

I had to admit, I was impressed at this liquor store. I was on a mission to get diapers and wipes for our grandson. My daughter had forgotten to bring them. We were with our oldest son and his five kids, so it was critical to our enjoyment for the evening. One poop and it would all be over! I couldn't let that happen.

The first stop on my 3.5 mile round trip ON FOOT was a liquor store. Usually there's more than just alcohol in a liquor store, but not this one. Every aisle, every shelf, every cooler was stocked with something to drink. I was so impressed that I had to tell the worker at the register:

“This is really a proper liquor store. Back in the day when I used to drink I would’ve loved this place! When I was in high school I actually had a goal that I would own a liquor store. After graduating I attended the local community college to take classes on business management. I dropped out after just 2 months because I was hung over so often I just couldn’t do it. That’s what being a teenage alcoholic will do to you I suppose!”

He laughed and said, “I used to want to own a liquor store too until I worked at one.”

Now we both laughed.

I told him my plans had changed a lot since then. Now I was writing a book about how people described the Bible in just 2 words. No more hangovers for me! I asked him for his 2 words.

“Not religion.”

He said that almost without hesitation.

It was as if he were waiting for someone to ask him that very question. Like he was prepared to give an answer. That might sound familiar to you.

*“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for*

*the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

1 Peter 3:15 NIV

To this man, Christ was not the founder of a religion. Clearly, the message of the Bible had made it to his heart. He believed the words of Jesus ...

*“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”*

John 14:6 NIV

To this man, his faith resulted in more than mere religion. It resulted in a relationship with GOD through Jesus. The proof of the pudding is in the eating of it. Having a vital relationship with GOD is as

much evidence that you've found the truth as anything. We don't have to stand in His empty tomb to know that He is risen. We know because He lives in us!

Woohoo!