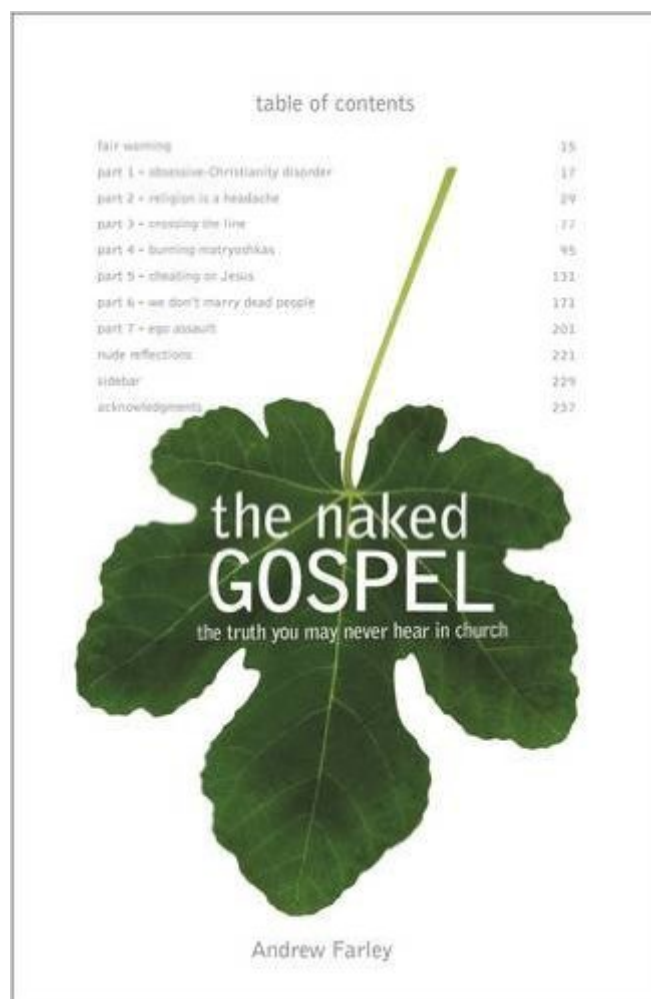


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The Naked Gospel: The Truth You May Never Hear In Church



Synopsis

I found myself lying on the floor of my apartment, sobbing for hours on end: "God, I'm doing everything I'm supposed to do, and I still don't feel closer to you. In fact, I feel worse than ever! How could this have gone wrong? I can't see any way out. Help me." • As a university student, Andrew Farley found himself physically and emotionally addicted to street evangelism and Bible study. Yet despite his fervid behavior, he knew something was missing. That something was an understanding of the gospel that is stripped of the compromises and clichés of the modern church. The Naked Gospel finds friends among those who are burned out on experience-chasing, ceremonialism, or legalism. It attacks churchy jargon and powerless ideas and puts forth a message that is simple but life-changing. With a fresh take on Scripture and unapologetic style, The Naked Gospel will challenge you and stir you to re-examine everything you thought you already knew.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jesus Plus Nothing."Christian, are you a legalist? Are you bound by your to do list for God? Does the word obligation weigh heavy in your mind when you consider your Lord?These are all questions I would consider asking someone before I would recommend they read "The Naked Gospel: The Truth You May Never Hear in Church" by Andrew Farley, Lead Teaching Pastor of Ecclesia - Church Without Religion, located in Lubbock, Texas.Effective marketing caught my attention with the clear plastic dust jacket and table of contents on the front cover. Further you find the dedication to his son with enthusiastic encouragement and also a brief quote referencing Arthur Bury's book called `The Naked Gospel`. And finally the discussion guide for each chapter named `Nude

Reflections'. All quite interesting and imaginative but the content is what stirred quite a few conversations with my husband and friends on the issues raised in this work. It is a fresh, clear look at the issue of Salvation by Grace, not works as well as living by Grace, not Law. The reader is asked a series of questions to begin the dialogue of the book. I was quickly taken aback as I immediately disagreed with some of the statements made. Not wanting to give away the content, suffice it to say, these are standard and pointed questions. My advice would be to read them closely before you answer. Andrew Farley's direct and honest writing style adds to the sections of personal testimony and illustrations. He does not mince words. He addresses objections and then brings the reader back to the main theme of 'Jesus Plus Nothing'. Upon reflection, there were sections that at first I did not agree, but after consideration, the doctrine was sound.

A fresh, tender, superbly informed voice - a timely work - A well crafted message woven with the story-telling skills of a master knitter of the gospel, our lives, our Lord and what it really means to be free in Christ. I needed to read this book. I know I have loads of company. Whether you may be exploring what it may mean to have a present-day relationship with Christ, a desire to know Jesus more intimately, suffocating in religion or smugly comfortable in your relationship with God - READ THIS BOOK! As author Andrew Farley points out: "Radically, the Bible teaches that humanity's main problem is not what we're doing. Instead, it's our lack of life as we do it." p.72. This is a book about freedom - freedom from the shackles of man-made interpretations of what is required to live life as a Christian. Scripturally sound, Farley takes us on a journey - revisiting many of the fundamental tenets of the Christian faith - reminding us of the biblical, present day realities that many of us have unfortunately forgotten or replaced with other interpretations in our daily living as Christians. As Farley states: "Too often, I see the church today functioning like any other morality-focused social group. It's time for us to wake up and realize that being born of the Spirit means we possess an amazing life within us. Because we're already different on the inside, we can live differently on the outside." p. 186. Don't misinterpret what the quote above refers to. This is NOT a book about condemning the state of the church. It is written for a broad audience with immediate, enduring practical application to our lives. Furthermore, it is a superb tool to share with those considering the Christian faith. A tremendous small group study book.

The positive emphasis of this book is on the biblical message of grace v. works. Farley makes sure readers understand that Christians are not saved by anything they do ever but are saved completely and forgiven for sins by the work of Jesus. He cites the many Scriptures that drive home this Biblical

message that Christians cannot gain salvation or acceptance with God by keeping the law or doing anything else to please God. Any person can only please God in Christ, so Christians can relax and rest in Christ. Farley effectively disabuses readers of any notion of gaining something from God by their own merits. He makes it clear that Jesus has completed all of the requirements for sin forever. This is the core message of the New Testament that I think is the core message of the church in most places. He also makes good points reminding Christians that we are "in Christ" and Christ is in us. He effectively articulates that a Christian is a new creation in Christ. As a new creation our sinful natures are dead and buried, and we are born again from above not in sin but in the righteousness of Christ. He explains the basis for being justified through grace by faith and being adopted as God's children in Christ. These are important teachings that I would hope Christians would be familiar with and accept. Farley suggests that his interpretation of Scripture is the true, pure "naked" gospel... "the truth you may never hear in church." This is a troubling introduction to a book on Scripture. First of all the idea that he has a proprietary grasp of the real interpretation of Scripture is a bit arrogant and divisive. Is this really such a secret message that the typical Christian pastor/priest does not know it and preach it?

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