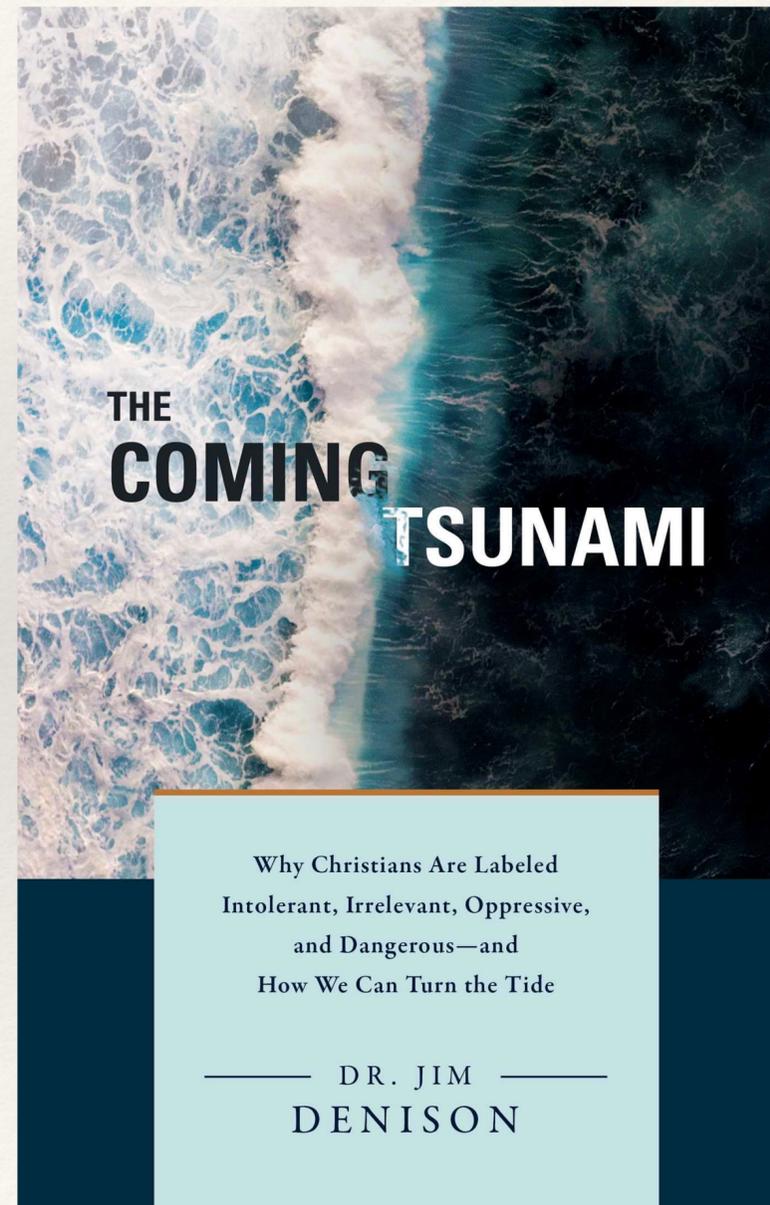


# Challenges Christians Face



THE  
**COMING**  
**TSUNAMI**

Why Christians Are Labeled  
Intolerant, Irrelevant, Oppressive,  
and Dangerous—and  
How We Can Turn the Tide

— DR. JIM —  
DENISON

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# Warning Signs

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- Four earthquakes that will generate a sweeping tsunami.
- Each deserves its own treatment, but the confluence of these are the threat.
  - The rise of a "post-truth" culture
  - The rise of the sexual revolution
  - The rise of Critical Race Theory
  - The rise of secular religion

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# The Rise of a "Post-Truth" Culture

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- Are evangelicals intolerant?
- *The* truth has become *your* truth - postmodernists: Foucault, Derrida, Rorty
- The media is driven by narrative, not news
- Becomes difficult to discuss belief in God - "Who are you to judge?"
- When arguments based on objective truth no longer have merit, who adjudicates sexuality and gender?
- First earthquake has been harder to detect. The second has been in the news.

