

# THIS WEEK IN CONSCIENCE & JUSTICE

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Friday, January 17, 2025



## White Christian nationalists are poised to remake America in their image during Trump's second term, author says

There's an image that captures the threat posed by the White Christian nationalist movement – and how it could become even more dangerous over the next four years.

Taken during the Jan. 6 insurrection, the photo shows a solitary White man, his head pressed in prayer against a massive wooden cross, facing the domed US Capitol building. An American flag stands like a sentinel on a flagpole beside the Capitol under an ominously gray sky.

The photograph depicts a foot soldier in an insurgent religious movement trying to storm the halls of American power. What's unsettling about the photo four years later is that much of the religious zeal that fed the insurrection is no longer outside the gates of power. Many of that movement's followers are now on the inside, because their Chosen One, Donald Trump, returns this month to the Oval Office.

[cnn.com](http://cnn.com)

## Top News

- White Christian nationalists are poised to remake America in their image during Trump's second term, author says
- Southern California wildfires destroy or damage many houses of worship
- Some US lawmakers want more Christianity in the classroom. Trump could embolden their plans
- How Religious Schools Became a Billion-Dollar Drain on Public Education



# Southern California wildfires destroy or damage many houses of worship



A cantor at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels led the congregation in a haunting refrain during a special Mass this week for victims and first responders of the Los Angeles wildfires: "Lord, every nation on earth will adore you."

The fires in Los Angeles County continue to burn, so the extent of the damage is uncertain. Still, it's clear a number of houses of worship have been destroyed or damaged, among them Corpus Christi Catholic Church in the Pacific Palisades.

Churches, synagogues and mosques become important touchstones in communities ravaged by disasters – now many here are also themselves victims of a disaster.

[npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

## Some US lawmakers want more Christianity in the classroom. Trump could embolden their plans

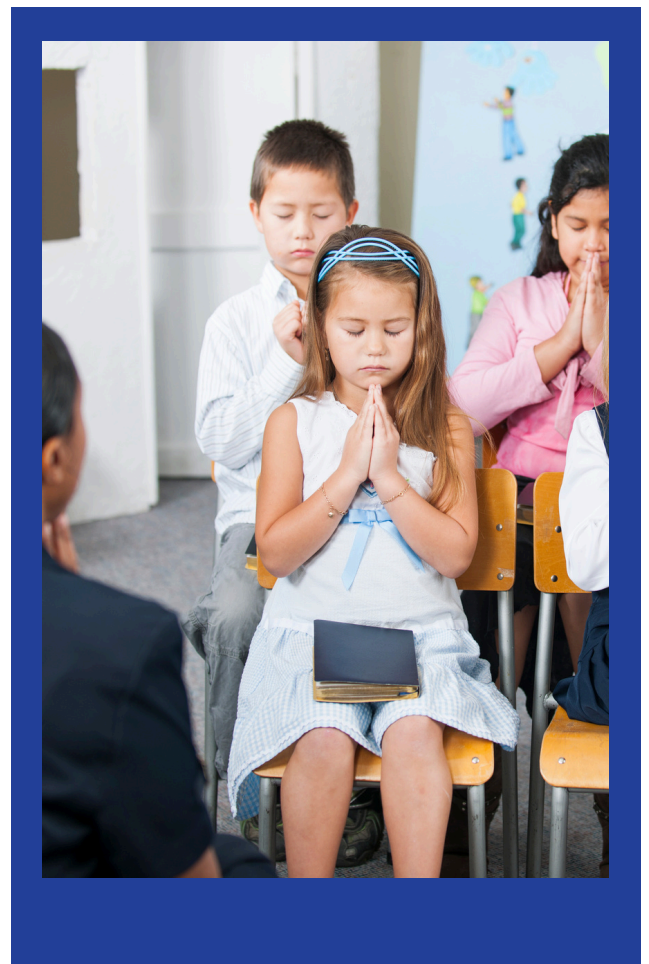
Conservative lawmakers across the U.S. are pushing to introduce more Christianity to public school classrooms, testing the separation of church and state by inserting Bible references into reading lessons and requiring teachers to post the Ten Commandments.

The efforts come as President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office pledging to champion the First Amendment right to pray and read the Bible in school, practices that are already allowed as long as they are not government-sponsored.

While the federal government is explicitly barred from directing states on what to teach, Trump can indirectly influence what is taught in public schools and his election may embolden state-level activists.

Trump and his fellow Republicans support school choice, hoping to expand the practice of using taxpayer-funded vouchers to help parents send their children to religious schools.

[apnews.com](https://www.apnews.com)





# How Religious Schools Became a Billion-Dollar Drain on Public Education

On a Thursday morning last May, about a hundred people gathered in the atrium of the Ohio capitol building to join in Christian worship. The “Prayer at the Statehouse” was organized by an advocacy group called the Center for Christian Virtue, whose growing influence was symbolized by its new headquarters, directly across from the capitol. It was also manifest in the officials who came to take part in the event: three state legislators and the ambitious lieutenant governor, Jon Husted.

After some prayer and singing, the center’s Christian Engagement Ambassador introduced Husted, asking him to “share with us about faith and intersecting faith with government.”

Husted, a youthful fifty-seven-year-old, spoke intently about the prayer meetings that he leads in the governor’s office each month. “We bring appointed officials and elected officials together to talk about our faith in our work, in our service, and how it can strengthen us and make us better,” he said. The power of prayer, Husted suggested, could even supply political victories: “When we do that, great things happen—like advancing school choice so that every child in Ohio has a chance to go to the school of their choice.” The audience



started applauding before he finished his sentence.

