

Suggested Readings on Christian Nationalism in the Contemporary U.S.

(Compiled by K. M. Vander Schel)

I. Understanding Contemporary Christian Nationalism: Theological and Ethical Treatments

Tim Alberta, *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism* (Harper, 2023)

Drawing on his training as a journalist and his own experiences of being a practicing Christian brought up in an evangelical context, Alberta's engaging and searing account traces the ways in which conservative evangelical Christians have pursued, exercised, and abused political and spiritual power in the name of securing the U.S. as an earthly Christian kingdom.

Matthew D. Taylor, *The Violent Take It by Force: The Christian Movement That Is Threatening Our Democracy* (Broadleaf Books, 2024).

Matthew D. Taylor, a senior scholar at the Institute for Islamic, Christian, and Jewish Studies in Baltimore, traces the growing radicalization of the Religious Right and American evangelicalism in recent years, focusing on the increasing mainstream acceptance of the "New Apostolic Reformation", the Seven Mountain Mandate, and militaristic appeals to take back the U.S. from secularism.

Jim Wallis, *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy* (St. Martin's Essentials, 2024).

The inaugural holder of the Archbishop Desmond Tutu Chair in Faith and Justice, and the Director of the Center on Faith and Justice, at Georgetown University, Wallis offers a poignant indictment of the growing acceptance of white Christian nationalism and calls U.S. churches to courageously return to a genuinely biblical discipleship.

II. Understanding Contemporary Christian Nationalism: Sociological Treatments

Andrew L. Whitehead, *American Idolatry: How Christian Nationalism Betrays the Gospel and Threatens the Church* (Brazos Press, 2023).

Whitehead's treatment centers on power, fear, and violence as three "idols" of Christian nationalism that are corrupting U.S. Christianity.

Hamblen Park Presbyterian Church

Philip S. Gorski and Samuel L. Perry, *The Flag and the Cross: White Christian Nationalism and the Threat to American Democracy* (Oxford University Press, 2022).

Gorski and Perry approach the recent rise of Christian nationalism from a sociological perspective, drawing especially on recent demographic data.

III. Constructive Theological Treatments: Bonhoeffer, Moltmann, Sölle, Metz

Renate Wind, *Dietrich Bonhoeffer: A Spoke in the Wheel* (Eerdmans Press, 1992).

Wind presents a biographical account of Bonhoeffer's struggle against National Socialism, his rising leadership in the Confessing Church that opposed it, his later political resistance, and his eventual death by the Nazis in 1945.

Jürgen Moltmann, *The Crucified God: The Cross of Christ as the Foundation and Criticism of Christian Theology* (Fortress Press, 1993).

A German Reformed theologian who argues that World War II and the Holocaust exposed deep vulnerabilities in western Christianity, Moltmann presents this demanding and rewarding study of that advocates for a return to the theology of the cross as a source of hope and of solidarity with those in suffering.

Dorothee Sölle, *The Silent Cry: Mysticism and Resistance* (Fortress Press, 2001).

A German Lutheran theologian responding to the failures of Christian churches in responding to the Holocaust, Sölle explores the "silent cry" and "longing for God" has been present in all times, cultures, and religions as an antidote to authoritarian and violent forms of thinking.

Johann Baptist Metz, *A Passion for God: The Mystical-political Dimension of Christianity* (Paulist Press, 1998).

Metz is German Catholic theologian who was scandalized by the silence of most Catholics and Protestants during the Holocaust. This collection of essays highlights the forgetfulness and complacency of modern Christianity and important role of the "dangerous" memories of Christ in recovering the challenge of the Gospel.