

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 32, DECEMBER 2000

"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

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

PHILADELPHIA, PA

WVCH	740 AM
2:30 P.M.	SATURDAY
9:30 A.M.	SUNDAY

SHREVEPORT, LA

KFLO	1300 AM
8:15 A.M.	SUNDAY

PORTLAND, OR

KPDQ	800 AM
10:30 A.M.	SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

On Saturday, October 21, Living Stream Ministry, in conjunction with Amana Christian Bookstore in Berkeley, California, held a seminar in northern California for radio listeners. Chris Wilde, host of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* and Dan Towle, one of the guest speakers on the program, were there for the half-day event. It was a very enjoyable time of fellowship and singing which allowed us to meet some of you. Our hope is to have similar seminars in different parts of the country. If you are particularly interested in something for your area, please let us know so we can pray for the Lord's direction.

If you can hear the life-study program each day in your area, we trust you have enjoyed the first half of the book of Leviticus on the different offerings and the many aspects of the experience of Christ that they portray. We are now moving to the second half of the book, which focuses on the holy life of God's people. If you can only hear us on weekends, we trust you are enjoying the programs from the book of Exodus and the Gospel of Matthew. Pray for us here as we labor with the Lord to reach the many lovers and seekers of Christ with this ministry, not only through radio but we hope some day through television as well.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS A HOLY LIFE?

In *Life-study of Leviticus*, Witness Lee summarized the general sketch of Leviticus in this way: "through the tabernacle, with the offerings and by the priests, God's redeemed are enabled to fellowship with God, serve God, and be God's holy people living a holy life, which expresses God."

What does it mean to be a "holy people living a holy life"? The apostle Peter revealed two divine facts that the Triune God gave to every believer. First, we

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RESPONSE *from* LISTENERS

We invite you to share your comments with us and other listeners so we all may be encouraged in the Lord. Responses should be addressed to *The Hearing of Faith*, "Response from Listeners," 2431 W. La Palma Ave., Anaheim, CA 92801 or radio@lsm.org. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

Thank you for sending me The Hearing of Faith. It made my faith grow. The publication gave me the riches of the Bible. The September 2000 issue enriches my understanding to work out my own salvation and the explanation of Philippians 2:12 is so beautiful.

Alhambra, CA

Thank you for building up in me a love for God's Word and moving me from one who drinks milk to eating strong meat. It is only the Word that is able to make you free. Continue to do what God has called you to do with the same excellency and scholarship.

Plantation, FL

I can never get enough of Brother Lee's spiritual comment. Each lesson is so fulfilling and so old and yet new. It's exciting to hear how from one chapter in the Bible there is so much life. I feel convicted every time. But I am learning from Witness Lee's ministry to be an overcomer and to make my own salvation work for me in righteousness through Christ Jesus.

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

Thank you and your ministry. Your program is so soothing, even when it is such a sober and serious message. Brother Lee is so sincere and gentle. Before you know it, you have learned something so priceless. And the follow-up conversation is also a blessing and truly enlightening.

Brandon, MS

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF LEVITICUS

CHRIST AS FOOD TO SATISFY GOD AND HIS SERVING ONES

One of the most difficult books in the Bible for us to understand is Leviticus. Paul was the first one to open up, to expound, this book. Throughout the centuries, Bible teachers, especially among the Brethren, have expounded Leviticus. The Brethren opened up the types. We today have received much help from the Bible teachers who preceded us, and we are standing on their shoulders....

In his Bible Correspondence Course, C. I. Schofield said that in every chapter of Leviticus we can see Christ. When I first heard this, I did not understand it. I could see the offerings in Leviticus, but I could not see Christ. Eventually, I was helped by the Brethren to see that in Leviticus Christ is portrayed in the types. All the offerings are types, pictures, of Christ.

Although I was helped by the Brethren to see Christ in the types, I did not realize until some time later that the offerings are God's food (Lev. 3:11, 16; 21:6, 8; Num. 28:2). Do you realize that God is hungry, that He needs food, that He needs to eat? To say that God is hungry and needs food is not according to our natural, human concept. When we speak of the offerings as sacrifices, our only thought may be that we have a problem with God and need the offerings for propitiation that our situation with God may be appeased. We may never have realized that, in reality, one of the main purposes of the offerings is that they are food for God and also for His serving ones.

In the books of Exodus and Leviticus we see that the priests, who served in and around the tabernacle, ate the priestly food. What was this priestly food? It was the different kinds of offerings, both of the animal life and of the vegetable life. The offerings are not only for propitiating our situation and not only for pleasing God and making Him happy. The offerings are also for satisfying God and for satisfying, strengthening, and energizing God's serving ones. . . .

We serve God with Christ as our food. Apart from Christ we have nothing to offer to God, nothing with which to please and satisfy Him. Therefore, we should not come to God empty-handed but with hands full of Christ to present to God. The top portion of Christ as the offerings is God's food for His enjoyment, and the remainder is our food for our enjoyment. From this we see that both God and His serving ones are satisfied with Christ and by Christ as food.

Life-study of Leviticus, pp. 124-126

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A HOLY LIFE

(continued from page 1)

“call as Father” the Holy One who called us (1 Pet. 1:15-17), implying that we have been born of God (1 Pet. 1:3, 23) and thereby possess His holy life and His holy nature. Peter confirmed this divine fact by telling us that we are “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Pet. 1:4). We are holy because we have both the life and nature of our holy Father.

