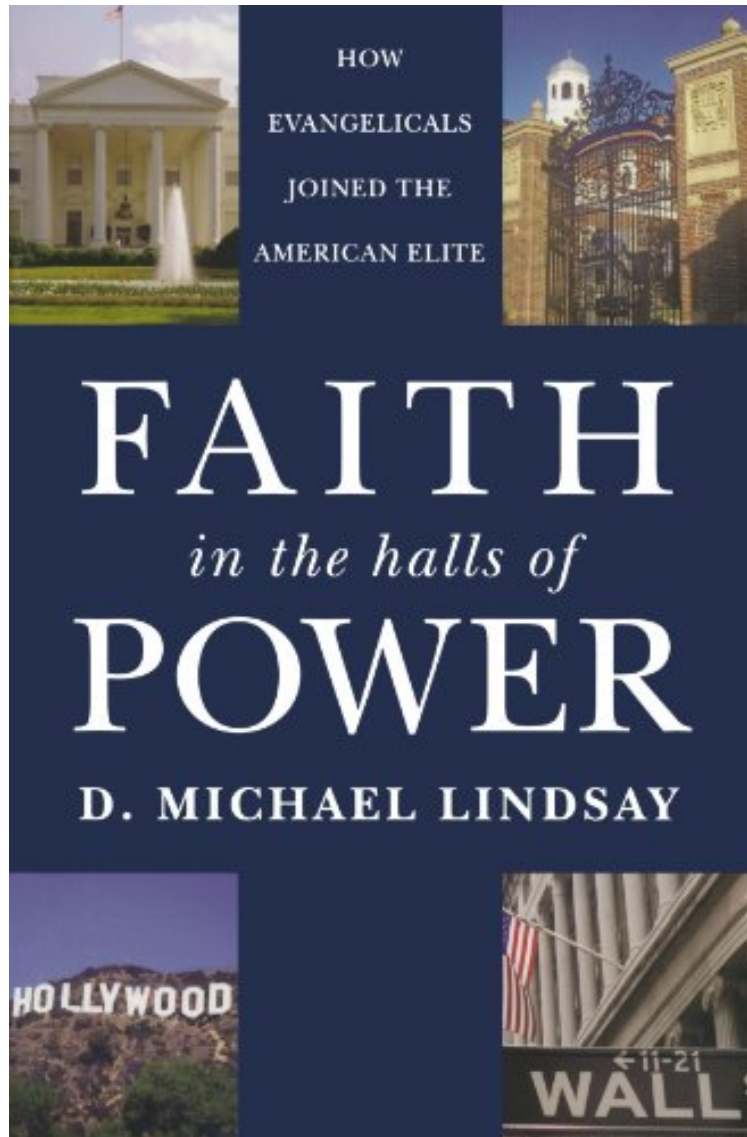


[Library ebook] Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite

# Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite

*D. Michael Lindsay*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#1302924 in Books D Michael Lindsay 2008-10-29 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.70 x .80 x 8.80l, 1.15 #File Name: 0195376056352 pages Faith in the Halls of Power How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite | File size: 38.Mb

**D. Michael Lindsay : Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faith in the Halls of Power: How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Sarah H LorimerGood book - eye opening perspective on the rise of evangelicals into prominent leadership roles.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Parsing the Role of Evangelicals in American SocietyBy Alan L. ChaseBefore he was named President of Gordon College, D. Michael Lindsay was a member of the sociology faculty at Rice University. During his time there, he launched a comprehensive project of interviewing hundreds of self-proclaimed evangelicals who are leaders in industry, government, entertainment, academia, church and parachurch ministries. The results of this research are cataloged in this in depth study of "How Evangelicals Joined the American Elite." In his research and his writing, Lindsay stands on the shoulders of Mark Noll, whose 1994 book, "The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind," served as a prod to many evangelical Christians to take a hard look in the mirror and be honest about their failings as thought leaders able to influence the broader culture. In this book, Lindsay offers a clear definition of and paints a full-color portrait of the American evangelical microcosm as it exists at the beginning of the 21st Century. Evangelicals of often misunderstood and mislabeled -even within the Body of Christ - so the author's clear and unambiguous definition sets the stage beautifully for his treatment of some of the movement's key leaders and influencers: "I define an evangelical as someone who believes (1) that the Bible is the supreme authority for religious belief and practice, (2) that he or she has personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and (3) that one should take a transforming, activist approach to faith." (Page 4) Among the men and women (the author points out clearly the paucity of women in leadership positions within the evangelical world) profiled in this far-reaching study and analysis, I have been privileged to know several dozen of them, so I am able to personally affirm the conclusions that the Lindsay has drawn about their character and breadth of their influence. The point of the list that follows is not to engage in "name dropping," but rather to add my own small individual voice to that of Dr. Lindsay in corroborating the influence that I have observed these individuals have had and continue to have on society. I have observed them to be committed men and women of God. Rick Warren was a classmate of mine in a doctoral program at Fuller Theological Seminary Chuck Colson was head of Prison Fellowship during the 10 years I worked for him. Max DePree was a professor of mine at Fuller. I have sat under the preaching and teaching of Bill Hybels, Tony Campolo, Eric Metaxas and Tim Keller I spent two weeks with President Jimmy Carter on a Habitat for Humanity project in Chicago Nancy DeMoss was a gracious hostess and benefactor for many programs at Prison Fellowship. My point is that these strong evangelical leaders have had a profound personal impact on me, and I am pleased to see that Dr. Lindsay has taken the time to share with the readership of his book their stories. He chronicles with great care the individual and collective roads traveled to bring evangelicals into the "Halls of Power." He also very carefully differentiates the progressive evangelical leaders from the populist fundamentalist figures often see on TV. Top the outside world, the differences may be subtle or even invisible, but within the family of believers, the difference are significant. Implicit throughout much of this book is the questions: "What are evangelical leaders doing with their new-found access to the halls of power? Are they handling that power as wise stewards?" One of the most enlightening observations comes near the conclusion of the book when Lindsay discusses the phenomenon of "convening power": "Public leaders wield a particular kind of power, one that comes from their location within these influential networks. Convening power is the ability to bring disparate people together, like introducing a congressional staffer to a senior media executive. It is the ability to set agendas and to coordinate activity. Sociologist Harold Kerbo argues that elite power is the power over social networks, and this certainly proved true among the leaders I studied. Convening power is what this structural strength gives leaders. It enables them to marshal resources, to share information, and to deflect criticism. Elite power is the power to convene, and it is through their privileged positions within various social networks that leaders exercise it, bringing people together and then introducing and recruiting others to join their causes. (Page 215) Certainly, this book will be of interest and of value to anyone who proudly claims the label of "evangelical." It will be of equal interest and value to those outside of the evangelical circle who seek to understand its history and mission. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy RP XMDenjoyed this book. Looking forward to a sequel. Well designed and well thought out research.

