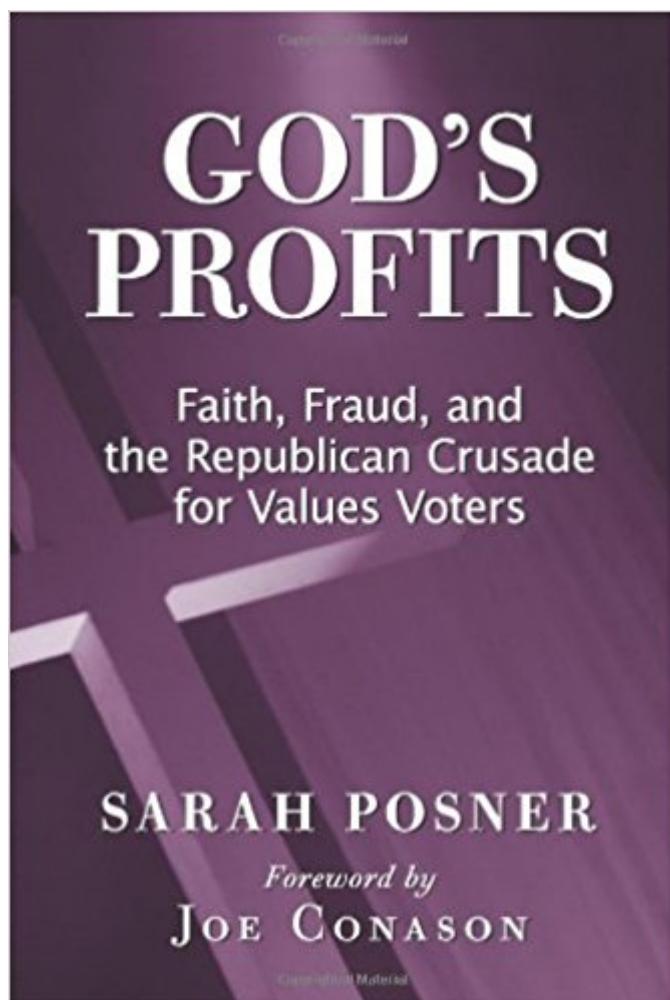


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# God's Profits: Faith, Fraud, And The Republican Crusade For Values Voters



## **Synopsis**

Keenly observed and meticulously reported, "God's Profits" examines the unholy alliance between a new breed of corrupt televangelists and the Republican Party, which is eagerly courting "values voters" in the nation's largest megachurches. Author Sarah Posner exposes the activities of Kenneth Copeland, John Hagee, Rod Parsley, T.D. Jakes, and other politically connected, skillfully marketed, and increasingly influential religious leaders. Preaching the "prosperity gospel"???the notion that faith and tithing alone can ensure financial security???both in their churches and over the airwaves, these charismatic leaders scam the gullible even as they enjoy unprecedented access to top Bush Administration officials. Admired by Republican strategists for their antigovernment ideology and authoritarian leadership styles, these televangelists work together to maximize profits; protect themselves legally; influence elections, judicial nominations, and promote their pro-war, apocalyptic ideas.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

\* GOD'S PROFITS is a fascinating and important investigation into the sordid nexus between religious zealotry and run-amok capitalism. Sarah Posner has given us a vivid account of a new generation of spiritual hucksters whose venality is nearly matched by their political influence. The story she tells is appalling, but the way she tells it is enormously compelling. --- Michelle Goldberg --- \* Sarah Posner has produced the definitive exposé of America's leading "prosperity gospel" preachers. With direct access to the Bush White House and Republican lawmakers, these

televangelists have injected their Armageddon-based agenda into U.S. foreign policy. Posner's book should serve as a stark warning to anyone tempted to dismiss the John Hagees and Rod Parsleys of the world as benign loons. --- Max Blumenthal --- \* Sarah Posner's reporting on the religious right is dogged, informed, and ceaselessly illuminating. She never condescends to rank-and-file believers; at the same time, she never excuses their leaders' hypocrisies or fundamental misunderstanding of, and threat to, our constitutional republic. --- Michael Tomasky --- \* Sarah Posner introduces us to the stars of a new evangelical movement who have declared welfare Satanic, poverty a religious curse, and redistribution of wealth "contrary to the word of God." GOD'S PROFITS serves as an urgent warning about their toxic and corrupting effect on American politics. --- Esther Kaplan --- \* GOD'S PROFITS is an astounding tale of religious hucksterism--and its role in politics--as big and crass as the ostentatious empires of the Word of Faith movement itself. It features a cast of charlatans, demagogues, con men, and the pols and presidents who pander to them. It is also a window on the rise of the Bush family dynasty and details how John Hagee, Rod Parsley, and their ilk treat faith as a cheap political commodity on its behalf. --- Frederick Clarkson ---

Joe Conason is the national correspondent for the "New York Observer," where he writes a political column that is distributed by the United Features Syndicate. He is also a contributing editor for "Talk" magazine and a contributor to Salon.com. His writing has appeared in "The Nation, Harper's, The New Yorker," and many other publications. Gene Lyons won the National Magazine Award in 1980. He has written extensively for "Newsweek, Harper's The Nation, The New Review of Books, Texas Monthly, Entertainment Weekly," and many other magazines. His books include "The Higher Illiteracy" (University of Arkansas, 1988), "Widow's Web" (Simon & Schuster, 1993), and "Fools for Scandal" (Franklin Square, 1996). He writes a political column for the "Arkansas Democrat-Gazette."