The center had played a key role in bringing about one of the most dramatic expansions of private-school vouchers in the country, making it possible for all Ohio families—even the richest among them—to receive public money to pay for their children’s tuition. In the mid-nineteen-nineties, Ohio became the second state to offer

vouchers, but in those days they were available only in Cleveland and were billed as a way for disadvantaged children to escape struggling schools. Now the benefits extend to more than a hundred and fifty thousand students across the state, costing taxpayers nearly a billion dollars, the vast majority of which goes to the Catholic and evangelical institutions that dominate the private-school landscape there.

[newyorker](#)



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**DON'T  
MISS  
OUT!**

**SAVE THE DATE**



**25-28 SEPT.**

# **CJC2025**

## **ANNUAL CONVENTION**

### **OVERCOMING SYSTEMS OF OPPRESSION**

**EMBASSY SUITES**

800 Monroe Street, SW  
Huntsville, AL 35801

**REGISTRATION  
OPENS FEB. 1, 2025**

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## **DR. KING AND THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE CHURCH IN 2025**



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**FRIDAY  
JAN. 17**

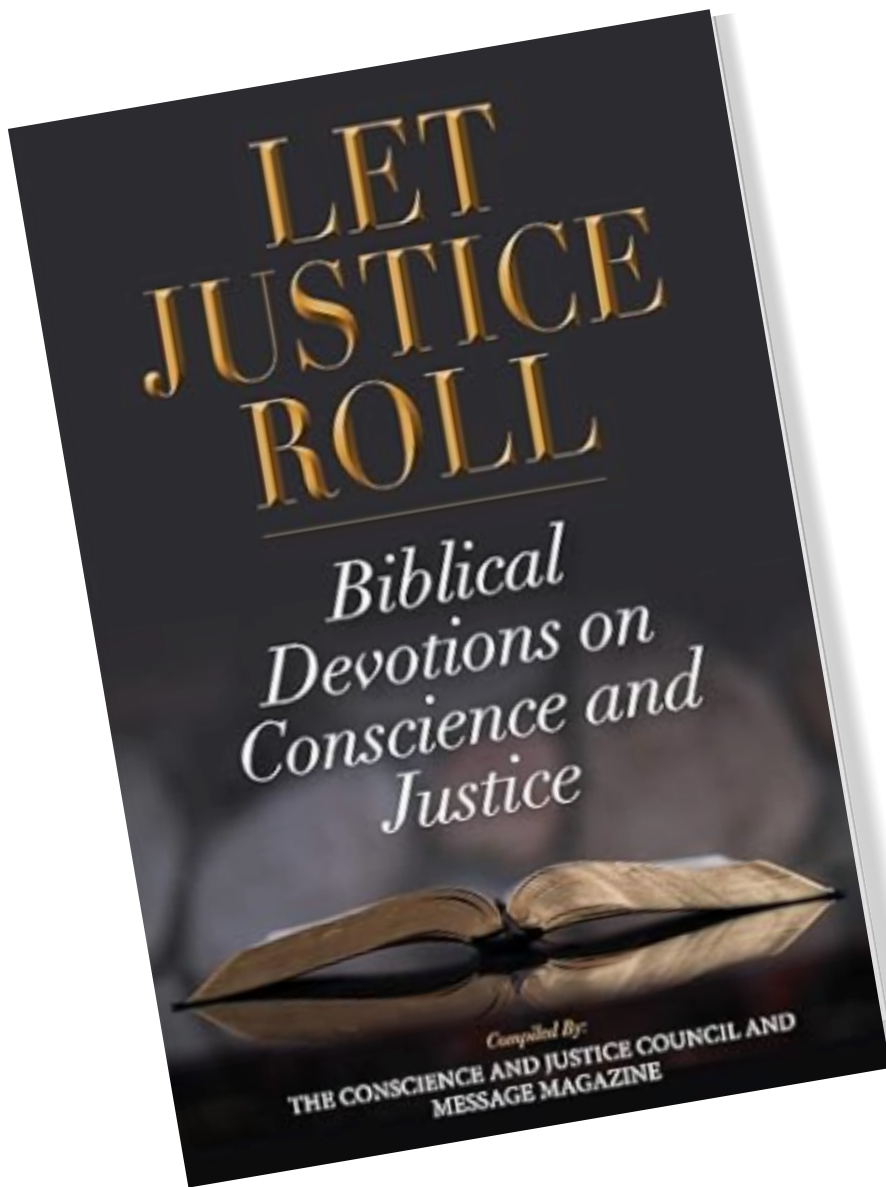
**8:00 PM EST  
7:00 PM CST**



**LIVE STREAM**

YOUTUBE FACEBOOK

[@CONSCIENCEANDJUSTICECOUNCIL](https://www.facebook.com/conscienceandjusticecouncil)



## Let Justice Roll: Biblical Devotions on Conscience and Justice

"Let Justice Roll" is a compelling devotional that walks the reader through 365 days of biblical insights in freedom of conscience, and social justice. This compilation of articles represents the work of a nationwide network of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) advocates and other connected community activists.

The components of conscience and justice ministry include conscience, discipleship, engagement, fellowship, the power of the Holy Spirit, love, and prophecy. This is a must-read book for all followers of Christ and those who seek spiritual growth. Get ready to explore the profound biblical insights in this masterful book.

Order your copy [HERE](#)



## OUR PURPOSE

This newsletter aims to highlight news articles relating to religious liberty, civil rights, and social justice. The Conscience & Justice Council desires to be attuned with society so that we may change the nation by impacting one community at a time. Articles linked above are meant to provoke thought and discussion on important topics, and do not always express options or views endorsed by the CJC.

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