



Jones, Robert P. [*Backslide: Reclaiming a Faith and a Nation after the Christian Turn Against Democracy*](#). (261.7 Jones)

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy* and an esteemed sociologist comes this clear-eyed reckoning with the moral collapse of white Christianity and a call to protect American democracy.

What happens when the church trades faith for power, and democracy for dominion? Jones names our moment a great “Backslide.” While addressing both democracy and religion, he uses religious terminology as section headings: Intention, Examination, Formation, Confession, Transformation, and Redemption. White Christianity's devotion to Christian nationalism is not only a regression into authoritarian politics but a profound act of apostasy—a betrayal of the best of the Christian tradition.

Through reflections on history, his upbringing in the white evangelical South, and decades of social science research, Jones lays bare the roots of this collapse and the dangers it poses for our future. He takes us inside a faith tradition marked by an impoverished relationship to the Bible, a rejection of a genuine search for truth, and an upside-down world where empathy is considered a vice.

Yet amid the wreckage, he finds signs of hope in efforts to remake our national holiday rituals and recover a Christianity that remains committed to democracy. *Backslide* is a prophetic summons to moral responsibility and a reminder that time is short for deciding which Christianity, and which America, will prevail.

—Adapted from publisher’s description

The author has been widely interviewed since [*Backslide*](#) was released early last month. Two of the many online videos of his interviews include ones by [Diana Butler Bass](#) (9/2/26) and [Wajahat Ali](#) (9/9/26)

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