

On Trump, Religion, and Power
By John Eisenhauer

Note to reader: On 12/6/24, I sent Fuzzy Door Productions or FDP (which was founded by entertainment auteur Seth MacFarlane) an email.

In it. I explained that I want to work for them in a UNPAID capacity. Stating that I want to work for them 100% gratis, I laid out a specific scenario.

I want them to email me assignments: I would complete them and email them back.

Realizing that my resume is very thin this area, I want to prove myself.

As part of the email package, I created this editorial expressly for Mr. MacFarlane and his compatriots. Not blowing smoke, I respect Macfarlane greatly: both for his many talents and powerful intellect. The ideas in this essay are opinions that I wanted to share with him.

I first sent this editorial to FDP and subsequently posted it on my essay page.

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My long-term goal is to work for the entertainment community: I want to be involved with an enterprise that has a distinctive advocacy and/or subversive edge.

Towards that end, I have been making videos that both market my writing website and furthers my campaign to be a writer in Hollywood. Every time that I posted a new chapter of my free online novel [Brandon Gets His Big Break](#) or one of [my essays](#), I sent out one of these videos. I target specific individuals (decision makers in the creative community) on the social media sites Threads, Facebook and Instagram.

Here are vids that I sent MacFarlane, his compatriots or FDP either through email or social media:

[Macfarlane Appeal Nov 6.mp4 - Google Drive](#) [seth macfarlane.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

[HargreavesHeald Appeal.mp4 - Google Drive](#) [ask video.mp4 - Google Drive](#)

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I'm going to start with by recounting just a single example of how Trump was been playing people like a fiddle.

First, I need to introduce my expert witness.

I'm going to spend some virtual ink on the fellow.

I'm not a 'Trump-booster' (the polar opposite).

I want to establish that my 'expert witness' does not have any stated animosity towards the fascist – I mean...the 47th President of the United States – and can be seen as speaking objectively.

[Tim Wildsmith](#) is a Bible reviewer and ordained pastor. Recognized for his insightful reviews on various Bible editions through his platform – *Bible Review Blog* – he has a background in youth ministry.

His book *Bible Translations for Everyone* appears to be [well-received](#). A guide that helps readers navigate the complex world of Bible translations, the book is [said to provide](#) an engaging and accessible overview of various English Bible translations: their historical context, translation philosophies, strengths, and weaknesses. Praised for its friendly and informative approach, it has a rating of 4.70 out of 5 on Goodreads (54 ratings).

[He has been involved](#) in discussions that bridge faith and science. While I could not find him taking any explicit political stances, his approach to faith and science suggests a progressive mindset. He doesn't appear to be publicly aligned with any specific political party, such as the GOP or Democratic Party.

Endorsed by both Trump and country music artist Lee Greenwood, the [God Bless The USA Bible](#) (also known as the 'Trump Bible') was first published in May 2021. Marketed by Trump – with increased fervor during his 2024 presidential campaign - the price was [fluctuated](#) over time: \$99.99...\$79.99... It is currently available for purchase online at \$59.99.

This King James Version (KJV) translation includes several unique elements:

- ◆ U.S. flag on its (supposably) leather cover.
- ◆ Texts of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution (before amendments), the Bill of Rights, and the Pledge of Allegiance.
- ◆ The chorus of Greenwood's song "God Bless the USA" in his handwriting.
- ◆ Printed in a two-column format with the words of Jesus in red.
- ◆ Includes a presentation page and a gold ribbon marker.

The website selling the Trump-backed Bible says it *is not political and has nothing to do with any political campaign*.

[GodBlessTheUSABible.com](#) is not owned, managed or controlled by Donald J. Trump, The Trump Organization, CIC Ventures LLC or any of their respective principals or affiliates.

According to the site, CIC Ventures - [which is also behind](#) the Golden Sneakers - licensed to use Trump's name, likeness and image. And Trump has an ongoing financial relationship with this entity: a 2023 financial disclosure shows he has made more than \$5 million in speaking engagements through CIC Ventures.

It is reasonable to assume that Trump has pocketed millions from both the bibles and sneakers (and there are other grifts – I mean – financial ventures).

Back to our Bible expert, Tim Wildsmith:

Having evaluated the collector's tome, his review wasn't glowing.

