



*Thrift-Store Theology*

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# Thrift-Store Theology

## *Second-hand faith*

I love going to Thrift Stores. You never know where you might strike gold. The old Thrift stores were the best where stuff was piled up on discarded tables and you had to rummage around to look underneath. You never knew what you might find there. It might be a valuable collectible or something your grandfather used frequently but you can never find again. I've found old photography equipment, hard-to-find books, wool and cotton clothing, and some very unique furniture. These items were at one time very costly and used most regularly but have since been replaced with more up-to-date items that work better in our current times. But mostly I went to Thrift Stores because I thought I could find a bargain i.e. something of worth for little money.

Today our theology is like that. We pick and choose what we want to believe, finding it in our collective memories and since it doesn't cost much, we can easily discard it when we don't want it anymore. Bottom-line we want something that has the old-time charm but doesn't cost us much. After all, we really don't want to have to spend lots on something that we only need once in a while. So what if it's a bit shabby and we don't really know how to use it very well. It still looks just fine on our shelves where others can see it and we can refer to it like we know what it's all about.

The trouble is theology is not just an academic subject. By definition it is our knowledge of God. When we treat it as something we got at the Thrift Store we show ourselves to be caring more about bargains than we do about God. But then that is the way it's been since God created us. Why should it change now? Except if it doesn't, or rather if we don't, we will end up with something that doesn't quite hold up when we need it the most and soon we are the ones that are found in Thrift Stores.