

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 14, JUNE 1999

"He therefore who bountifully supplies to you the Spirit . . . does He do it out of the works of the law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry Radio
- 1 What Is God's Full Salvation?
- 2 Highlights from Life-study of Galatians
- 3 Response from Listeners
- 4 The Path of Life—Exercising the Spirit

Life-Study of the Bible

CHANGE OF TIME:

SAN ANTONIO, TX
KSLR 630 AM
7:30 A.M. SUNDAY

WASHINGTON, D.C.
WFAX 1220 AM
5:30 P.M. MON-FRI

CHANGE OF FREQUENCY:

DUBLIN, IRELAND
ABC RADIO 92.4 FM
7:30 PM MON-FRI

Dear Listeners,

As you probably have noticed by now, we began broadcasting *Life-study of Galatians* on May 24th on our daily stations. If you have been with us for the first few programs, no doubt you have been impressed, as we surely are, with the matter of how God's own life is dispensed into us, making the divine life the very source of our living (Gal 2:20). The picture of Christian life as that of a grafted life (Rom 11:16-17) is expounded and illuminated in such a clear way by Witness Lee in this life-study. We hope that you will continue to tune in and discover for yourself how this divine life operates within us. This vision of the grafted life has the potential to be one of the most rewarding truths we will ever discover in our Christian walk.

We concluded the first part of *Life-study of Exodus* with two messages on the preciousness of the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ gives us a clear fellowship with God and gives God a way to work out His dwelling place in men. From the many orders for the printed life-study volumes, we realize that you are appreciating this ministry on Exodus as much as we do. We encourage you to obtain these soft-bound volumes so you can get into the riches on your own.

Just a reminder that we will return to the second half of *Life-study of Exodus* toward the end of July. In the meantime, we trust that you will enjoy Galatians and how this book complements Exodus in our understanding of God's eternal economy.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS GOD'S FULL SALVATION?

"For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled." Romans 5:10

As clearly seen in Romans 5:10, God's full salvation has two aspects—an aspect related to the law and an aspect related to life. Before we believed in Christ, we were sinners under God's condemnation and enemies of God. Through Christ's death on the cross, the righteous requirements of God according to His righteous law were fully satisfied, and we were redeemed by God (1 Pet. 1:18-19). All our problems with God were completely resolved by Christ's redemption. Through our faith in Christ we experienced the forgiveness and cleansing away of our sins (Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:9) and were justified by God (Rom. 3:24), reconciled to God (Col. 1:21-22), and separated, sanctified, to God (Heb. 13:12). Redemption, including all of these items, is the first aspect of God's salvation, the aspect related to the law. It was required by God's righteousness and accomplished through Christ's death. However, redemption is only the beginning of our experience of God's complete salvation.

(continued on page 2)

GOD'S FULL SALVATION

(continued from page 1)

The second half of Romans 5:10 continues to say, "much more we will be saved in His life." The salvation in Christ's life is the second aspect of God's full salvation. It is also the goal and the purpose of God's salvation. God redeems us, forgives us, cleanses us, justifies us, reconciles us, and separates us to Himself so that Christ can enter into us to live in us (Gal. 2:20) and be our life (Col. 3:4). Christ's living in us accomplishes in us a further salvation, a salvation in life.

When we receive Christ by believing in Him, we are reborn, regenerated by the Spirit of God in our spirit (John 3:6), and we become children of God (John 1:12-13), having the very life of Christ (1 John 5:11-12). Our new birth is the first step in our experience of God's salvation in life. After being regenerated, we need to be nourished by the milk of God's word (1 Pet. 2:2) so that we can grow in Christ's life to experience the remaining steps of God's full salvation.

According to the New Testament, these steps include sanctification (to partake of God's holy nature and thus be made holy in our nature—2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:22; Eph. 1:4), renewing (to be made new, especially in our mind, by the Holy Spirit through the word of God—Titus 3:5; Rom. 12:2), transformation (to be changed metabolically in our inward being by the operation of Christ's life, from the image of Adam to the image of Christ—2 Cor. 3:18), building (to be built up in oneness with other believers to be God's corporate dwelling place—Eph. 2:22; 1 Pet. 2:5), conformation (to be conformed to the image of Christ, God's firstborn Son—Rom. 8:29), and glorification (to be brought into God's glory at the Lord's coming back and to have our bodies transfigured, redeemed, to be like the Lord's glorious body—Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21). God's complete salvation, composed of God's redemption and God's salvation in life, makes us, the members of Christ's Body, the same as Christ, the Head of the Body, in life, nature, and appearance so that He and we together can express God corporately for eternity. This is our hope (1 John 3:2-3).

