

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY



IN OBSCURA LLC
THREAT INTELLIGENCE – SECURITY COUNTERMEASURES- INVESTIGATIONS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA
<https://inobscura.org/>

Judges 6:12 ESV And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O mighty man of valor.”

INTELLIGENCE NOTE

18 Oct 2025

SUBJECT: Something Is Stirring in Christian America, and It’s Making Me Nervous

Oct. 16, 2025, 9:04 a.m. ET By David French Opinion Columnist

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/16/opinion/christianity-charlie-kirk-revolution-revival.html>

WHY IS THIS OF INTELLIGENCE VALUE?

In Obscura’s mission and vision statements embrace innovative and proactive stances in the protection of the flock. In this approach I am searching for alerting behaviors that can or will target Christians, churches, clergy, and congregations, individually and collectively with as much advanced indications and warning available. Then examine and analyze it to make a prediction or ready the client to know and avoid that risk.

Intelligence collection in this battlespace includes what I term the Human Domain. This includes in part, what term “sentiment and atmospheric,” vital to understand the direct and-or indirect threats, in a proactive posture where possible, to Christians, Churches, Congregations. How a targeted population reacts to stimuli, the manipulation of perception and subordination of reality.

With that all in mind, this opinion” piece is pasted below, from the website. **Bolded** text by In Obscura is provided for context. In Obscura has chosen this writing because of the timing of its publication, and its intent to the No Kings Organization operations, today. 18 Oct 25. Review of this writing is of intelligence value in its sentiment and atmospheric from a known incendiary media outlet.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

In Obscura does not share the author’s optic, allegations, presumptions, or conclusions. In Obscura assesses this writing does not give any Glory to Jesus Christ, does not quote the Holy Bible at any point to support the author’s claim of being an “...evangelical Christian...” Here it is

The New York Times

OPINION

Something Is Stirring in Christian America, and It’s Making Me Nervous

Oct. 16, 2025



Illustration by George Douglas; source photographs by Imagenavi and amana productions inc/Getty Images

“Despite what you may have heard about the **renewal of interest in religion** in America, **we are not experiencing a true revival**, at least not yet. Instead, America is closer to a religious revolution, and **the difference between revolution and revival** is immensely important for the health of our country — and of the Christian church in America.

At this point it’s almost beyond debate that something important is stirring in American religion. There is too much data — and too many anecdotes — to ignore. The steady decline of Christianity in America seems to have slowed, perhaps even paused. There’s evidence that Gen Z men in particular are returning to church and younger generations of Americans are now attending church **slightly** more regularly than older generations.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

Americans just witnessed an immense stadium filled to the brim with people mourning Charlie Kirk, in a memorial service that was one part worship service, one part political rally. And that service was replicated at a smaller scale at vigils across America. Fox News reported that an average of 5.2 million people watched its coverage of **Kirk's** memorial service, with the audience spiking to 6.6 million viewers during Erika Kirk's remarks.

I can sense the change myself. When I speak on college campuses, students seem more curious about faith than they were even five years ago. When I write about faith, I get a larger — and more personal — response than I get when I write about any other topic. My **inbox fills with heartfelt personal testimonies, including stories about how people both found and lost God.**

As a Christian who has long lamented the decline of church attendance in the United States, **I should be very happy** about all these developments. After all, if people feel a God-shaped hole in their lives, shouldn't we rejoice when they find, in the words of scripture, the "peace of God, which surpasses all understanding"?

Make no mistake, there are marvelous stories of religious renewal and devotion in the United States. In February 2024, I spoke at a chapel service at Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky., the site of an extended and remarkable revival in 2023 that brought at least 50,000 people to that small town to experience what my newsroom colleague Ruth Graham called "the nation's first major spiritual revival in decades."

This revival had filled the students there with zeal, but that zeal manifested itself in humility and compassion. It was inspiring. It made me search my own heart to see more clearly my own faults and failings.

But that is hardly the universal experience people are having with America's religious surge. **There is darkness right alongside the light. Christians stormed** the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. **Christians have believed and applauded dark prophecies** that compare Donald Trump to Jehu, a murderous Old Testament king who commanded the slaughter of the previous queen, Jezebel, and had the severed heads of the previous king's sons brought to him in baskets.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

Incredibly, Christians are attacking what they call the “sin of empathy,” warning fellow believers against identifying too much with, say, illegal immigrants, gay people or women who seek abortions. Empathy, in this formulation, can block moral and theological clarity. What’s wrong is wrong, and too much empathy will cloud your soul.