In an article posted by [OK! Magazine](#) – which described him as an 'expert published Bible reviewer who has reviewed many Bibles from various publishers' – there were quotes from a video that Wildsmith [posted to You Tube](#):

It feels pretty fake and cheap to me, so that shocked me that the Bible was \$75 shipped because most publishers of synthetic leather Bibles are going to be \$30, \$40 bucks at most.

He went on to say (with a sarcastic tone in his voice):

A lot of Bibles like this are printed in China. I would be shocked if Donald Trump was promoting a Bible that was printed and bound in China.

Yup...that is true. The *God Bless the USA* Bible was indeed printed and bound in China. The Bibles were manufactured by a printing company in Hangzhou, China, and then shipped to the United States: a fact that has drawn some criticism (given Trump's frequent accusations against China for taking American jobs).

Some specific issues Wildsmith mentions include:

- ◆ Lack of textual footnotes or cross references.
- ◆ Thin paper causing 'ghosting' or 'bleeding' from the text on the other side.
- ◆ Low-quality binding and materials.

While the Bible does include some additional features, such as song lyrics and important historic documents – it's abundantly clear to me that these extras do not justify the high price point.

I am going to talk about what I think Trump will do to education now that he was elected to a *second term* as President of the United States. It is borne of his hypocrisy: a hypocrisy that obscures his belief that the average person is an idiot.

When speaking about Trump's obvious hypocrisy, it is worth pointing out that Mary Trump – his niece – has [been critical](#) of her uncle's religious views. In her book [Too Much and Never Enough: How My Family Created The World's Most Dangerous Man](#), she suggests that his religiosity is superficial and politically motivated.

Stephanie Grisham – a former White House press secretary and communications director during Trump's first administration – [made some revealing comments](#) about Donald Trump's faith in her book [I'll Take Your Questions Now: What I Saw at the Trump White House](#). Grisham claims that Trump would often mock and belittle evangelical Christian leaders behind closed doors.

The reality of Trump's hypocrisy is further crystallized by the '[Stormy Daniels episode](#)'. He was convicted of falsifying business records to cover up a \$130,000 hush money payment to Daniels (a porn star) who claims to have had an affair with Trump in 2006. This was soon after Melania Trump gave birth to their son Barron in March of that year.

I would be a hypocrite if I criticized Daniels' profession. However, it is clear that Trump did not first develop an emotional relationship with her and – unable to constrain the powerful attachment – acted on his feelings. No. It is obvious that he jacked off while watching her videos and decided to screw her (despite having a wife who was nursing his infant son). He goes on to publish a bible in his name (and pocket millions). That's hypocrisy.

It was determined by a court that he violated campaign finance laws: he was found guilty of 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. To be fair, the court's verdict establishes that Trump

was found guilty of falsifying business records: it doesn't provide a clear answer on whether the court believed Daniels' account of the encounter. But it's...well...obvious.

The payment was made by Trump's former lawyer – Michael Cohen - in 2016. The bribe was made just before the presidential election. While Trump denied the affair, the payment was made to silence Daniels: it was obviously done over a fear that the story would cost him votes.

It is true that Trump's conviction was related to the manner in which the payment was made. But it is ultimately more evidence of a form of hypocrisy born of narcissistic amorality.

It's worth noting that Trump's legal team has argued that the case should be dismissed due to presidential immunity, and they plan to appeal the conviction. Given his re-election, it will be very 'interesting' to see how things play out.

Yeah... 'interesting'... I'll go with 'interesting'.

[Christopher Hitchens](#) (1949-2011) was a British-American author, journalist, and literary critic. Known for his sharp wit and controversial opinions, he wrote extensively on politics, religion, and culture (contributing to publications like Vanity Fair, The Atlantic, and The Nation). Hitchens authored several books, including [God Is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything](#) where he critiqued organized religion. He was a prominent figure in the New Atheism movement, alongside [Richard Dawkins](#), [Sam Harris](#), and [Daniel Dennett](#).

Hitchens argued that religion – particularly Christianity and Islam – suppresses the dissemination of facts and information. Maintaining that religion exists to promote faith over reason, he was very concerned with the historic tendency of religion becoming intertwined with the state. This situation – which defines vast swatches of our past *and present* – leads to the repression of knowledge and the persecution of dissenters. Hitchens cited historical examples: including the Inquisition and the persecution of scientists like Galileo.

