

Article for English Corner Discussion

1. Article 1-2: How to progress toward a Harmonious Society 2

During the 17th National congress of Chinese communist party held in October 2007, “Scientific Outlook on Economic Development” was incorporated (纳入) into the Party Constitution (党宪法) which means China has to change from over-reliance (过於依靠) on cheap labor forces and natural resources (天然资源) to one on well-educated (良好教育) workers and improvement of science and technology (科技), and to a development mode that not only values quantity (产量) and speed but also high quality (高品质) and energy-saving (节省原能) conservation.

A question has often been asked: “Why in the human history, several great civilizations (文明) have rise and fall (兴衰) without the benefit of a scientific philosophy (科学研究系统) which emphasizes (作重) experiment (实验) and mathematical formulation (数据), but rose in only one culture – **Western Europe** and in no other cultures but in Christian.” Science writer Nancy Pearce and her colleague Dr. Charles Thaxton launched an investigation, the results of which are recorded in the book “**The soul of Science** (科学的灵魂), Crossway books, 1994” The following paragraphs quote some of the findings.

“Science” demands some kind of unique soil (特殊的土壤) in which to flourish (生长) and that soil was the Christian faith (基督信仰), Christian faith view universe is real (宇宙是真实的) and has great value (价值) (Genesis 1:31 “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good”) and hence is an object worthy of study (值得研究). (The ancient Greek equated the material world (物质世界) with evil and disorder (邪恶和混乱)). In addition, Christian belief in a trustworthy and rational God (可信赖和有理信的神) leads to the assumption of an ordered (有秩序), rational (可理解的) universe (宇宙). Universe possesses order and could be understood by human minds. Christians generally believe that natural sciences (natural laws and mathematical laws, 自然定律和数学定律) are gifts of God to humanity. Modern science has given birth to modern technology. Yet the transition from science to technology itself requires certain presuppositions (预想) about the world. Christians find Biblical justification (理由) for an active use of nature (Genesis 1:28), where God gives human beings “dominion (主权)” over the earth. It means that God gave human the responsibility (责任) to cultivate (耕作), care for (照顾), and harness (利用) for human benefits (利益). Christian faith encourages a commitment to the study of God’s “Book of Nature - the universe” (宇宙大自然) as complementary to (补充) the study of the book of God’s word (Bible, 圣经) for the purpose of glorifying God (荣耀神) and benefiting (好处) fellow-men. It is a

fact that many founders of modern science in the 17th and 18th centuries were Christians: Paracelsus (巴拉色沙士), Boyle (波义耳), Pascal (巴斯考), Kelvin (卡尔文), Pasteur (巴斯德) and especially Newton (牛顿) who wrote extensively on theology as well as on science; Others: Kepler (凯普勒), van Helmont (范里立豪) – filled their scientific notebooks with prayers, praises, and theological musings (沈思). As the great philosopher E. Kant (康德) once said: “There are two things that won my admiration (敬畏): first, the great wonders (奇妙) of the universe, and second, the mystic function of human conscience (良心). When we look up to the majesty (雄伟) of heaven, we can see God’s wisdom in creation (创造的智慧) everywhere. If we would examine ourselves, and listen to the voice of our conscience, we could comprehend (了解) God’s principle (原则) which leads men to righteousness. These two things are sufficient to direct people, who are honest enough and serious enough, to earnestly seek God (认真寻找)”

In the past 100 years, 80% of the Nobel prizes were awarded to Americans. American universities are still the first choices for students to study abroad. An opinion poll in March 2008 found that in the USA 84% of the people polled believed in God, and 72% claimed themselves to be Christians. God has really blessed America because of its Christian heritage. More than 30 years ago for six times (Apollo 11, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17), from 1969 to 1972, USA sent men to the moon. It was a tremendous scientific and technological achievement for mankind, More than 10 American astronauts walked on the surface of moon and returned safely without even one accident, because America as a nation reveres God. Every four years, when the new president of US is inaugurated, he, as a leader of the nation, puts his hand on a copy of Bible and prays that “O, help me God.” He humbles himself before God and brings people of the nation to God.

Now on the eve of when the Chinese Government is to embark on an ambitious enterprise to shift the paradigm of economic development from being labor intensity to rely on scientific research and technology transfer in order to achieve the goal of harmonious society. First shall we quote two Bible verses from Psalm 33:12 “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord”, and “The fear the Lord is the beginning of wisdom” (Proverbs 1:7) May God bless China to let Chinese Leaders to first lead the nation to God.

2. Discussions:

1. Chinese industry depends heavily on cheap labor and abundant natural resources to be competitive internationally, Chinese workers become the victims of China’s prosperity.
2. Scientific research and technology transfer entails not only higher-education workers but Also perspective view and conviction of the universe.
3. Why do most of the prominent Scientists (Newton, Einstein) believe in God?