The second divine fact that the apostle Peter revealed to us is that the blood of Christ redeemed us from our vain manner of life handed down from our fathers (1 Pet. 1:18). Redemption not only saves us from God’s judgment but it also

transforming work, resulting in our full sanctification (Rom. 6:19, 22).

Paul also told us that God chose us “to be holy” (Eph. 1:4) and that Christ gave Himself for the church to sanctify her that “she would be holy” (5:25-27). Christ accomplishes this sanctifying “by the washing of the water in the word” (v. 26). The Lord’s redeeming blood washes away our sins, whereas the water of life in the Lord’s word washes away the natural life of our old man. The more we allow the Lord’s living word to cleanse us, the more we are sanctified and made holy, and the more we will express this holy life.

We are holy because we have both the life and nature of our holy Father

saves us from our vain manner of life. Now we can live another manner of life—a holy manner of life (1 Pet. 1:15). This holy life is something intrinsic in the very essence of our living. To live a holy life is not simply a matter of wearing more modest clothing or refraining from wearing makeup. Nor is it an assuming of some type of pious demeanor. Rather, it is that our very being, both our inward thinking and our outward doings, are a reflection and an expression of our holy Father through the life of our Savior who indwells us.

Not only so, the apostle Paul told us that we are sanctified in the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:16). To sanctify means to make holy. In the Holy Spirit, we are made holy not only positionally but also dispositionally by the Holy Spirit’s renewing and

So from Peter’s writing, we see that a holy life is the expression of the Father’s holy life and nature which we received in our regeneration. From Paul’s writing, we see that we are sanctified in the Holy Spirit and that a sanctifying work is carried out in us by the washing of the water of life in Christ’s word. May we care for the holy life and nature of God in us through fellowship with Him. May we cooperate with the Holy Spirit’s sanctifying work. May we also be washed in the water of the Lord’s word to be a holy people with a holy life to express our God.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of 1 Peter*, messages 5-14; *Life-study of Romans*, message 17; and *Life-study of Ephesians*, message 3, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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Published by Living Stream Ministry
2431 W. La Palma Ave.
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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.

THE ORGAN FOR EATING—THE SPIRIT

THREE GREAT THINGS IN THE UNIVERSE

Zechariah 12:1 shows us that in the eyes of God there are three great things in this universe: the heavens, the earth, and man. In the universe God pays attention to the heavens, the earth, and the spirit of man. Therefore, do not despise yourself.

*The most precious thing in man
is his spirit.*

You have a spirit within you, and your spirit is ranked with the heavens and the earth. God needs the heavens and the earth, and even more He needs your spirit. If we see how important our human spirit is, we will be very excited.

Why does God consider the human spirit as important as the heavens and the earth? It is because the human spirit is a vessel to contain God. The heavens are for the earth. Without the heavens, the earth could not survive. The things we enjoy on earth, such as sunshine and rain, come from the heavens. Furthermore, the earth is for man. Things brought forth by the earth, such as crops, are suitable to meet man's needs for his survival. But the most precious thing in man is his spirit. The human spirit is for God; it is used to contain God. The heavens are for the earth, the earth is for man, and man is for God.

MAN HAVING A SPIRIT

Man has a spirit. Many people, including even Christians, do not know that there is a spirit in them. We must pay attention to the spirit

of man. To eat food, you cannot use your eyes, ears, or nose; you must use your mouth. The mouth is the organ for eating... The Lord Jesus said that He is the bread of life. By this we see that God Himself is our food. Then which organ do we use to eat the Lord? The spirit! The human spirit is the organ for us to eat the Lord. God created a spirit for us that we may eat

Him, enjoy Him, and receive Him into us. Hallelujah! We have within us a stomach to contain physical

food and a spirit to contain spiritual food, which is God Himself!...

TWO KINDS OF PRAYER

Now let us talk about prayer. There are at least two kinds of prayer. The first kind is to pray with the intellect or the mind. The words of your prayer may be correct, but because you pray with the wrong organ, your prayer is not effective. If you ask a professor of psychology to pray, he might pray and pray, going round and round in his mind; eventually he may even pray God away. This is because the human mind cannot contact God, just as a piece of wood cannot make electrical contact. If one is willing to call, "O Lord," then the Spirit will come, and he will touch God. Therefore, the second kind of prayer is to pray with the spirit. We all must exercise to make our spirit strong....

The Lord said that He is the bread of life and that we have to eat Him. How do we eat Him? It is not by considering Him with our mind but by calling "O Lord!" with our spirit. Suppose your husband or your wife

or a brother or a sister insults you, provoking you to anger. This will stir up your mind to think, "How unreasonable this is! How can he do this to me?" Then your whole being will be usurped by the mind, and even though you pray, you will not be able to touch the Lord. Therefore, we must learn how to contact the Lord with our spirit. The Lord is Spirit. To contact Him, who is Spirit, we must use our spirit. He as the Spirit is in our spirit. In our spirit there is a mutual fellowship and a mingling of the two spirits.

The Lord's Recovery of Eating, pp. 13-15,
by Witness Lee

THE HEARING OF FAITH

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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According to the revelation of the Scripture, we believe that any ministry that comes from God should trust in God for all its needs. Therefore, we have made it our policy not to solicit donations or contributions. However, if any of our listeners are led by the Lord to give, we will accept offerings as from the Lord and will use them for the furtherance of His truth.

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