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# The Rise of the Sexual Revolution

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- Are evangelicals irrelevant?
- Each year the nation declares June as “Gay & Lesbian Pride Month.”
- *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self* - Carl Trueman describes the detrimental impact of sexual repression and the need for sexual freedom.
- The sexual revolution undermines Christianity - undermines biblical authority and brands Christians as intolerant and oppressive.
- Truth falls, sexual liberation follows, then Christians branded as bigots.

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# The rise of Critical Race Theory

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- Are evangelicals oppressors?
- Critical theory - Frankfurt School, Max Horkheimer, social constructs
- Critical race theory - Derrick Bell, *Race, Racism, and American Law*
- Counter to biblical worldview - identifies racism as a cultural issue rather than a sin issue, claims colorblindness is impossible, functions as an ideology that locates salvation in society's liberation from injustice, devoted to the idol of outcome equality.

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# The rise of Secular Religion

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- Are evangelicals dangerous?
- Richard Dawkins, *The God Delusion* - evil God in the Old Testament, and religion is the root of all evil.
- Numerous examples of discrimination against Christians and examples of censoring Christians
- Why religion is considered dangerous: religious beliefs are hazardous, religious beliefs are irrational, religion is based on illusion, we have evolved beyond religion, belief in an afterlife is harmful in this life.

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# Ideas Have Consequences

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- In this section, Jim Denison looks at the consequences of these warning signs in our culture and in our daily lives.
  - The Equality Act - religious freedom in jeopardy
  - Beyond the Equality Act - impact on evangelicals and churches
  - Woke business - evangelical leaders under attack
  - Designer babies and health care

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# The Equality Act

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- Is religious freedom in jeopardy?
- What this means: gender-transition therapies, adoption agencies placing children same-sex couples, churches rent facilities for LGBTQ events.
- Explaining the opposition to biblical sexuality
- Transgender rights and women's rights
- Os Guinness - "we are seeing an unwitting convergence between some very different Western trends that together form a perfect storm."

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# Beyond The Equality Act

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- Are evangelicals, churches, and schools at risk?
- The IRS and tax-exempt status - Christian Engaged
- Social and cultural threats - Oral Roberts University, Promise Keepers
- Theological compromise - polls on cohabiting acceptable and casual sex
- Three different perspectives - Bible is wrong, evangelicals are wrong, the culture is wrong

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# “Woke” Business

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- Are evangelical leaders under attack?
- More than 400 companies signed on to support the Equality Act.
- Forces that led to the rise of “woke” business:
  - Younger employees educated in secular ideology
  - View their platform as a personal mission
  - Cancel culture is a real threat
  - Woke business practices appeal to new customers

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# “Woke” Business

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- Woke business and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Google).
- Why is woke business a threat to evangelicals?
  - Such business tactics are intended to indoctrinate their customers.
  - Businesses will become more doctrinaire because of woke employees.
  - Woke businesses threaten employees who disagree with them.
  - Woke businesses use money from evangelicals to advance other agendas.

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# Designer Babies

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- What is the risk to evangelicals in health care?
- The Equality Act would force faith-based hospitals to provide gender-affirmation therapies (sex-change procedures).
- Genetic medicine: prior to conception, for conception, after conception
- Other medical innovations: CRISPR genetic editing, designer babies
- Physician-assisted death
- When the created become creators

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# God Redeems All He Allows

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- We believe that God is all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-loving.
- Rather than withdrawing from culture, we should “speak the truth in love.”
  - Defending biblical truth with reason and relevance
  - Defending biblical sexuality with grace and truth
  - Defending biblical equality with compassion and humility
  - Defending biblical Christians with courage and hope

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# Defending Biblical Truth

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- Defending biblical truth with reason and relevance
- How to defend truth:
  - Logical issues
  - Moral issues
  - Practical issues
- How to defend biblical truth (archaeology, Messianic prophecy)

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# Defending Biblical Sexuality

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- Defending biblical sexuality with grace and truth
- We are all broken sexually, but must apply biblical truth to sexuality
  - The Bible and homosexuality
  - The Bible and premarital sex
  - The Bible and abortion
  - The Bible and pornography

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# Defending Biblical Equality

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- Defending biblical equality with compassion and humility
- Racism in history
- What the Bible says about racism
  - We are all created by God
  - We all descended from the same parents
  - Every person is equally valuable to God
  - We are to love all people unconditionally

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# Defending Biblical Christians