I fully concur with Hitchens that theocratic regimes have tortured and killed individuals to maintain religious orthodoxy.

An example of Hitchens making his case is found in an essay he wrote: [Religion Poisons Everything](#).

Hitchens wrote thought-provoking pieces but – being a wordsmith – [had no trouble turning](#) out the pithy quote.

Here's a couple that I find applicable:

What can be asserted without evidence can be dismissed without evidence.

Religion is poison because it asks us to give up our most precious faculty, which is that of reason, and to believe things without evidence. It then asks us to respect this, which it calls faith.

Western Civilization is largely premised on the notion that Christianity is literally true. It is exceedingly simple to point to examples of the faith being totally made-up. This isn't to say that ethical notions cannot be found in the King James bible (along with murderous amorality). But the metaphysics that hold the whole thing together is made out of whole cloth.

The [consensus among contemporary scholars](#) is that the four canonical gospels were written between AD 60 and 110. Here are the generally accepted dates for each gospel:

- ◆ [Mark: AD 60-75](#)
- ◆ [Matthew: AD 65-85](#)
- ◆ [Luke: AD 65-95](#)
- ◆ [John: AD 70-100](#)

These dates are based on historical, textual, and literary analysis: there is some variation among scholars.

Most scholars hold that all four were written by anonymous authors (with the modern names added in the 2nd century). It would have been utterly impossible for the authors to have been eyewitnesses: at best, the texts were the end-products of oral transmission.

Based on historical and archaeological evidence, the average human life expectancy was approximately 35 years in the first century.

For the sake of argument, let's accept that the gospels were written by the commonly accepted authors.

Christ was supposedly crucified at 33. The credited authors were in the same age range. For the gospels to have been written by these individuals, it must be accepted that they all waited decades before getting around to it. Everyone around them was dying off at their age (at the time of the crucifixion). Yet they waited as long as 70 years to write the gospels. It's absurd.

The canonical gospels are narratives. They tell stories of miracles. The whole thing is predicated on the notion that a deity – after becoming human – ritualistically committed suicide and willed himself back to life. Even if it was undeniable that the gospels were written contemporaneously to the events, a corresponding body of video evidence (a technology that did not exist at the time) would have to exist that corroborated everything.

According to a Gallup poll from 2022, only 20% of U.S. adults believe the Bible is the literal word of God: [a record low](#). As more people are coming to view the Bible as inspired (but not necessarily literal) this percentage has been steadily declining over the years. [Among evangelicals](#), 40% believe the Bible is the actual word of God, while 51% see it as inspired but not literally true.

In the 2016 Presidential election, [the voter turnout](#) was approximately 55.7% of the voting-age population (an approximate 44.3% not voting).

In the 2020 Presidential election, the [voter turnout was approximately 66.6%](#) of the voting-age population (33.4% not voting).

While I am not arguing that the US has become a font of rationality, the partial turnout has been skewing the influence of those who believe that the Bible is the inerrant word of God.

[In the 2016 presidential election](#), approximately 26% of voters identified as white, born-again, or evangelical Christians. This group showed strong support for Donald Trump, with about 81% of white evangelical voters casting their ballots for him.

[In the '2020'](#), the percentage of white evangelical voters remained consistent: 81% of them supporting Trump.

This group was a significant and influential voting bloc in both elections.

In fact, Evangelical Christians have indeed been effective in getting their political message out and building a political machine that influences public opinion and mobilizes voters.

Over the past few decades, [they have become](#) a powerful voting bloc. Their base is the Republican Party. Successfully using church networks, media, and grassroots efforts, evangelical leaders and organizations have promoted their political agenda and encourage voter turnout. [Besides preaching politics from the pulpit](#), they have been successful in organizing voter registration drives and creating political advocacy groups. These community outreach initiatives have been very successful in influencing elections.

I maintain that Trump won in '24 because of the white evangelical vote.

Regardless, their efforts have significantly shaped the political landscape in the United States: making them a formidable force in American politics.

