

Jessica Lee

### Tennet Chapter 1

This chapter introduced what translatability looks like culturally and theologically. Tennet gives examples of cultural translatability which shows that there are different ways the gospel can impact people of different cultural backgrounds. One of the examples he gives is when the gentiles were allowed to follow Christ alongside the Jews while also being allowed to not follow their strict lifestyle. Another example being the fall of the Roman empire and the transition of the center of Christianity from the capital of Rome into Byzantium or today's Istanbul. The final example he gave was one that highlighted the missionaries and the migrations, comparing the missionaries in the nineteenth century to the missionaries of today reaching the ends of the earth. This example also explained the migration of many Christian populations into other locations making those locations mostly Christian. Like these examples show, missionaries going out into the world and making disciples of many nations had started movements in many nations which continuously shifted "the center of gravity" for Christianity. Tennet also compares the Western church to Majority World Christians that are much more conservative than the liberal Christianity that we see in America today.

Some key terms from this chapter would be the pilgrim principle and the indigenizing principle. A couple key topics would be cultural translatability, theological translatability, and Majority World Christians and their role in Christianity today.

Something that stuck out to me was when Tennet would talk about his trips back and forth from India and the United States. Tennet mentions the beating his students would take for being a Christian and even then he sees hope for a Christian future for the country of India. Then, to compare, Tennet writes about how he believes the number of Christians in America will slowly decrease. When I read this part of the chapter, I was truly scared. I am scared because I feel like I see it in my own life. At my undergraduate university, in my communities, and even in my own family, I see Christians choose to live for something or someone other than God. What does this mean for future missions if America will be the one needing missionaries? Can America be saved or is our country forever doomed? The next question that pops into my head is "Why is this happening?" And the only reason I can think of right now is, because Americans don't believe they need God. They don't believe they need saving. What a scary mindset to have indeed.