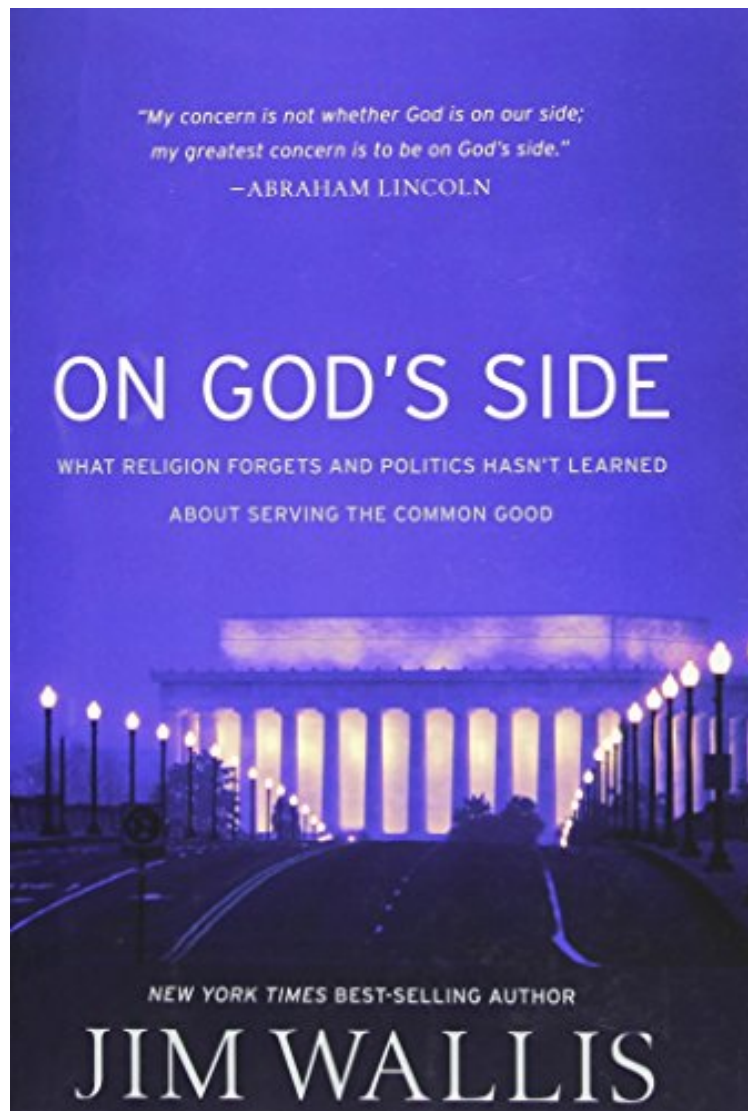


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## On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good

*Jim Wallis*

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**Jim Wallis : On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On God's Side: What Religion Forgets and Politics Hasn't Learned about Serving the Common Good:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. What Economic Justice is about:By R. StacyIf you believe that

government should be for all the people, then you will want to read Jim Wallis' *On God's Side*. The book provides moral authority for those advocating a balanced government that really does look to scripture for wisdom. It provides a challenge of those who think the role of government is to protect vested interests. Wallis shows how the Bible, both the Hebrew and Christian versions, sets economic justice as one of the standards of righteousness. Wallis provides an excellent review of economic justice. Another outstanding chapter analyzes the concept that who we believe Jesus to be determines what we believe faith is about. I highly recommend *On God's Side*. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. loved the book, created some great discussions and food for thought. By KFDPOur Sunday School class did this book as a lesson over summer. We knew it could be a bit controversial. But we all need to "hear" what we're saying when we spout off political statements and start crossing the line of putting God into a "political party box". God, and the radical teachings of Jesus, go so far past what either political party espouses. Yet, somehow we are willing to ignore that, and worse, tear each other up over it. Thus, nothing ever changes for the better, and our relationships get mangled. This book helps to untangle some of those ways of thinking so we don't strangle each other "in the name of patriotism" while the real issues are left by the wayside. I'd challenge any small group to take this book and use it for discussion. Our group found a lot of repetition in trying to do this. But the few who were able to be there each week definitely had some food for thought. It was worth the time put in. This wasn't about changing peoples' minds, just at least allowing for there to BE a discussion!! And hopefully some change will come from that in the long run. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Important Book. By Carol R. This is a very important book, especially during this time of political campaigning. It is based on scripture and shows how we can all work together whether we are liberal or conservative, democrat or republican, or somewhere in between to serve the common good.

"My concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side." -- Abraham Lincoln  
Lincoln led America through one of the most tumultuous times in our nation's history. Reading his words today, it is clear we still have much to learn concerning what it means to be on God's side. Bestselling author, public theologian, and leading Christian activist Jim Wallis speaks directly into our current context, revealing the spiritual compass we need to effect lasting change in our society. He explains how the good news of Jesus transforms not only our individual lives but also our public lives. Jesus's gospel of the kingdom of God helps us recover a personal and social commitment to the common good and shows us--in concrete ways--how to be both personally responsible and socially just. Working together, we can reshape our churches, society, politics, and economy. In the midst of contentious national debates on gun control, immigration, budget deficits, and more, this book moves the conversations beyond current media and political warfare to bring together a divided country. Wallis explores how Jesus's agenda can serve the common good, what it takes to sustain a lifelong commitment to social justice, and how reading the Bible as well as the culture can shape our lives for genuine transformation.