There was the ReAwaken America tour that crisscrossed America during Joe Biden’s presidency, during which **angry Christians called for vengeance** at sold-out venues from coast to coast. **And, as I wrote last month**, the Kirk memorial itself mixed calls for love (most notably Erika Kirk’s decision to forgive her husband’s killer) with the **Trump administration’s explicit hate**.

Trump — to the laughter and cheers of the crowd — said that **he hated his opponents**. Stephen Miller, the president’s top domestic policy adviser, declared that his perceived political enemies were “nothing.”

“You are nothing,” he said, **“You are wickedness. You are jealous. You are envy. You are hatred.”**

Is that what a revival looks like? And if our nation isn’t yet experiencing a genuine national revival — something like the Second Great Awakening, which swept through the United States in the early 19th century — then what is actually going on?

As a lifelong evangelical, I’ve been taught to hope, pray and work for revival. I’ve even experienced small-scale revivals — in my law school Christian fellowship and at a small church in Georgetown, Ky., where my wife and I served as volunteer youth pastors for a short period.

I love the succinct description of revivals by my friend Russell Moore, an editor at large and columnist for Christianity Today magazine. **“Revival,” he wrote in The Atlantic, “is a concept with a long history in American evangelicalism, rooted in the Bible, that says a people who have grown cold and lifeless can be renewed in their faith. It is a kind of resurrection from the dead.”**

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

In 2023, shortly before he died, Tim Keller, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York and one of the leading evangelical pastors and theologians in the nation, **wrote that genuine revival** has three characteristics: It wakes up “sleepy” Christians, it converts nominal Christians into a more vital and genuine faith, and it brings non-Christians to Christ.

Keller noted that **revival begins with** repentance. “Ordinary Christians aren’t usually sad enough or happy enough,” Keller wrote. “We’re not convicted enough about our sin. We’re not experiencing deep repentance and therefore we don’t experience high assurance” — by which Keller meant the high assurance of God’s love.

That’s exactly the biblical model. Time after time in scripture, revival and renewal begins with repentance. In the Book of Acts, when Peter spoke to a crowd in Jerusalem about the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, listeners were “cut to the heart” and cried out to Peter and the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

In the Old Testament, when a king of ancient Judah, Josiah, heard the book of the law for the first time, “he tore his robes” in grief. When Jonah called on the people of ancient Nineveh to repent, scripture records that the people of the city declared a fast and put on sackcloth, a sign of mourning for their sin. In other words, revival begins with the people proclaiming, by word and deed, “I have sinned.”

MAGA Christianity has a different message. It looks at American culture and declares, “**You have sinned.**”

And it doesn’t stop there. It also says, “We will defeat you.” In its most extreme forms, it also says, “We will rule over you.” **That’s not revival; it’s revolution, a religious revolution that seeks to overthrow** one political order and replace it with another — one that has echoes of the religious kingdoms of ages past.

And don’t be fooled when these revolutionaries call themselves “conservative.” All too many conservative Christians **are actually quite proudly radical.** They want to **demolish the existing order**, including America’s **commitment to pluralism and individual liberty**, and put **their version** of Christianity at the center of American political life.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

A revolution can look like a revival, at least for a time. **A revolution** can fill stadiums. **A revolution** can even attract converts — converts to the **revolutionary cause**, if not the Christian faith. A revolution can make you feel alive with purpose, and when **the revolution** has **religious** elements, it can flood you with the burning conviction that you are doing **God’s will**.

Look closer, however, and you can see that **religious revolution** is **usually** antithetical to religious revival. Yes, there are people who enter the church because of politics and then find their way to **genuine Christianity**, but the revolution is a roadblock to genuine Christian growth.

Revolutionaries will conceal sin. They can’t permit any cracks in **their righteous facade**. Any weakness undermines their claim to the national throne. The other side is wicked. We are not.

The revolutionary’s ferocious ideological purity can **masquerade as religious devotion**. But unless it’s tempered by mercy, the revolutionary spirit is a fundamentalist spirit — and heaven help the person who stands in the way.

In his piece about revivals, Moore writes, “Denominations that are glacially **slow to recognize documented sexual-abuse cover-ups** are **lightning quick to expel** congregations they find to be too affirming of **women’s leadership**.”

The reason is obvious: Exposing sexual abuse can lead to public anger and contempt. If an institution can’t protect vulnerable people from harm, then **what gives it the right** to rule?

In a revival, however, exposing sin is necessary. **Transparency and honesty trigger** repentance. Repentance facilitates justice, and it leads to forgiveness. In the revivals I’ve experienced, politics was the last thing on our minds. Instead, our focus was on becoming more like Christ — **and that meant turning from my own sin, not focusing on the faults of others**.

