



How to Detect a Religious RACKET

1 Samuel 2:12-29 Pew Bible pg #315

- In this chapter of God's Word, we have a glaring example of a religious racket at work.
- Webster's defines a "racket" as a "fraudulent scheme, enterprise, or activity."
- This text reveals to us what a religious racket looks like and how we can detect one. They all have the same basic characteristics.

First, it emphasizes man-made _____ and traditions. vs. 12-14

- They substitute God's Word with their own man-made _____ and traditions. **Colossians 2:8**
- *"Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men... And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."* **Mark 7:7-9**
- God's Word is _____-sufficient and completely authoritative in all matters. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Second, it seeks to _____ over its followers. vs. 15-16

- When leaders think they are _____ God's Word, and they lord over God's people, get out!
- *"Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand."* **2 Corinthians 1:24**

**Third, it fleeces the flock to enrich its _____.
vs. 29**

- Eli and his sons were using the Old Testament offering system of Israel as an opportunity to enrich themselves.
- *“And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you...” 2 Peter 2:3*
- Should we _____ to God's work on earth? Absolutely! Not out of coercion and religious extortion, but rather out of _____ for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

In religious systems, true _____ is degraded into mindless rituals, man-made commands, or fleshly entertainment. But God is searching for true worshippers.

“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” John 4:23-24