

Tennent Reflection Paper: Chapter 1

Summary of Chapter

Tennent explores the topic of how Christian theological formation, against the backdrop of Christianity's decline in the West and the advances of the statistical center of gravity to the South and East, needs to revolutionarily adapt by hearing the voices from the Majority World Church.

Key Learning/Questions

- The nature of Christian expansion through history has been one of serial growth; and Christian history shows advance and recession. We live on the seam of history.
- Acts 11:19 Men from Cyprus & Cyrene preached the gospel to Gentiles (Greeks in Antioch).
- Although it is important to uphold the value of systematic theology and universal truths of the gospel, the author argues that it is equally crucial to recognize the positive role that the Majority World Church (MWC) may play in our own theological formation.
- Do the 5 trends of MWC's theology run completely opposite to current Western theology?
- The gospel is culturally, geographically, and theologically translatable.
- There is no sacred language. It is the only religion whose cardinal scripture is in a different language (Greek) from that of the founder (Jesus spoke Aramaic and Hebrew).

Missional implications

- As the emerging MWC holds valuable contextual truths of how God works, missionaries can acquire key experience through living in the culture with humility and attentiveness.
- Are there examples where areas that had experienced recession bounced back to a vital role in mission work? Any suggestions on how to do evangelism in an area in recession (US)?
- Being an immigrant Christian in the US, I pray to be attentive to what God will do through my lived experience and communal resources given. May your will be done, Lord.