

“God Without Religion”?

by Wayne Goff

Dr. Andrew Farley is a young preacher for a non-denominational, evangelical church in Lubbock, Texas who has become quite popular because of *some eye-catching titles* of books he has written. In 2011, he wrote *God Without Religion*. At first, I became angry with even the idea. I figured it was another anti-establishment approach to religion. Something like, “You can have God without going to church.” However, it turns out that my idea was wrong.

He defines “religion” as “to bind again” and implies that most religion enslaves you. So with his new(?) approach, you can be free to have God without the enslavement. That’s what he means by “God without religion.” Cute. It will sell a lot of books. But let’s look a little deeper.

Dr. Farley actually advocates that Jesus Christ died *once* for all sins -- past, present, and future. Once you’re saved, you’re saved -- no matter what you do. Thus you are **free** from the bondage of rules -- even the Ten Commandments. So he is promoting an *unconditional* grace based on the concept that Jesus has already paid the price for *all sins*, and once His blood is applied to you, then you’re heaven bound. Period.

You have to be a really good Bible student not to fall for his approach. His books are attractive, simple and uplifting. He is a young, eloquent speaker. He has a fresh approach to what he is teaching. And he takes the New Testament and *gently twists it just enough* to make his doctrine **false**. Let me illustrate what I mean.

First, it is true that Jesus died *once* for the sins of the world. The book of Hebrews repeats this idea over and over (Heb. 9:26, 28; 10:10, 12, 14). However, the Hebrew writer is contrasting the **permanent** forgiveness of Christ’s blood to the *temporary* forgiveness of the blood of bulls and goats under the Law of Moses. He is not saying that once you have been saved, then you’re *permanently* saved *unconditionally*. In fact, Hebrews 10:26-27 plainly. . .

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