

Challenging the Darkness: Notes on a New Christian Renaissance in Our Time

The church today is the product of two great missions to the West – the conversion of the Roman Empire and the conversion of the barbarian peoples. With trust in God and with no fear, we need to embark on a “third mission to the West.” This session will explore what this might mean.

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I. Introduction

II. Bear in mind the Church's grand tasks in the global era

A. Prepare the global South

B. Win back the West

C. Contribute to the human future

III. Remember the surprising relationship of the Christian faith and civilization

A. Unnecessary

B. Unlikely

C. Undeniable

IV. Acknowledge the paradoxes of our Reformation heritage

A. Complexity

B. Entanglement

C. Ironies

V. Explore the secret of the cultural dynamism of the Gospel

A. Key principle

B. Key question

C. Key test

VI. Count on the unique dynamics of the Kingdom

A. God is the leader

B. Grand reversals

C. Mostly a by-product

VII. Clarify the paradoxes of Christian engagement with culture

A. Greatest danger is success

B. Darkness before dawn

C. Go forward by going back

VIII. Take your part in a new 'Christian renaissance' or winning back the West

A. In His hands

B. For His highest

C. Let 1,000 flowers bloom

IX. Conclusion