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation and To Be Saved in the Life of Christ as Revealed in Romans*, published by *Living Stream Ministry*.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 2:20 is a familiar verse in the Bible, but what does it really mean? Below is a portion from Life-study of Galatians on one of the basic items of God's New Testament economy: no longer I, but Christ living in me.

A REVELATION OF GOD'S ECONOMY

The Galatians had turned from God's economy and had gone back to the law, which they were trying to keep by the efforts of the flesh. But when we endeavor to keep the law in this way, we are far off from God. God's economy is not that we try to keep the law in the strength of our flesh. His economy is to work Himself into us. The Triune God has become the processed God. Through incarnation, Christ came in the flesh to fulfill the law and then to set it aside. Through His resurrection, Christ has become the life-giving Spirit, ready to enter into us. God's New Testament economy is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into us to become our life and our very being. If we see this, we shall be able to proclaim that we have been crucified with Christ and that we live no longer. Nevertheless Christ lives in us, and we live by the faith that is in Him and of Him. Our old person has been crucified, but the new person, the new "I," still lives. Now we live by faith in the Son of God and of the Son of God, a faith that produces an organic union in which we and Christ are one. There is no comparison between keeping the law and such an organic union.

Galatians 2:20 is a revelation of God's economy. In His economy God's intention is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into our being to make us a new person, a new "I." The old person, the old "I," the "I" without God, is over; but the new person, the new "I," the "I" with the Triune God in it, still lives. We live with Christ and by Christ. Furthermore, we live by faith, which is the means to bring us into oneness with Him. In this organic union we are one with the Lord, for we have one life and one living with Him. When we live, He lives. He lives in us, and we live with Him.

THE VISION OF CHRIST LIVING IN US

I believe that now we can understand what it means to say that Christ lives in us and that the life which we now live, we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. The experience portrayed in this verse implies that God in His Trinity has been processed. After Christ was incarnated, He lived on earth and then was crucified, buried, and resurrected. In resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. After His ascension, Christ was crowned, enthroned, and made the Lord of all. On the day of Pentecost, He descended as the Spirit upon His Body. From that time until now, He has been working and moving on earth, seeking those who will appreciate Him and call on His name. Whenever we call on the Lord Jesus out of our appreciation of Him, He comes into us and becomes the living faith which operates in us and brings us into an organic union with Him. In this union we can truly say, "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." This is God's New Testament economy. I hope that this vision will be infused into all the saints.

"I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

— Gal. 2:20

Life-study of Galatians, Msg. 10, pp. 93-94

RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners so that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All responses should be addressed to *Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801; via fax (714) 765-8024; email radioresponses@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

I've been reading the life-studies, and the revelation is wonderful. These brothers, Witness Lee and Watchman Nee, were really blessed. I hadn't been taught any of these things before, and I've been attending church for many years and I've always been inquisitive. I read things like Spurgeon. I have a lot of his sermons, and it's a blessing. But he doesn't explain quite as well as Witness Lee does in this Life-study of Exodus. It's wonderful. I am finally beginning to see where the harmony is between the Old and the New Testament. It's just beautiful. I share all the time now. I share it with everybody, believers and non-believers.

H.K., Montreal Nord,
Quebec, Canada


Thank you for your committed work of ministry unto our Lord Jesus Christ. This ministry has been a blessing and a source of truth and spiritual illumination. May the Lord return your harvest and reward this work expeditiously. God bless you all.

T.B., Houston, TX

*Praise the Lord who is Head over all things to the church. It is obvious that Christ is heading up this nourishing ministry. The *Hearing of Faith* newsletter is short but so rich! We recently gave the*

issue with the article "What Is Baptism?" to a newly regenerated sister. The ministry is shepherding her all the way into the good land—Christ as her rich portion and surplus!

C.S., Denver, CO



THIS MINISTRY HAS BEEN
A BLESSING AND A
SOURCE OF TRUTH AND
SPIRITUAL ILLUMINATION.

Thanks to your radio program and the excellent insight of Witness Lee into the Word of God it has provided me. I became a member of the [local] church in Newton last April. I love the fellowship with the wonderful brothers and sisters there. My experience of Christ has deepened and grown through this.

J.C., Chestnut Hill, MA

Even those who have read these [life-studies] before need to hear these broadcasts. I have not gotten into the Exodus life-studies in a long time, but coming

back to them in this format, I am seeing things I missed in the past. In particular, I was really impressed with the message on Exodus 18. I had trouble seeing the matter of the sequence in 1980. But this time around, your presentation and focus on the main points helped me to see clearly that the presentation here is according to doctrine, not historical sequence, and especially to see how after the flesh is defeated, the Gentiles believe and the church is presented to Christ and the kingdom is brought in. Amen.