"Personal/political, religion/politics, faith/power, ideology/pragmatism ... Jim Wallis is a wrestler of values, ideas, and policies and how they interact to shape the world we live in. His deep, melodious voice is easy to listen to, but what he says takes a harder commitment to live by." -- Bono, lead singer of U2; cofounder of ONE.org "Jim Wallis and I have a variety of differences on domestic and international policy, but there is no message more timely or urgent than his call to actively consider the common good." -- Michael Gerson, op-ed columnist, *The Washington Post* "I love the work and books and existence of Jim Wallis. His is a profound and always-entertaining voice of reason, reconciliation, and passion for social justice and peace. Each of his books makes me wish I could get it into the hands of more politicians, right-wing Christians, left-wing Christians, secular humanists, economists, and regular people--everyone--so we could see how much we have in common and how much is at stake." -- Anne Lamott, author of *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* "I have read all of Jim Wallis's books, books that call evangelicals to full conversion and an ecclesial faith that works. *On God's Side* is Jim's best book; it is personal, pastoral, and prophetic--a summons to a deeper conversion, to bridge-building commitments to the common good, and to a family life that grounds active faith in a common, caring community." -- Scot McKnight, Northern Seminary "There are few people on the scene who can put together mature Christianity with mature politics without compromising either. Jim Wallis does it best--and does it again here." -- Richard Rohr, OFM, Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico "No one cuts through the confusion of our times with clarity and compassion like Jim Wallis. He is at his best in this book--bridging a cosmic vision of what humankind could be with a concrete plan for how we get there." -- Eboo Patel, founder and president, Interfaith Youth Core; author of *Sacred Ground* "This sweeping tour de force by America's most prominent religious social justice activist is at once deeply personal and powerfully universal. A must-read book for policy makers, religious leaders, and anyone looking for a moral basis to address America's urgent problems." -- Rabbi David Saperstein, director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism "Jim Wallis is asking a question whose time has come. Are we pursuing a national agenda that seeks the common good or are we seeking to baptize our political agendas with faith? Leaders both religious and political must take Wallis's challenge seriously when pondering the future of our life together." -- Rev. Gabriel Salguero, president, National Latino Evangelical

Coalition "Addresses with wisdom and clarity crucial issues that we must grapple with in the decade ahead: economics, ecology, polarization, peacemaking, the role of government, and more... Arguably Jim's best book. -- Brian D. McLaren Divided into two parts, each with seven chapters with numerous sub headings, it makes for an easy read but still delivers many challenges in pithy phrases. -- David Sellick On God's Side "Jim Wallis's latest book sets out a vision for the common good that both politics and the Church need to recapture. The book alternates between sections strong on encouragement, inspiration and practical examples of what has happened in the United States." -- Idea Magazine Daniel Webster 'Many powerful points are made well supported by pertinent Biblical reference; a contemporary challenge to the rhetoric and practice of both religion and politics.' -- David Sellick The Reader From the Inside Flap Everyone claims God is on their side. But who is on God's side? New York Times best-selling author Jim Wallis thinks our life together can be better. In this timely and provocative book, he shows us how to reclaim Jesus's ancient and compelling vision of the common good--a vision that impacts and inspires not only our politics but also our personal lives, families, churches, neighborhoods, and world. "There are few people on the scene who can put together mature Christianity with mature politics without compromising either. Jim Wallis does it best--and does it again here." --Richard Rohr, OFM, Center for Action and Contemplation, Albuquerque, New Mexico "No one cuts through the confusion of our times with clarity and compassion like Jim Wallis. 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Gabriel Salguero, president, National Latino Evangelical Coalition From the Back Cover Finding Common Ground for the Common Good "Personal/political, religion/politics, faith/power, ideology/pragmatism . . . Jim Wallis is a wrestler of values, ideas, and policies and how they interact to shape the world we live in. His deep, melodious voice is easy to listen to, but what he says takes a harder commitment to live by." --Bono, lead singer of U2; cofounder of ONE.org "Jim Wallis and I have a variety of differences on domestic and international policy, but there is no message more timely or urgent than his call to actively consider the common good." --Michael Gerson, op-ed columnist, The Washington Post "I love the work and books and existence of Jim Wallis. His is a profound and always-entertaining voice of reason, reconciliation, and passion for social justice and peace. 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On God's Side is Jim's best book; it is personal, pastoral, and prophetic--a summons to a deeper conversion, to bridge-building commitments to the common good, and to a family life that grounds active faith in a common, caring community." --Scot McKnight, Northern Seminary "Thank God this is not just another book about God blessing us. It's a book about us blessing God by caring for God's people, especially the most vulnerable ones among us." --Shane Claiborne, author, activist, and recovering sinner; thesimpleway.org "Jim Wallis is this country's major prophetic evangelical Christian voice. He has a sense of urgency and hope seldom seen in our cynical time. I hope and pray his voice resounds across this land--and that we pay heed to it." --Cornel West, Union Theological Seminary