While I don't begrudge any group from actively participating in the process, I don't feel that churches should be given tax-free status if they are going to do that. Of course, I am being disingenuous as I oppose that special consideration regardless. That requires a separate op-ed to flesh out.

Regardless, a minority view is driving our politics. This culminated in the election of an anti-democratic guy who wants to be dictator.

"The church is supposed to direct the government, the government is not supposed to direct the church. That is not how our Founding Fathers intended it."

- Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) [In a speech](#) at the Cornerstone Christian Center in Basalt, Colo.

Boebert and Trump have a [strong working relationship](#). One of Trump's most ardent supporters, she often aligns herself with his policies and rhetoric. Having defended Trump on numerous occasions – a vocal advocate for his agenda – she enjoys a relationship that is characterized by mutual support, with Boebert frequently praising Trump and his leadership.

Trump has spoken about Boebert in a supportive manner. Praising her background and dedication, he has referred to her as a 'true American Patriot' with an 'unparalleled understanding of real-life issues'. Noting her commitment to conservative values, he has also expressed gratitude for her support: their mutual admiration is evident in their public interactions and endorsements.

I believe that Trump is a tepid Christian...the type that uses it for marriages and funerals.

And I [want to be fair to him](#) (while I know that he would not extend the same consideration to me). He has indeed professed to be a Christian. In various interviews, he has mentioned his Christian faith. For instance, in a 2011 interview with CBN, he stated that he attended First Presbyterian Church in Jamaica Queens (a part of the Presbyterian U.S.A. denomination).

In a 2015 interview – *after entering politics* – he declared, ‘I will be the greatest representative of the Christians they've had in a long time’

But he has been in the public eye for decades and he never expressed passionate support for Christian Nationalism or Christian political advocacy.

In 2011 Trump declared, ‘I recently spoke to Ralph Reed and Tony Perkins and I was really impressed, they have great reputations and I have been hearing about them for years.’ He added that they were ‘smart people.’

That’s being polite and it is interesting that he said that he had been *hearing* about these two firebrand leaders for years.

I find Stephanie Grisham to be credible. And I believe her when she tell us that he would often mock and belittle evangelical Christian leaders behind closed doors.

I find Mary Trump to be credible when she suggests that his religiosity is superficial and politically motivated.

Religious extremists – in the mode of Lauren Boebert, Ralph Reed and Tony Perkins – are a passionate lot: they don’t shy from loudly proclaiming their beliefs. Trump has been in public eye for decades. Prior to entry in politics, I can find only a couple milquetoast sentiments about his Christianity.

While I admittedly never read any of the books that Trump is *credited* with writing, my research could not turn up any excerpts where he talks about his faith. And, if he had written about being Christian, his campaign would have been trumpeting it for years.

Except for what I’ve already recounted – which is really thin considering that his supporters consider him to be a religious leader – I found nothing in his pre-2015 interviews.

He did have [a candid conversation](#) with Howard Stern in 1995. Openly discussing his sexually adventurous life during the 1970s and 1980s, he described avoiding STDs as ‘his Vietnam’. He did not take that opportunity to describe Jesus as ‘his Lord or Savior’. He did not ‘testify’ in any of the other many pre-2015 interviews. He did use the Stern interview to discuss how avoiding STDs was a significant challenge he faced during the disco era.

He is a serial adulterer.

In the recent E. Jean Carroll defamation case, [the court concluded](#) that Donald Trump committed ‘sexual assault’: the jury’s found that he sexually abused Carroll in a Manhattan department store in the 1990s. But the jury was being coy, he raped her.

In a 2005 interview with Stern, Trump admitted to [walking into dressing rooms of beauty pageants](#) he owned, including Miss USA and Miss Universe. He claimed that he was allowed to do so because he owned the pageants.

Ask yourself a question. If you use a gym, does the owner of the gym have the right to walk in on you showering?

Regardless, several former Miss Teen USA contestants have alleged that Trump walked in on them while they were partially or fully undressed, with some as [young as 15 years old](#).

At least [26 women have publicly accused](#) Donald Trump of various forms of misconduct, including rape, kissing, and groping without consent.

I am utterly convinced that Donald John Trump is a serial rapist.

Our President is a sexual predator.

Despite his tepid relationship with Christianity and a documented history of very un-Christian behavior, he is now the leader of a political party that embraces Christian Nationalism.