M.L., Houston, TX

Brother Lee's ministry is the very best. It is rich in content, prophetic in sight, deep in the depths. I enjoy his ministry very much. Even though he is with the Lord, his voice is still heard in these last days. Glory to the Father and to our King.

E.S., Cleveland, OH

I thank you for this blessed ministry, for your teaching on the Word of God. I am truly soaked with the Word of God as I study Life-study of Exodus. Never before have I heard the Word of God in all its simplicity and truth. Witness Lee was truly a man of God.

J.D., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

THE *Path* OF *Life*

Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of the spiritual life as revealed in God's Word. May the Lord show us "the path of life" (Psa. 16:11) that we may have a daily living of enjoying, experiencing, and gaining Christ.

EXERCISING THE SPIRIT

First Timothy 4:7 says to "exercise yourself unto godliness." 2 Timothy 1:7 tells us, "God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of a sober mind." Then 2 Timothy 4:22 says, "The Lord be with your spirit." When we put all these verses together, we can see that the exercise unto godliness depends on the exercise of the spirit, where the Lord is. If you are going to exercise yourself unto godliness, you have to know how to exercise your spirit because the very God is in your spirit. . . .

WALKING ACCORDING TO SPIRIT

The Christian walk is a walk according to spirit (Rom. 8:4) which is our spirit mingled with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17). . . . Whatever we do, whatever we say, we have to do it and say it by the spirit, not by the soul or by the flesh. Whatever we do, we must turn to the Lord. Some Christians may think to turn to the Lord means to turn to the heavens, but to turn to the Lord in our experience is to turn to our spirit because the Lord is in our spirit. This means to set our mind on the spirit (Rom. 8:6). To set our mind on the spirit means to turn ourselves to the Lord. We must turn away from the flesh, away from reason, away from sickness, and away from troubles. Even Bible knowledge and teaching could be a distraction from which we must turn away. Day by day we have been distracted from our spirit by many outward things.

. . . We all must learn this practice: whatever happens to us, we must turn ourselves to the Lord. This means to turn to the spirit. On the one hand, I deny my natural and independent mind, emotion, and will, which is my self. On the other hand, I learn to sense the spirit. I only do things when I sense that I have the inner life and peace. To do this is to exercise the spirit. We all must practice to walk according to spirit in this way. . . .

A CHANGE OF ORGAN

So many of us simply do not exercise our spirit or use our spirit. In our daily life we don't care for our spirit or pay attention to it. We care for so many good things and try to do these good things by ourselves. We must have a change, not of the things, but of the organ. The question is: do you use the soul or the spirit?

For example, since I am a Christian, I have to love my brother, so I change hatred into love. This is a change of things. Morally speaking, this change is right. Spiritually speaking, it is not so right. When I hated this brother, I hated with my self. When I loved this brother I also loved in my self. Now I have to change by exercising the spirit. This is a change of organ. Formerly, my dealing with my bother was in the self. Now I have to change my dealing with this brother to the spirit. By changing the organ, I learn how to exercise and use my spirit. . . .

EXERCISING BY PRAYING

We have to start to exercise our spirit by praying, because to pray, in principle, is something in the spirit (Eph. 6:18). If you are going to exercise your eyes, you have to see. If you are going to exercise your feet, you have to walk. The more you walk, the more you exercise your feet. In like manner, the best way for you to exercise your spirit is to learn to pray.

LEARNING TO SENSE THE SPIRIT

Maybe when you begin to pray, you are still in the mind, in the soul. But if you keep on praying, you will pray yourself into the spirit. Even in our prayer we must deny the mind, the emotion, and the will, and learn to sense the spirit. You shouldn't pray according to what you know. You shouldn't pray according to what you like, desire, or love. You shouldn't pray according to what you decide to pray. You must deny the mind, emotion, and will, and take care of the inner sense deep within you. . . .

THE NEED OF PRACTICE

We must put all these principles into our daily practice. Whatever I do or say, I do it and say it by denying my mind, emotion, and will, and by sensing the inner situation. This means that I am using and exercising my spirit. I am living, walking, and doing things not by my self, but by my spirit with the Lord. In our spirit we have the victory. Just turn yourself to the exercise of the spirit. In our spirit we have the enjoyment of the Lord. Practice to use and exercise your spirit.

Our Human Spirit, pp. 70-73, by Witness Lee

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is a publication of Living Stream Ministry. All subscriptions are free. In addition to portions of ministry, this newsletter features broadcast updates and other items of interest. We hope that this newsletter will not only inform you of current news but will also nourish and refresh your spirit. Please be sure to read our reply card and feel free to use it to make comments or ask questions.

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