Scripture for this week:

"Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them." Ephesians 5:11

"Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees, to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people." Isaiah 10:1-2 "Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor." Zechariah 7:10

Additional People/Institutions You Might Not Know...But Carry Influence Inside Far-Right Religious Circles

Doug Wilson – Moscow, Idaho pastor with extreme far-right views and co-founder of classical school across US

Liberty University and Jerry Fallwell Sr. (Moral Majority) and Jerry Fallwell Jr. who served as President of Liberty University until he resigned after a major sex scandal in 2020. He was also one of the first evangelical leaders to endorse Trump during his first Presidency. Lance Wallnau – Texas based evangelist & influential in The New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) and the Seven Mountain Mandate. They want to take dominion over seven cultural spheres of influence. Our current Speaker of the House has close ties to NAR. Charlie Kirk and founder of Turning Point USA – his net worth is approximately 12 million dollars, they have a political action arm Turning Point Action, gather on college campuses and host political fundraisers as well as Turning Point Faith, a "non-profit" arm. Ryan Walters – Oklahoma State Superintendent. Purchased Trump-branded Bibles that he wants to put in public school classrooms. Also behind legislation that requires high school classrooms to teach 2020 election fraud conspiracy theories beginning Fall 2025. Walters says the state will move forward with "the most unapologetically conservative, pro-America social studies standards in the nation."

## From **"The Power Worshippers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism"** by Katherine Stewart

"The biggest fraud of Christian nationalism – that the United States was funded as a Christian nation – is also the movement's source of its greatest weakness. The mythologizers of Christian nationalism have hurled every distortion they can find at America's founders because they know that those same founders secured a truth that is fatal to their cause. The "wall of separation between Church & State" is not a latter-day fiction concocted by secular liberals, as Christian nationalist would have us believe. It is a phrase put to paper by Thomas Jefferson to describe a principle that was written into the Constitution and carved into history as a core achievement of the American Revolution. It is a principle understood by subsequent generations as essential to securing the lasting peace and prosperity of America's irreducibly pluralistic society. If we want to defend against Christian nationalist' distorted notion of "religious liberty," we don't need to find a new principle. We just need to reclaim the genuine religious freedom that our founders established and that most of our citizens cherish."