



Lecturing from the President Byeong
in the light of
Ministry, Philosophy, and Leadership of Dr. Melvin
(Number 7)



Fox and hedgehog

Dear Students,

I have read the essay "The Hedgehog and the Fox" by philosopher Isaiah Berlin. Of course, it was said to have taken the idea from Tolstoy's view of history. Berlin mentioned in the essay that there are two kinds of people in the world. I think he has researched many successful people and failures in the world. He finally concluded that those who focused on the only ONE thing succeeded more than those who tried to do many things and knew many things.

He illustrated a Fox and Hedgehog, which are fighting each other. In the end, hedgehog won that game at the battle, because hedgehog knows only one important thing, which is how to attack the fox, and when to attack he gets every energy at one point, one moment, so finally defeats the fox.

All of us know about Domino Theory, Domino Effect. What is it? If one object falls down to the other, it falls down by the effect of previous energy. After all, the sum of energy falls to the others in succession, which means one after another, and we couldn't imagine how much power, energy they make. It says to us that if we try one thing many days, many times, we can make it, and we can reach where we want to reach.

This reminds me of Dr. Melvin and his ministry, LPMI USA, and for all over the world. I am sure he knew this concept or not, but he did one thing, that is "to equip lay people for caring for each other" from the scripture Ephesians 4:11-12, John 21:15-17, and I Peter 5:1-4. He once said there are many things to do in the Church of America, but he had chosen this one thing.

Of course, it depends on the person or situations, but generally to do one big thing is much better than to do many things at one time. And historically, Berlin had listed such as Plato, Dante, Pascal, Hegel and Frost.

In today's case, as there's a saying "to dig a single well," sometimes when we see people doing only one thing for many days, many years, but still no fruit, no product, then we may blame them why you still stuck at there, and we accuse them of, "Why is he still there?" And they say, "I don't think that's your job."

But I think it is a temptation for all of us. This is of course my personal opinion, but we cannot do many things in a given life. No, it's not all achievable. I think it's wiser to focus on one thing, or two things you can do best in your life.

The father of Management, Peter Drucker, also said very few people can do three things well, or even two things well, but most people can only do one thing really well. ●