Evangelicals, once at the periphery of American life, now wield power in the White House and on Wall Street, at Harvard and in Hollywood. How have they reached the pinnacles of power in such a short time? And what does this mean for evangelicals--and for America? Drawing on personal interviews with an astonishing array of prominent Americans--including two former Presidents, dozens of political and government leaders, more than 100 top business executives, plus Hollywood moguls, intellectuals, athletes, and other powerful figures--D. Michael Lindsay shows first-hand how they are bringing their vision of moral leadership into the public square. This riveting volume tells us who the real evangelical power brokers are, how they rose to prominence, and what they're doing with their clout. Lindsay reveals that evangelicals are now at home in the executive suite and on the studio lot, and from those lofty perches they have used their influence, money, and ideas to build up the evangelical movement and introduce it to wider American society. They are leaders of powerful institutions and their goals are ambitious--to bring Christian principles to bear on virtually every aspect of American life. Along the way, the book is packed with fascinating stories and striking insights. Lindsay shows how evangelicals became a force in American foreign policy, how Fortune 500 companies are becoming faith-friendly, and how the new generation of the faithful is led by "cosmopolitan

evangelicals." These are well-educated men and women who read both The New York Times and Christianity Today, and who are wary of the evangelical masses' penchant for polarizing rhetoric, apocalyptic pot-boilers, and bad Christian rock. Perhaps most startling is the importance of personal relationships between leaders--a quiet conversation after Bible study can have more impact than thousands of people marching in the streets. Faith in the Halls of Power takes us inside the rarified world of the evangelical elite--beyond the hysterical panic and chest-thumping pride--to give us the real story behind the evangelical ascendancy in America. "This important work should be required reading for anyone who wants to opine publicly on what American evangelicals are really up to." -- Publishers Weekly (Starred Review) "For people wanting an understanding of how evangelicals have acquired so much power, money, and influence in the past 30 years, this is the ultimate insider's book." --Sojourners Magazine "Anybody who wants to understand the nexus between God and power in modern America should start here." --The Economist "Fascinating." --John Schmalzbauer, Wall Street Journal

From Publishers WeeklyStarred . Lindsay, a sociologist at Rice University who has previously worked with pollster George Gallup Jr., looks at the rise of evangelical Christian influence in the spheres of power of American public life: political, intellectual, cultural and economic. Based on interviews with 360 leaders from these spheres, including two former presidents, as well as a command of what everybody else has heretofore written, Lindsay demonstrates how over the past two decades evangelicals have moved into positions of great influence. From a sociological point of view, their path to power is easy to discern through networks of relationships or institutions that have seeded larger political and economic institutions. This growing network has produced new leaders whose ideas and actions are motivated by their Christianity. The interviews allow Lindsay to cite numerous examples that make his point persuasively. He is a sympathetic observer who understands that evangelicalism is as reformist as any other movement that has ascended to power in America. Yet he also understands that evangelicalism has made accommodation to the larger public life it seeks to reform, a tension he calls elastic orthodoxy. This important work should be required reading for anyone who wants to opine publicly on what American evangelicals are really up to. (Oct.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "A clear-eyed, evenhanded analysis of evangelical influence that dispenses with overheated fears of theocracy to present a complex and nuanced portrait." "Faith in the Halls of Power provides an extraordinary map of faith and power today." --Joseph Kip Kosek, Journal of the American Academy of Religion "A book for serious readers, with insights into how Christians have shaped aspects of Republican Party policy; how they've engaged with the intellectual elite...and how corporate America has many Christians in the boardrooms." --Christianity "As Lindsay demonstrates with overwhelming evidence, the rise of religious conservatives is a carefully orchestrated, well-financed, and systematic effort to inject evangelicals into the center of American society. ...revelatory." --Symposium "The single finest account of the goals, ambitions, challenges, and complexities of evangelical elites I have ever read."--The Journal of Law and Religion About the Author D. Michael Lindsay is President of Gordon College. He is the author of two books, both with George Gallup, Jr., and has written many scholarly and popular essays. He has received several awards for his writing, teaching, and speaking and writes a regular column for Rev! magazine.