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

For all the talk of religious revival in American evangelicalism, there is an odd disconnect. Evangelicals **might be growing in political power**, but there is not **much evidence that they are growing in devotion.**

For example, Ryan Burge, a professor at Washington University in St. Louis’s John C. Danforth Center on **Religion** and Politics, analyzed data from the Cooperative Election Study and **found that** the percentage of **self-identified** American evangelicals who “seldom” or “never” attend church has been increasing since 2008. In 2024, half of all evangelicals **attended church once per month, or less.**

Political evangelicalism can look quite godless. **In the past 10 years,** Donald **Trump** has **influenced the culture of** the church far more than the church has influenced Trump. **When a pastor** declares at a ReAwaken America rally that he has “come ready to declare war on Satan and every race-baiting Democrat that tries to destroy our way of life here in the United States of America,” **he is imitating Trump, not Christ.**

When a right-wing radio host takes to the stage on the same tour and **taunts** Fani Willis, the Fulton County, Ga., district attorney who filed criminal charges against Trump, by shouting, “Big Fani. Big fat Fani. Big fat Black Fani Willis,” **he is imitating Trump, not Christ.** Similarly, when a pastor named Doug Wilson calls transgender Americans “trannies,” or gay Americans “gaytards,” or women he doesn’t like “lumberjack dykes” and “small-breasted biddies,” **he is imitating Trump, not Christ.**

In the Book of Galatians, Paul contrasts the fruit of the spirit with what he called the “acts of the flesh,” the sins that can destroy the soul. Those sins include the very characteristics that mark America’s religious revolution: “hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions.”

The fruit of the spirit — “love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control” — **in contrast, are present** when Christ is present. This is the **fruit of a real revival.**

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBSCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY

How will we know when revival sweeps America? It won't necessarily be when the stadiums fill or even when the churches burst at the seams. **The will to religious power can draw a crowd, at least for a time.**

We will know when revival comes because we will see believers humble themselves, repent of their sins, and then arise, full of genuine virtue, to love their neighbors — to help them, not hurt them — and in so doing to heal our nation.” END

=====DISSEMINATION=====

IN OBSCURA HAS ADOPTED THE OSINT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM OF DHS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CLASSIFICATION: TLP CLEAR, TLP Clear: when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release. HOWEVER IN OBSCURA RELEASE PROHIBITION MARKINGS APPLY

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/traffic-light-protocol-tlp-definitions-and-usagg>

=====

REQUEST WRITTEN PERMISSION, EMAIL, PRIOR TO DISSEMINATING ANY IN OBSCURA PRODUCTS OR INFORMATION.

TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL REQUIREMENTS FOR DISSEMINATION

[Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) Definitions

Color	When should it be used?	How may it be shared?
 <p>TLP:RED For the eyes and ears of individual recipients only, no further disclosure.</p>	Sources may use TLP:RED when information cannot be effectively acted upon without significant risk for the privacy, reputation, or operations of the organizations involved.	Recipients may therefore not share TLP:RED information with anyone else. In the context of a meeting, for example, TLP:RED information is limited to those present at the meeting.
 <p>TLP:AMBER Limited disclosure, recipients can only spread this on a need-to-know basis within their organization and its clients. Note that TLP:AMBER+STRICT restricts sharing to the organization only.</p>	Sources may use TLP:AMBER when information requires support to be effectively acted upon, yet carries risk to privacy, reputation, or operations if shared outside of the organizations involved.	Recipients may share TLP:AMBER information with members of their own organization and its clients, but only on a need-to-know basis to protect their organization and its clients and prevent further harm. Note: if the source wants to restrict sharing to the organization only, they must specify TLP:AMBER+STRICT.
 <p>TLP:GREEN Limited disclosure, recipients can spread this within their community.</p>	Sources may use TLP:GREEN when information is useful to increase awareness within their wider community.	Recipients may share TLP:GREEN information with peers and partner organizations within their community, but not via publicly accessible channels. TLP:GREEN information may not be shared outside of the community. Note: when "community" is not defined, assume the cybersecurity/defense community.
 <p>TLP: CLEAR Recipients can spread this to the world, there is no limit on disclosure.</p>	Sources may use TLP:CLEAR when information carries minimal or no foreseeable risk of misuse, in accordance with applicable rules and procedures for public release.	Subject to standard copyright rules, TLP:CLEAR information may be shared without restriction.

///**END OF REPORT**///
///

RESTRICTED - PROPRIETARY INFORMATION. The information contained herein is for use by IN OBSCURA Clients and designated local, state, and federal, law enforcement and security agencies. Outside dissemination is prohibited. This document is the proprietary and intellectual property of IN OBCURA, LLC. RESTRICTED FROM DISCLOSURE//NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE OR NEWS MEDIA

TLP CLEAR – IN OBSCURA CAVEATS APPLY