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Gleanings

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Christianity: The Official Religion of China?

It has been reported that Jiang Zemin, president of China from 1993 to 2003, said that he was tempted to make Christianity the official religion of China (1) — a startling statement from the head of a country committed to atheism. What could have moved President Zemin to make such a declaration?

Chinese scholars spent twenty years trying to discover why America is both the most powerful and prosperous nation in the world. Consider the following quote regarding their conclusions.

One of the things we [Chinese scholars] were asked to look into was what accounted for the success, in fact the pre-eminence of the West [America] over the world. We studied everything we could from the historical, political, economic, and cultural perspective. At first, we thought it was because you [America] had more powerful guns than we had. Then we thought it was because you had the best political system. Next we focused on the economic system. But in the past twenty years, we have realized that the heart of your culture is your religion: Christianity. That is why the West is so powerful. The Christian moral foundation of social and cultural life was what made possible the emergence of capitalism and then the successful transition to democratic politics. We don't have any doubt about this. (2)

President Zemin must have known of this research. And since he valued America's economic prosperity so highly, he was willing to replace the atheism that communism is built on and in its place embrace Christianity.

Sadly the Chinese may understand more about our prosperity than we Americans do. They reached the conclusion that our Christian heritage is foundational to our prosperity. If their research is correct, and I believe it is, shouldn't we be eager to preserve our Christian values and principles? Wouldn't it make sense for American business schools to teach biblical values and principles as the keys to successful business?

As logical as it may seem that America should be embracing Christianity as the

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foundation for business success, America is not. Instead there is a growing movement to eliminate Christian values and principles from American business. Some examples are:

- The growing movement to adopt the gay agenda;
- The wholesale embracing of non-Christian worldviews, such as Islam; and
- The inability to use religious convictions as part of a hiring criteria.

Many political leaders are leading the charge to de-Christianize America. For example, presidential candidate John Edwards recently was quoted as saying that he does not consider America to be a Christian nation. (3)

What does this move to de-Christianize business mean for America's future? Based on the Chinese research, one would conclude that America is on the road to economic decline. How long this might take is hard to gauge, but the inevitability of the reality seems certain.

What should American Christians do? American Christians should take a stand and resist the de-Christianization of American business. Christians must understand the critical role that Christian values and principles play in facilitating the economic success of our country and be willing to resist those who are promoting non-Christian values and principles. Only by embracing the truth of Christianity and being willing to fight to preserve America's Christian heritage can we expect our nation's economic prosperity to continue.

If American Christians don't rise up and take a stand, in time, our economic system will implode. America will become a Third World nation. This will leave the door open for China and others to take America's place, and the nations that take America's place as the economic leader will do so by using the Christian values and principles that America is working so hard to reject.

So what are you going to do about it? Are you willing to answer the call to arms? If you want to do something, reject the politically correct philosophy of the day and hold fast to our Christian heritage. The economic future of America is at stake. This is no April Fool's joke!

1. Ken Eldred, *God is at Work*, p. 73.

2. Rodney Stark, *The Victory Reason*, p. 235.

3. Helen Kennedy, "How Edwards Sees Faith," <http://www.nydailynews.com>, 3/4/07.

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