## "Clear the Path," by Dr. Chris Jones

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." — Amos 5:24

Science thrives on observation, experimentation, and evidence. Faith is rooted in conviction, compassion, and surrender. Politics? It's supposed to be about justice, stewardship, and the common good—but too often, it's reduced to power plays and party lines.

So, what happens when these three worlds collide?

If you've ever crunched public health data during a pandemic, spoken before a city council on housing policy, or prayed over a piece of legislation that affects the poor, you've felt the tension. The tug-of-war between data and doctrine, between poll numbers and principle. Between facts and feelings. Between doing what is popular and doing what is right.

But Amos reminds us: God is not confused by our chaos. He doesn't take sides with parties. He's not impressed by titles or swayed by spin. God wants justice. Righteousness. Truth.

And the tools of science, the framework of faith, and the stage of politics can all be vehicles for that justice—if we're brave enough to use them that way.

Because make no mistake: justice is under threat.

We are watching safety nets unravel. Food assistance for preschoolers is being slashed—despite having the money to feed them. Public education funding is being redirected to private vouchers. Contracts with farmers are being canceled without cause. Health coverage is being stripped away from families. Book bans are sweeping schools. None of these policies help address the growing income inequality. And many of these policies are not even grounded in economics, but ideology—an ideology whose foundation is Christian Nationalism.

Let's be clear: Christian Nationalism is not Christianity. It's a white separatist political movement using Jesus as a mascot to push an agenda that undermines the Constitution and resurrects segregationist thinking. It helped return Donald Trump to the White House, driven by a belief that America should become a theocracy—even if that means using force. And make no mistake: force is already being used, both at home and abroad. Christian Nationalism is fueling President Trump's assault on civil rights, public institutions, and truth itself.

Project 2025 lays out the game plan: gut federal agencies, dismantle protections, and consolidate power. This is not politics as usual—it's a coordinated attempt to roll back decades of democratic progress under the guise of "restoring order."

Jesus was not apolitical. He didn't just pray about injustice—He confronted it. He flipped bankers' tables in the temple to realign worship with justice. He told truth to power and uplifted the poor. And His example reminds us: faith is not passive.

Bringing up Jesus in politics today raises a fair question: are you talking about faith—or promoting Christian Nationalism?

Because Christian Nationalism movement isn't about following Jesus. Christian Nationalism isn't a religion—it's a white separatist political movement. It doesn't reflect the teachings of Jesus; it distorts them. It stands against the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. It's not about faith. It's about control. It is a front for dragging this country backward into segregation and division. It's the Civil War by another name—and it's still being fought.

Fortunately, like in physics, justice has an equation:

## **Truth + Courage + Sacrifice = Lasting Change.**

But the equation only works if we apply it.

That means scientists stepping out of the lab and into the public square. Believers moving beyond the pew and into policy. Public leaders remembering they are servants, not kings.

And for the rest of us: if we're serious about creating change, we have to get organized. We must learn what's really happening. And we must show up—challenge the people in power, speak up for the people being silenced, and push for a politics rooted in truth and justice.

Justice doesn't roll down on its own. We must clear the path.

Share your thoughts at <u>chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com</u>.