Besides Boebert, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene has [expressed support](#) for Christian nationalist ideas and has been a vocal advocate for Trump, often echoing his claims and defending his actions.

It is really hypocritical how he has cultivated the evangelicals to build his power base. And that is all he wants: power.

J.D. Vance – the recently elected Vice President of the United States – has not explicitly endorsed turning the United States into a Christian National government. However, he has made statements that align with Christian nationalist ideals and has [participated in events](#) with prominent Christian nationalist figures. For example, he spoke at a Christian nationalist revival event, where he defended his immigration stance (including mass deportation) in the context of his faith.

A PRRI (Public Religion Research Institute) survey further documents the connection between Christian Nationalism and the GOP: a party led by a rapist.

According to the survey, Christian Nationalism is [strongly linked](#) to Republican Party affiliation, white evangelical Protestant affiliation, and higher church attendance. The survey also found that Christian nationalists are more likely to support Donald Trump and are about twice as likely as other Americans to believe political violence may be justified.

At the outset, I said that I was going to look at what Trump will do to education in his second term: he was re-elected because of hypocritical connection to the religious far right.

Shortly before the 2024 election, Trump gave an interview on 'Fox and Friends'. [He said that](#) he would cut funding to [California schools](#) if they continued to teach about slavery. Stating that he would shut down the Department of Education, he said that he would punish schools that teach that America was built off the backs of slaves.

While not caring about Christian Nationalism – and the supporters of turning our country into a theocracy got him elected – he wants power. He wants to do many things with this power: one of them is to turn back the clock on civil rights because he is a racist.

Accusing a recently elected president of being a racist demands proof. So...okay.

One of the most notable examples of his racism is [the Central Park Five case](#). In 1989, Trump took out full-page ads in New York City newspapers calling for the reinstatement of the death penalty after five Black and Latino teenagers were accused of raping a white woman in Central Park. Despite their eventual exoneration in 2002, Trump has continued to assert their guilt. [In fact](#), he expressed his belief that the men were guilty and that a settlement made by the city was a mistake on at least five occasions.

The men were found innocent after a convicted murder confessed to the rape (2002). The confession was confirmed *by DNA evidence*. The city awarded the men \$41 million in 2014, a decade after some of the men initially sued the city for how it handled the case.

Another [significant incident](#) involves a 1973 lawsuit filed by the U.S. Department of Justice against Trump Management Company (co-owned by Donald Trump and his father, Fred Trump). The lawsuit alleged that the company discriminated against Black and Puerto Rican renters. The case was settled without an admission of guilt: the company agreed to take steps to ensure non-discriminatory practices.

Additionally, Trump has been criticized for his role in promoting the birther conspiracy against President Barack Obama: falsely claiming that Obama was not born in the United States.

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Trump made comments about VP Kamala Harris' heritage: claiming that she had previously downplayed her Black heritage. This comment was made during an event with Black journalists: he was ['attempting to court'](#) Black voters.

These incidents, among others, have contributed to the perception among his critics that Trump harbors racist views.

I personally believe that Trump would like to bring slavery back or – at least – segregation.

To do that, he must control education.

Also, he clearly wants to install himself as dictator.

Adolph Hitler [once said](#):

When an opponent declares, 'I will not come over to your side', I calmly say, 'Your child belongs to us already...What are you? You will pass on. Your descendants, however, now stand in the new camp. In a short time, they will know nothing else but this new community'.

Joseph Goebbels - the Nazi Minister of Propaganda - shared his boss' view that the absolute control of information was needed to maintain a dictatorship.

[Goebbels famously said](#):

The national education of the German people will be placed in my hands.

He emphasized that propaganda should be simple and repetitive, appealing to emotions rather than intellect.

He also stated:

It is the absolute right of the State to supervise the formation of public opinion.

And make no mistake: Trump wants to be Hitler

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Mr. MacFarlane: I humbly request that you schedule a Zoom meeting with me. I want to talk about how I can help Fuzzy Door Productions *for free*.

Namaste & Shalom

John Eisenhower

[John's Writing \(johnswriting.org\)](http://johnswriting.org)

[John's Substack](#) | [John Eisenhower](#) | [Substack](#)