

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 46, FEBRUARY 2002

"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

BRYAN, TX

KAGC
8:30 A.M.

1510 AM
MON-FRI

Dear Life-study Listener,

Internet listenership of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* is growing. If you have a friend or relative that you would like to introduce to the inspiration and enlightenment you have received from our broadcasts, please tell them that they can hear all our past programs at www.lifestudy.com. More people are seeking the truth these days and are looking for serious Bible studies to help them. These past radio programs are an excellent aid for believers to come to the full knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).

Recently a couple visited us here at Living Stream Ministry in Anaheim, California and toured the broadcast section where we produce our radio program. The husband made a comment that we would like to pass on to you for your encouragement. He said that our radio broadcast is similar to Philip in Acts 8:26-39 who brought the interpreted Word to the Ethiopian eunuch sitting in his chariot on the road. This was his own recent experience while he was driving his modern day chariot. He was going through radio channels when he found *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*, which opened the Word of God for him, just as Philip did for the eunuch. May the "Philip" radio program find many more seekers of the Lord!

Everyone is invited to tour the Living Stream Ministry broadcast section. Call us at (714) 236-6020 to schedule a time.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

Christ with the church, as the bride of Christ, is a mystery, and the apostle Paul said that this mystery is great (Eph. 5:32). Adam and Eve as the most excellent picture in the entire Bible typify this great mystery. The Bible not only begins with this picture of a husband and wife but also consummates with the New Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2).

After God created Adam, Adam named all the animals, but none of them matched him as his counterpart with his life and nature (Gen. 2:20). God

(continued on page 3)

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.

Thanks for speaking the truth. I enjoy the teaching of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee over the radio. I am a pastor who enjoys the truth of God's Word and would like more teaching than just the tapes (not long enough). I would like "the whole man" of these teachings. Please send me a catalog of the teaching of Watchman Nee and Witness Lee. I've heard wonderful things about Witness Lee's books. I would like the entire teaching on the book of Genesis, for example. I've read many Watchman Nee books.

Houston, TX

My wife and I thank God for this ministry and how He's using you to speak through the airwaves, the newsletters, and the books. Thank you so much for being the vessel that God can use. Thank you for listening to the voice of God, Living Stream Ministry. We look forward to receiving your newsletter every month. The newsletters help a lot when we're doing our Sunday school review or when we're ministering. Please continue to glorify God.

Jackson, MS

I have been studying the Bible intensely since 1978. I have never had it taught to me in the depth that you do. Also, there are so many beautiful interpretations that I have never heard before. I listened to your program on KBBW, Waco, Texas, on the fatted calf, the robe, and the ring all being Christ. Hallelujah!

Bryan, Texas

Excerpt from

THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

BY WATCHMAN NEE

THE CLEANSING OF THE CHURCH BY THE WASHING OF THE WATER IN THE WORD

We must notice this phrase "by the washing of the water in the word." In the New Testament two Greek words are used to denote *word*. One is *logos*, referring to the word in a general sense; the other is *rhema*, which although translated as *word* in Scripture, means something quite different from *logos*. *Logos* refers both to things which have been eternally determined and to things used in an objective way. This is *word*, as we generally use it, and *word*, as it is generally known in Christianity. But *rhema* refers to words which are spoken. This is more subjective than *logos*. Let us look at several passages in the New Testament where *rhema* is used....

*May
He speak
personally
and directly
to us today.*

John 3:16 is a verse many of us can quote from memory. Perhaps we have known it for ten or twenty years. Is this verse the Word of God? Certainly it is the Word of God, but it is *logos*. There comes a day, however, when we read this verse and it is entirely different to us than it ever was before. "For God so loved the world..." Now, God does not just love the world, He loves me.... "...would not perish, but would have eternal life." It is I who will not perish, and it is I who even now have eternal life. This word is now *rhema*....

John 6:63 says, "The words which I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." Did the Jews not have the *logos* of God? Yes, they did. They were very familiar with it and could recite the Old Testament commandments very well, but it was of no use to them. Only the words which the Lord spoke to them were spirit and life. Only *rhema* is spirit and life....

We will always treasure the fact that the Lord still speaks today. He not only spoke in the Scriptures, He not only spoke to Paul and John, He is also speaking to us today. The word of the Lord has never ceased.... The problem with the church today is that it lacks the living word of the Lord; instead there are only dead doctrines. There is a real shortage of direct communication from God. There is only a passing on of man's preaching. It is pitiful that so many people have died under good doctrines! May God have mercy upon us and give us *rhema*. May He speak personally and directly to us today. Only when we have *rhema* can we move ahead and have the living water to supply to others. What we need is *rhema*.

The Glorious Church, pp. 51, 52, 54, 55

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

(continued from page 1)

then put Adam to sleep and took a rib out of his side to build the woman Eve (v. 21). God used only what came out of Adam to make Eve. When Adam first saw Eve he said, "This time this is bone of my bones" (v. 23), recognizing her as part of himself, even his increase.

As Eve was built physically from the rib out of Adam's side, the bride of Christ is formed spiritually by the blood and water that came out of Christ's side on the cross (John 19:34) and is His increase (3:29-30). The Lord's precious blood cleanses us of our sins, redeeming us to become part of the church, His bride. The water out of His side refers to the flowing life of God (Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 7:38-39; Rev. 21:6; 22:1, 17). This water of life cleanses us from our natural life and saturates us with His life, making us Christ's spotless bride (Eph. 5:26-27).

