliance dealer to make comparisons. Still, Harry would patiently answer all their questions, even though it took more than a half hour at times.

When the couple announced that they were going to look around at some other places, Harry had a standard spiel to deliver. “I know that you’re looking for the best deal you can find,” he would say. “I understand that, because I do the same thing myself. I know you’ll probably go down to Discount Dan’s to compare prices. I know I would. But after you’ve done that, I want you to think of one thing. When you buy from Discount Dan’s, you get an appliance—a good one, I know, because he sells the same appliances we do. But when you buy here, you get one thing you don’t get at Dan’s. You get me. I come with the deal. I stand behind what I sell. I want you to be happy with what you buy. I’ve been here 30 years. I learned the business from my Dad, and I hope to be able to give the business over to my daughter and son-in-law in a few years. So, you know one thing for sure—when you buy an appliance from me, you get me with the deal. That means I’ll do everything I can to be sure you never regret doing business with me. That’s a guarantee.”

Harry would then wish the couple well and give them a quart of ice cream in appreciation of their stopping at his store. This is how Bill Gove finishes the story: “Now,” he says, “how far do you think that couple is going to get, with Harry’s speech ringing in their ears and a quart of ice cream on their hands in Phoenix, when it’s 110 degrees in the shade” (Bits and Pieces, November 1991)?

God in Christ inspired by the Holy Spirit is what we get when we confess our lives before the triune God. Best guarantee there is!

**Come, Worship
Stay, Learn
Go, Serve**