

ESTABLISHING A GOD-HONORING BUSINESS**By D. C. Chen**

Every individual entering the marketplace possesses certain skills and abilities bestowed by God, enabling them to establish a foothold in a competitive environment. However, when everything is going well, it is easy to become self-assured, even prideful, and gradually drift away from God. This is akin to Lot in the Bible's Old Testament, gradually moving his tent toward the sinful city of Sodom, ultimately leading to his downfall.

When facing difficulties in business, we have two choices: to rely solely on people, or to depend on the Almighty God. Jeremiah 17:5-8 describes the different outcomes of these choices: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the Lord... But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream...and never fails to bear fruit."

In 1972, shortly after my company was established, Everlight Chemical was confronted with the global oil crisis, putting the business in a difficult position. At that time, some people suggested that we appoint a legislator as our company's chairman to secure support from banks for financing. I had to choose between relying on people and trusting in God, and chose to rely on God's guidance and provision.

When I was young, a missionary from Canada had encouraged us to rely on God, using those verses from Jeremiah 17. She emphasized that doing so would enable us to flourish and bear fruit abundantly in our lives. This passage of Scripture had a profound impact on me, leading me to choose to depend on God rather than on people.

In 1988, Everlight Chemical successfully went public on the Taiwan stock market. While preparing the script for the stock-listing presentation, I felt overwhelmed with gratitude toward God and decided to include a statement: "Conducting business according to the truths revealed in the Bible will surely lead to God's blessings and success." Since then, in Everlight Chemical's profile and press releases we have consistently highlighted that we are a company that strives to bear witness to God.

At the CBMC World Convention in 1997, I learned that the purpose of Christian business differs from non-Christian enterprises in that it aims to "glorify God." This understanding clarified for me that the mission of a Christian business is not only to bear witness to God but also to bring glory to Him.

Everlight Chemical has faced many challenges in the high-tech industry; however, we have chosen to rely on God and entrust the success of our business to Him. Thanks to God's grace, direction and faithful provision, we have been blessed with talent, wisdom, and great customers, allowing many new ventures to gradually turn from losses to profits.

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I believe the success of our company is undoubtedly a manifestation of God's grace. As stated in Micah 6:8, we are "to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Walking with the Lord and establishing an intimate relationship with Him enable us to remain steadfast in the ever-changing marketplace and to bear witness to Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Ding-Chuan Chen – D. C. Chen – is the founder of Everlight Chemical, a publicly listed advanced dye and high-tech chemical company in Taiwan. The company currently operates subsidiaries in six countries worldwide and has more than 1,800 employees. He is the author of "Ever Admire the Light" and "Higher Ground"; has been a member of CBMC for more than 50 years; serves as the Honorary Chairman of CBMC Taiwan and has previously held the positions of Chairman for both CBMC Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific region, as well as an International Director of CBMC. He actively participates in various Christian ministries and charitable organizations.

Reflection/Discussion Questions

1. What different outcomes can arise from choosing to rely on people rather than relying on God when a business faces challenges?
2. Have you ever felt prideful due to the smooth operation of your business, leading you to become self-reliant and to drift away from God? If so, what impact has this had on your business or your life?
3. In what ways can the success of a business serve as a testament to or glorify God? How do you practice this in your daily operations?
4. In your life, what individuals or events have encouraged you to rely more on God – through their example or their counsel? Describe the influence they have had on you?

Challenge for This Week

In the coming week, take some time to reflect on how you rely on God in your work and daily life. Record some of the decisions you make each day and assess whether those decisions have been based on reliance on God or on others.

If you discover that you are leaning too much on people while neglecting God in certain areas, consider sharing this with a mentor or a trusted friend for mutual encouragement and growth. If you have not yet found the right person to support your spiritual growth, pray for guidance in seeking a spiritual partner who can help you pursue a life goal that glorifies God together. If you are a member of a CBMC team, perhaps you can find that person there.

NOTE:

For more about what the Bible says, consider the following passages:
Jeremiah 17:5-8; Psalm 145:9-16, 97:7-11, 113:1-4; Matthew 6:25-34

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