Today many things in the church are not purely from Christ and therefore cannot be part of the beautified bride presented to Him. Ephesians 5:25-27 say that Christ gave Himself up for the church "that He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word, that He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish." This washing water is the cleansing by the life-giving Spirit through His instant speaking to us from the Word of God.

Christ gains His bride by redeeming us through His blood and by beautifying us through His ongoing

salvation in His divine life, indicated by the water. Every day we need to be washed not only in His blood but also in the water of His word to be sanctified until we are holy and without blemish. Then we can be presented to Christ as a glorious bride. Romans 5:10 corresponds to these two aspects of the bride's preparation, saying, "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved

Christ will gain a pure bride who is one with Him.

in His life, having been reconciled." Through this preparation process, one day the bride will be ready (Rev. 19:7), so the angel eagerly said to John, "Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb" (21:9).

The entire Bible is a romance between God and man. Christ will gain a pure bride who is one with Him as John declares in Revelation, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come" (22:17). May we love our bridegroom Christ supremely and be daily washed in the water of His word to be prepared as His glorious bride, matching Him in His life and nature.

For further reading on this subject, see *The Glorious Church*, by Watchman Nee and *Life-study of Romans*, message 1, by Witness Lee, both published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

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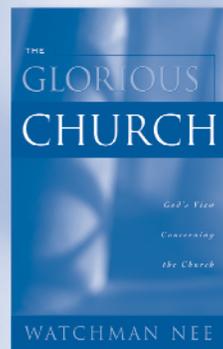
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THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

BY WATCHMAN NEE

GOD VIEWS THE CHURCH,
THE REDEEMED BELIEVERS,
FROM A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE.

Far from seeing her as defeated by the power of sin and sins, God views the church as the triumphant and glorious counterpart of Christ, who fully expresses the One who fills all in all. In *The Glorious Church* Watchman Nee discusses four significant representations of the church in the Bible: Eve in Genesis 2, the wife in Ephesians 5, the woman in Revelation 12, and the Bride in Revelation 21 and 22. In each instance, he presents the church's high calling to fulfill God's eternal purpose. Recently discovered handwritten notes supplement this new and fresh translation of



The Glorious Church, making it the most complete record of the messages given by Watchman Nee from the fall of 1939 to the fall of 1942.

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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 LEADING IN A CHRISTIAN

THE MEANING OF BEING LED

To help us learn the lesson of being led, first we must be clear about the meaning of being led. We usually think that the purpose of being led is to gain some benefit for ourselves. This is an improper concept. . . Many people believe in the Lord to obtain blessings, peace, and prosperity. The Lord has been kind and considerate towards us and has answered some

A person who has not consecrated himself to God cannot be led.

prayers of this kind. However, the Lord's ultimate goal in answering our prayer is not just that we may obtain peace but that He may gain us and fill us, so that we may have His nature and His image. The Lord is working towards this goal.

HOW TO BE LED

The Bible tells us that the Lord is the Potter, and we are the clay (Rom. 9:21). Oftentimes a potter will pick up some unmolded clay, pat it gently, shave off the excess, and make straight the crooked angles. Eventually a shape is formed, and the clay is burned in fire. Christians are like clay in the hands of the Lord, and He intends to make us into His vessels. Therefore, we have to be led. First, we must not consider blessings our priority. If we do, we cannot be led by the Lord. Someone asked me, "I have some problems. If I pray earnestly, will God turn around the difficulties?" I said,

"I do not know the pathway that God has arranged for you. He can turn around the situation, but I do not know if He is willing to do that for you. He wants to place you in a distressing situation so that you may be burned and burned again. Through the burning He can make you into a precious vessel in His hand." We should not use our believing in the Lord as a means to obtain some blessings according to our will and not according to His will.

Second, in order to be led by the Lord we need to conduct ourselves in the world not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God (2 Cor. 1:12). A person who depends on his abilities cannot receive leading from the Lord. Everyone who has been led by the Lord has crushed his fleshly wisdom and his abilities. Perhaps we are afraid that if our abilities are demolished, we will not have anything and will not be able to do anything. In reality, though, the most competent person is one whose abilities and fleshly wisdom have been broken. Is God not more capable than we are? Is God not wiser than we are? There was an elderly Christian in London who had a very intelligent son. Every morning, when her son was about to go to his office, she would repeatedly remind her son to not live according to the wisdom of his flesh but according to the grace of God.

Third, we have to learn to consecrate ourselves to God. A person who has not consecrated himself to God cannot be led. We have to absolutely consecrate to God our family and our whole being with all that we have and all that we are. Only then can the Lord lead us. Then we can learn to

rely on the Lord and ask for His leading in big things and small things. For example, someone may ask us, "Would you like to come with me to Tamsui for a walk?" We do not have to rigidly kneel down to pray, but we have to inquire of God inwardly, bringing the matter before Him to discuss it with Him. If we would follow the Lord, walk in His path, and commit ourselves to God, discussing all matters, big or small, with Him, and clearly receiving His leading before we take action, then we are truly walking in and with the Lord.

The Pursuit of a Christian, pp. 84-85, 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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