Book is intriguing if the reader wishes to know more about the history of the current crises in which radical Catholics and evangelicals attempt to control the U.S. government through the GOP. Posner's well-researched book contains detail that's relevant even after the Democratic victories in 2012. She makes a couple slightly incorrect assumptions regarding religious doctrines/practices, as other reviewers note. (It must be difficult for an outsider to correctly interpret idioms and buzz words used in ways specific only to a group or movement.) There's an abundance of good information in God's Profits and I recommend it, even though it's not the best book out there on this subject, It

does hold its own and offers a unique insight.

"God's Profits" by Sarah Posner presents a timely exposé of the Word of Faith (WoF) movement and a discussion of its significance within American culture and the Republican Party. Ms. Posner writes with the immediacy of a seasoned journalist who has backed up her story with solid documentation and onsite investigative reporting. The result is an important book that helps us understand how the "pray, pay and vote" movement has played a crucial role in steering our democracy in an increasingly fanatical and dangerous direction. Ms. Posner demonstrates that the WoF movement is particularly obsessive about its fund raising efforts even as its most visible proponents enjoy lavish lifestyles. Although the WoF's "prosperity gospel" may be disputed by reputable scholars, it has proven to be enormously effective in coercing the faithful to tithe their earnings in exchange for the promise of God's material blessings. Marketed aggressively through megachurches, mass rallies, religious schools and a vast media empire that includes book publishing, DVDs and movies as well as television networks, the WoF message reaches tens of millions of people who are eager to support their leaders' causes. For example, Ms. Posner contends that WoF supporters were encouraged in 2004 to support a ban on same-sex marriage and cast votes that may well have made the critical difference in George W. Bush's re-election in the crucial swing state of Ohio. Ms. Posner makes clear that the WoF movement's relationship with the Republican Party is one of mutual interest. Ideologically, the WoF's self-help message dovetails with the rugged individualism of economic neoliberalism, where success or failure in the marketplace is determined by one's own efforts and not by government policies. Although George H.W. Bush paid lip service to the 'thousand points of light' of the faith community, he was punished at the polls when he did not deliver meaningful legislation or support; not wishing to repeat this mistake, George W. Bush has granted WoF leaders with unprecedented access to the White House. On this point, Ms. Posner describes how specific WoF positions on topics such as support for Israel and war against Islam have gained sympathetic ears within the upper echelons of power, bringing new insight to the influences that have shaped the Bush administration's foreign policies. Thomas Jefferson warned that religion can result in "the last degradation of a free and moral agent" whose ability to engage in critical thinking is essential to the exercise of democracy. In that light, the WoF's emphasis on revelation against rationality poses a danger to us all, and it is one that in Ms. Posner's opinion will not diminish in the future. To that end, the vivid reporting and astute analysis presented by Ms. Posner empowers us to challenge the religious hucksters who have made their fortunes profiting from our insecurities. I highly recommend this book to everyone.

The author of this book has done the research and come up with the first real look into the world of professional evangelism. It is balanced, truthful and an eye opener. She through this writing can open the eyes of the scripturally blind if they would read and understand what she has written. She does not write over the heads of readers, it is so simple that a child can understand it all one has to do is read it. It should be in every Christian's home library. Many of the people who subscribed to the t.v. evangelists are innocent, vulnerable and ripe for the picking. Many of the t.v. evangelists believe that they are doing the work of God when they are fleecing the flock.

This does not strike me as a muckraking work. The religious leaders Posner describes are multi-millionaires who are invited to the White House. Even their scandals, trials for corruption and the like, are matters of public record -- not to mention jokes on late night television. Posner is a great expert, but she is just assembling available information, as a good reporter ought to do. I don't think she makes one risky or undocumented statement, and as a result her book is a little fact-packed and tedious. On the other hand, she does know more about these people than anyone else; she writes frequent columns about them for PROSPECT and other magazines. And these millionaires are openly doing their best to turn our country into a theocracy, so it certainly doesn't hurt to have their activities all brought together in a thoroughly reliable book like this.

awesome read..

Ms. Posner goes into great detail about the role of the Republican crusaders. Very well researched. She has in-depth interviews, fascinating insights and does it all in a very crisp and readable manner.

I hope to Gawd this book gets a lot more exposure as we get to the fall elections. John McCain has sought and received the blessings of the madmen preachers profiled in this book. That alone should be enough to make him lose in a landslide. Seriously! Hagee and Parsley scare the crap out of me with all their promotion of all-out nuclear war to bring about "Jesus Christ - The Encore Presentation". Yikes!!!Great work, Sarah Posner! Thank you for this timely book.

I came to know Sarah Posner's work through her writing at Religion Dispatches and Mother Jones. She is a perceptive observer of the darker side of American evangelicalism and its impact on the culture at large. This book is a bit dated, as it deals with the prosperity gospel preachers and their

close connection to George W. Bush and his policies, but it does offer a deep understanding of where these movements came from and how they affected public policy during the Bush years. Posner writes clearly and carefully, and, which I abhor the subject matter, I greatly enjoyed the book.

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