

10/2/74

Chapel 2 Cor. 11:14-15

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Unbelief Taking over Christian Institutions

When I was in college, I read some from a consittutional history of the United States by a German historian and in it -- this constitutional history of the US -- he remarked on what he said was a very strange thing about this country. He said in the middle of the last century when there was a great war in which hundreds of thousands were killed in this country, he said, on both sides the leaders were constantly saying that if they could be shown from the Bible that they were wrong, they would immediately change their position and agree with the others. There is no nation probably in the history that has had as much of a Christian foundation as the U.S. has had. Of course there were people who came here in the early days to find wealth, in order to get away from the restrictions of life in Europe and so on. But there was a substantial number who came here with the desire and purpose to find a place where they could worship God in accordance with the dictates of the Bible. The Bible was given a place of honor and prestige in the U.S. during all of its early years beyond what you find in most other countries at most any time. Most of our great private universities in the US were founded for the express purpose of training those who would understand the Bible and who would present its teachings.

I picked up a book by a professor in Temple U. I happened to run on to it in ~~th~~ a bookstore in Ithica, N.Y. It was written by him, I forget the title of it now, but he discussed in it purely from a secular viewpoint the origin of many of our great eastern universities and colleges. It was most interesting to read about the very solid Christian orientation and purpose that was characteristic of most of these schools when they were founded. There were comparatively few