

## “God Without Religion”? [continued from 282201]

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by Wayne Goff

says, “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.” So Dr. Farley misrepresents what the New Testament says.

Second, does his doctrine begin to sound a bit familiar? It should because it is actually nothing new but rather the *old Calvinism* dressed up in modern-day clothing. He is teaching salvation by faith only, and the eternal security of the believer. Those are two of the five points of classic Calvinism.

I am sure there are many people who will fall for his doctrine because it is **so comforting**. His listeners will go away thinking, “I am saved! Everything is good! Jesus paid it all!” Dr. Farley even goes so far to say in one of his video promos for his book that you can commit murder and you are already forgiven! Well, that’s what classic Calvinism teaches. Naturally, he is quick to remind his listeners that you do not want to go out and “abuse” your salvation privilege. In other words, don’t go out and murder somebody. (But if you do, you’re already forgiven and you’re still okay!) After all, *unconditional* election is *unconditional*, right?!

### Confusing Two Systems

Dr. Farley makes the *classic mistake* of most denominational people. He does not recognize that the Bible contains two laws: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament was a law system that required perfect obedience in order to be justified before God (Gal. 3:10). The New Testament is a system of grace whereby one is still required to follow the laws of God, but where forgiveness can be had for one’s sins and shortcomings (1 Jn. 1:7-9). It is *conditional*, but it is still grace.

Dr. Farley chastises the typical disciple for claiming to follow **all** of the Ten Commandments, and yet *rejecting* one of them -- the Sabbath law. He says to do so is to pick-and-choose what you wish to do. He does not realize that the law system of Judaism was nailed to the cross! Paul wrote in Colossians 2:14 “Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.” Paul’s next conclusion is: “So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths” (Col. 2:16). Dr. Farley misunderstands this truth and in his new approach just throws out **all the rules!** You don’t have to keep any of them. You’re already saved. Imagine the many relieved followers who are jumping for joy because they don’t have to worry about rules anymore! It sounds great, but it is **false doctrine**.

Nine of the ten commandments are repeated in the New Testament (Lk. 10:27; Rom. 13:9). The Sabbath observance has been replaced by the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10). We are still “under the law to Christ,” 1 Cor. 9:21, KJV. But we have the blood of Christ to wash away our **past** sins when we repent and obey the Gospel (Heb. 8:12). And we have Christ, our great High Priest, to offer intercession for us when we sin *presently* or in the *future* (Heb. 7:25; 4:16). This is **God’s grace**, dear reader. Do not fall for an easy grace that requires nothing.

You can go to Dr. Farley’s web site ([www.andrewfarley.org](http://www.andrewfarley.org)) and see for yourself by watching his videos or reading some excerpts from his books. But beware that he doesn’t sneak past you some of his false doctrine by “good words and fair speeches.” I do not know the man personally, so I cannot say whether he is being deceitful or if he has been deceived. But it is a good case study on Calvinism today.

### Conclusion

You and I are encouraged by Jesus Christ to be saved by *grace* through *faith* (Eph. 2:8). “Grace” is God’s unmerited favor, doing for us what we cannot do for ourselves -- find forgiveness. “Faith” is obedient trust in God and doing His Word because it is right. Faith is a *response* to God’s active grace (1 Jn. 4:19). There is so much richness in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to read it, believe it, and meditate upon it for your own good and for your soul’s salvation.

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