

The Answer to Bad Religion

Is Not

No Religion

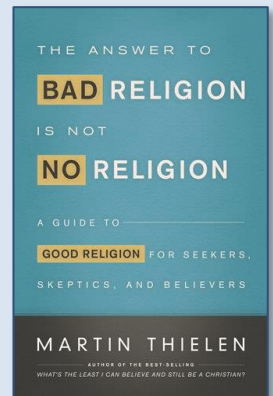
A Guide to Good Religion for Seekers, Skeptics, and Believers

Martin Thielen, Author

Westminster John Knox, Publisher

Published in 2014 by WJK, this resource gives us a perspective on “bad religion” verses “no religion” that is still very relevant in 2019. I thought it would be good to take another look at this resource described as “a worship and outreach kit.” It is one that has been overlooked in our Resource Center.

Toxic religion is deeply harmful, but the answer is to practice good religion rather than to abandon our faith. The author, Martin Thielen, reminds us – or perhaps teaches us – that Christians do not need to be sexist, anti-Semitic, literalistic, anti-evolutionist or judgmental. He reminds us that good religion embraces the teachings of Jesus Christ.



The book may be read alone for independent study and inspiration or by an adult class, who may choose to study the book using the Leader's Guide. The guide is set up for six lessons, with each lesson covering several chapters of the book. Book chapters may be read as divided in the study, or the book may be read all the way through using the study guide as review in the classroom setting. The kit includes one book, one Leader's Guide and a thumb drive or memory stick.

For preachers and other worship leaders, the thumb drive includes publicity material, such as bulletin covers and images for newsletters, as well as six sermon starters and hymn and prayer suggestions. Chapters are: 1) *The Answer to Bad Religion is Not No Religion but Good Religion*; 2) *The Answer to Judgment is Love*; 3) *The Answer to Negativity is Hope*; 4) *The Answer to Arrogance is Openness*; 5) *The Answer to Division is Community*; and 6) *The Answer to Passivity is Passion*.

While we are seeing members of our communities scream on television, on social media, and in our newspapers about who should be hated and left out, this is a study to remind us what we were taught by Jesus Christ.



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