

3/16/11 What Good is God when everything seems to be going well? (in other words, "Who needs God?")

Lenten Wednesday Night Reflections on Yancey's Themes from *What Good is God?* Pastor Tim Smith  
From Part II: China: Winds of Change

p. 54 Yancey states Chinese are like everyone else: greedy! The more we get, the more we want  
(PT: problem with both democratic and communist or socialist systems: they both have greedy people in them!)

Christianity's values are interesting to China, says Yancey, because their economic policies are being modeled after the capitalist West (but more like a 1950's capitalism in the US)

bot 62 top 63: how God, how Christianity "moves" ...Middle East to Europe to U.S. and now growing like crazy in Southern hemisphere and in China (where 100 years ago feudal system and 30 years ago terrible oppression)  
"Why are there so many 'formerly Christian countries'?"

Yancey believes it's because Christianity always comes from the bottom up, so when it's established, it dies.

(Carl Braaten: establishment of any organization makes its founding and primary principle secondary to the preservation of the organization (bureaucracy) at all costs)

p. 63: "As the corruption and economic indexes prove, Christianity can be good for a society. But as that society achieves a level of comfort and prosperity, they feel less need for religious faith. They live off the moral capital of the past. Meanwhile God quietly moves on, to a place that senses more need."

Mother Teresa: "You'll never know that Jesus is all you need until Jesus is all you have."

Some biblical reflections on where God is in the midst of power, wealth, and complacency:

Genesis Ch's 1 through 3 Creation and fall

Amos 5: 10-13, 22-24; (prophets always comfort the afflicted but afflict the comfortable)

Matthew 6: 19-20 Hearts and treasures

Matthew 19: 16-22 Rich young ruler

King Solomon's whole reign! See 1 Kgs. Ch. 4:22 ff through Ch. 12