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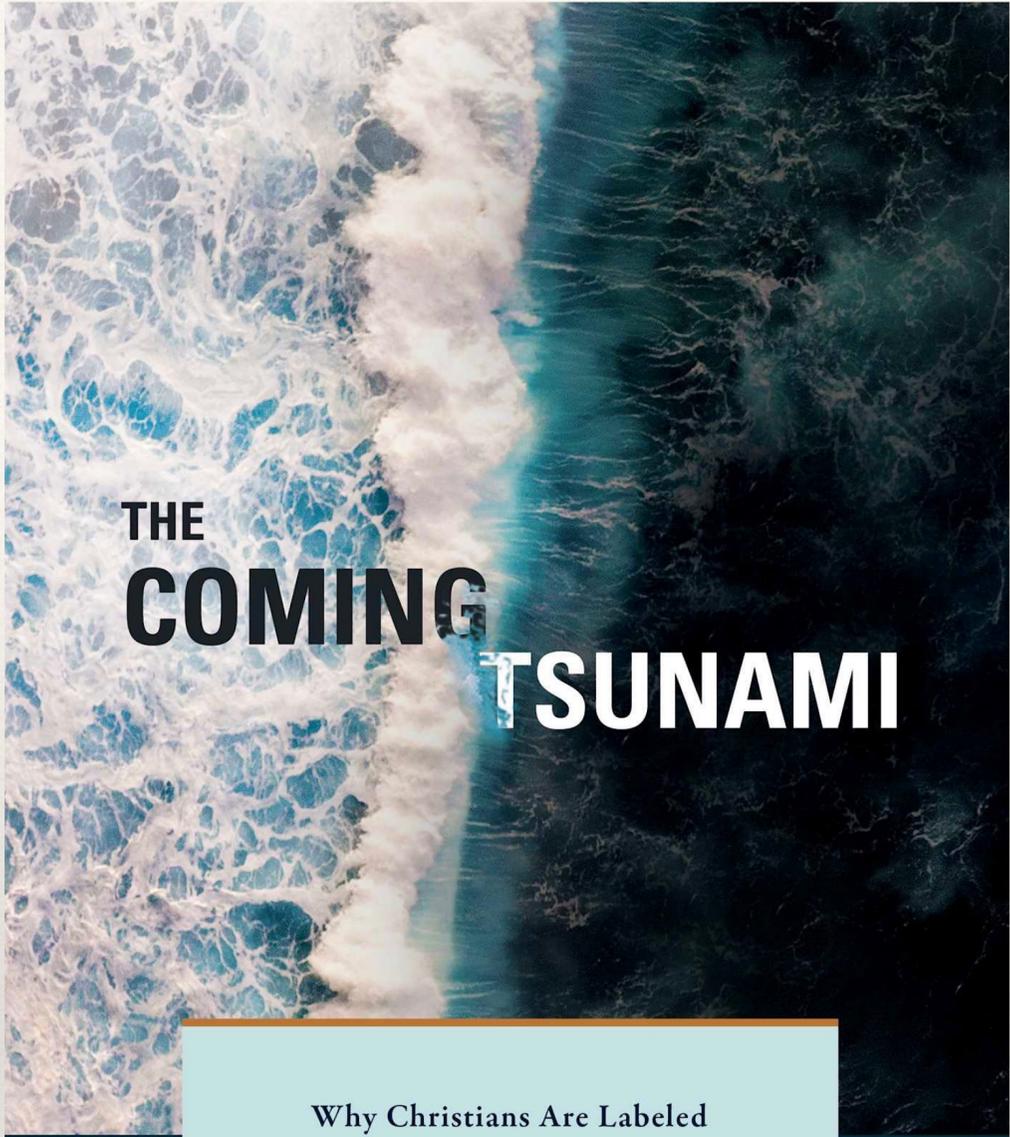
- Defending biblical Christians with courage and hope
- Is religion dangerous?
- Proclaim the good Christianity does
- Christian political engagement
- Christian response to persecution
- Redeeming the attack on biblical Christians

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# Conclusion: How to be the Change

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- Christ transforming culture
  - Model Christlike civility
  - Use your influence for God's kingdom
  - Serve with discernment
  - Consider public service
  - Use your personal platforms to promote your values



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# New Series Next Week

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