

# 40 Days of Fitness

A daily devotional by Rev Garry Hardingham

## DAY 2 – God is Dead!!?

God is dead!!! God is dead!!! God is dead and we killed Him!!!

These are the words that leap out of Friedrich Nietzsche's Passage called "The Madman" in his philosophical work called the "The Gay Science" written in 1882. The interesting thing about Nietzsche's Passage and the assertion that "God is dead" is that poor old Nietzsche, I reckon, has got a bad rap. He's been accused of atheism and the trigger for the decline of the Church.

But I think that Nietzsche has actually been the victim of the "shoot the messenger" dilemma. Although Nietzsche never claimed his position, it is clear in his personal correspondence that he never fully rejected the possibility of the existence of God.

What Nietzsche was saying is that in all intents and purposes we have killed God because we believe we don't need God; that human beings are completely able to find hope, purpose and meaning without the need to either submit to or call upon a supernatural presence.

And I think Nietzsche is right!

Who needs God when we have technology?

Who needs God when we have science?

Who needs God when we have affirmative action?

Who needs God?

My old systematic theology lecturer, Rev Dr Gordon Watson, would often say something like, "It doesn't matter what *you* need...or what *you* think...or feel...it is what is true."

In John 15:16, Jesus says these words, "You didn't choose me. I chose you. I appointed you to go and produce lasting fruit, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask for, using my name."

The question is not, "is God dead?" but "are we dead to experiencing God?"

Because being 'dead' to experiencing God is to be so enthralled in ourselves that we leave no space for God.

We 'kill' God when we rely only on ourselves. When we forget that God chose us, not the other way around. When we plan and plot and scheme and struggle in our feeble power and close ourselves off to the possibility of God's power, direction, grace, forgiveness and strength then God truly is 'dead' .....but only to us.

Can I suggest you read "The Madman" by Friedrich Nietzsche.

You can find it at <https://www.ucacarpentaria.com.au/nextcloud/index.php/s/D9RQt6ydMAr4sBF>

### PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank You that by grace through faith in Christ

I have become Your child.

I pray that I may abide in Christ

And that in Him I will bear much fruit

To Your praise and glory.

In Jesus name I pray,

AMEN.