



## Church Shopping

Tim Canup

When it comes to making a purchase, I can be very selective. I can spend many hours hunting and comparing products until I have found just the right one at the best price possible. It can be a wise practice to do such. Many disasters can be avoided by being a frugal shopper.

How about when it comes to the church we attend? Why do we attend where we do? Is it because we like the building where they meet, because of an eloquent preacher, or because it is the “in” place to go to church? We all have a reason for attending where we do. We then must ask, “Is our reason acceptable with God?”

When a person makes that decision to turn to God, and begins searching for a church to attend, on what basis will they choose? Many times a person looks for such things as what programs and activities they have. Perhaps they look for location or some other aspect of convenience. Too many times, when looking for a church, people choose that which fits their lifestyle, while ignoring what is important, truth.

By His grace, God has extended to man a plan for salvation. Man cannot altar or change that plan in any way, form or fashion; we can either accept it or reject it. As a part of that plan, God included the church. It was a divine institution, which was purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28); it belongs to Him (Matthew 16:18). God has instructed us how we are to be added to the church that belongs to Christ. We cannot join it; we are added by our obedience to the Gospel (Acts 2:47). Therefore, when we make that ever-important decision to follow God, we must search for the right church. Not right by our standards, but right by God’s. We should never look for the church that is willing to adjust to fit our lives, but rather, we should conform

our lives to fit the church, which belongs to Christ (Romans 12:1-2). After all, Christianity demands change (Matthew 16:24).

If you would like to know more about what to do to become a Christian, or if you would like to enroll in a correspondence course by mail (no cost or obligation to you), please print and return this coupon to: Back To The Bible, 221 Barnett Street, West Jefferson, NC 28694 or visit us online at: [www. Wjchurchofchrist.org](http://www.Wjchurchofchrist.org).

☐ Yes, I am interested in a correspondence course by mail.

☐ Yes, I am interested in an in-home Bible study.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (       )       -       \_\_\_\_\_