

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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"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

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Dear Life-study Listener,

We are happy to announce that *Life-study of the Bible* can now be heard in our country's largest city—New York—on WWDJ, a long-established Christian station. This is an answer to our prayers, and we hope you will tell your friends or relatives in New York City about the broadcast. Details are at the bottom left corner of this page.

Recently we finished *Life-study of Ephesians*, where we discussed the church in rich detail. Now we are studying First Corinthians, which is an illustration of the practical and actual Christian life, church life, and Body life. In this epistle, the apostle Paul addressed many problems in Corinth, such as division, sin, and the abusing of gifts. Yet, amid so many difficulties, Christ and His cross are revealed as the unique solution for every problem. If you have heard the programs or read the printed messages, we think you will agree that *Life-study of First Corinthians* shares this unique focus on the crucified Christ. Thank Him, for "God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE ETERNAL LIFE?

To properly understand God's economy, God's plan, we must be clear concerning the eternal life spoken of in the Bible. The Gospel of John begins by telling us that in the eternal Word, who was God, was life and this life was the light of men (John 1:4). Throughout the book of John, life, the imparting of life, and the multiplication of life are mentioned repeatedly. There are over forty references to life in the Gospel of John and another fourteen in First John. In almost all these references, John uses a particular word for *life*, the Greek word *zoe*, which means "divine, eternal and uncreated life." In Greek, the language of the New Testament, there are three different words translated into English as *life*: *bios*, referring to biological life, common to all living

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

NEW YORK CITY, NY

WWDJ 970 AM
9:00 P.M. SUNDAY

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.

I was listening to your life-study broadcast in the Philadelphia area on Saturday morning. I was very interested in hearing about the sacrifices. I think the teaching was on Leviticus, and Dick and Chris were commenting on a tape by Witness Lee. I was calling to get a copy of that so I could study it. The teaching was very good, and I thought it filled in some of those yearnings I have for a deeper understanding of Scripture and how I might actually live what's written in the Scriptures. So much of what is being taught is repetitive. It's very hard to find some teachings that go beyond the norm, and it seems to me this teaching was doing that. It was taking me to another level in Christendom, which I very much appreciated. So, I'm looking forward to getting these materials and actually growing more. I thought the camaraderie between Dick and Chris was very pleasant, open, easy to listen to, and inviting. Sometimes when people talk on the radio, you can hear what I call carnality, which is not easy to listen to. But the way you interact on the radio program was very easy to listen to, and I didn't find any kind of struggle trying to overcome any attitude in comments that I heard you make. That was very conducive to a learning atmosphere.

Swarthmore, PA

Your program tops off my personal time with our Savior every day and every time that I am able to listen. Listening to Witness Lee and Watchman Nee is challenging, but your commentary always clarifies the truth!

Mableton, GA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

A MATTER OF LIFE

Planting, watering, and making to grow are all related to the matter of life. This indicates clearly that the believers are God's farm to grow Christ. The ministers of Christ can plant and water. God is the only One who can make to grow. The Corinthian believers overestimated the planter and the waterer, but neglected the One who makes to grow. Hence, they did not grow in Christ as their life.

The Corinthian believers, under the influence of Greek philosophical wisdom, paid too much attention to knowledge and neglected life. In this chapter Paul's aim is to turn their attention from knowledge to life, pointing out to them that he is a feeder and a planter, Apollos is a waterer, and God is the Giver of growth. In 4:15 he even tells them that he is their spiritual father, who begot them in Christ through the gospel. From the view of life, the divine view, they are God's farm to grow Christ. This is totally a matter of life, a matter which is utterly missed by believers who are dominated by their soulish, natural life under the influence of their natural wisdom.

In verse 7 Paul says, "So that neither is the one who plants anything nor the one who waters, but the One Who makes to grow, God." As far as the growth in life is concerned, all the ministers of Christ, whether a planter or a waterer, are nothing, and God is everything. We must turn our eyes from them to God alone. This delivers us from the divisiveness which results from appreciating one minister of Christ above another.

*The
believers
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grow
Christ.*

PLANTING, WATERING, AND GROWTH

In the church life we must learn not only how to plant, but also how to water. Actually, watering others is very easy. Suppose a saint comes to you with a problem. Do not try to solve this person's problem. Actually, we are not able to solve others' problems. Do you not have many problems of your own which are not yet solved? Since you have not solved your own problems, how do you expect to help others with their problems? Thus, in watering the saints, we should forget about trying to solve their problems. According to my experience, the best way to water others is to pray-read a few verses with them. For example, a brother may present a problem concerning his job or family life. Instead of touching the problem, pray-read the Word with him. If you do this, both of you will be watered. You will know that the one who came to you has been watered by the fact that you yourself have been watered. Your consciousness of having been watered proves that you have watered him.

Life-study of First Corinthians, pp. 204-205, by Witness Lee

THE ETERNAL LIFE

(continued from page 1)

organisms; *psuche*, referring to the life of the soul or the psychological life; and *zoe* referring to the divine, eternal, and uncreated life of God.

The word *zoe* and the entire context of John's Gospel speak of the eternal life, the divine life that can enter man to give him a second birth (John 3:6). In John 3:16, one of the most famous Bible verses, the Lord Jesus says that when we believe into God's Son, we have this eternal life. The key to understanding what the eternal life is here is to see that it does *not* mean we will live forever in our human life or enter into heaven. For us to have eternal life means we have the *zoe* life, the life of God, which we did not receive by our first birth (John 3:1-6) but which we obtain when we believe into the Lord Jesus Christ (1:12-13).

The Lord Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Unfortunately, many believers mistake this verse to mean that when we receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we receive an enhanced or enriched human life so things on earth will be easier for us and "life" (as generally understood by people) will be better. This is not what the Lord Jesus meant, and this is not what the apostle Paul, a pattern to all believers, experienced (Phil. 3:17; 2 Thes. 3:9). In John 10:10, the Lord spoke of the divine, uncreated, divine life of God. For us to have this life, the Lord Jesus, in whom this divine life was embodied (1:4), fell into the ground and died (12:24), and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). Now this eternal life can be

imparted into millions of people through regeneration (John 1:12-13; 3:1-6), and thus the eternal life of God can be multiplied in humanity (12:24). In this way, God can have many sons, not adopted sons but ones actually and literally born of His very divine life with His divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). These sons express Him not by a kind of imitation but through His life living and growing in them (Gal. 2:20; Phil 1:19-21).

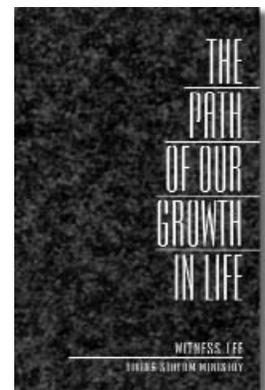
*Now this
eternal life
can be imparted
into millions of
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regeneration.*

This is the eternal life we receive when we believe in Jesus and that wants to grow in us (1 Cor. 3:6-9; Col 2:19). May we treasure this divine life within us and allow this life to grow and mature in us.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Knowledge of Life* by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

FOR WE
ARE GOD'S
FELLOW
WORKERS;
YOU ARE GOD'S
CULTIVATED
LAND, GOD'S
BUILDING.

FIRST
CORINTHIANS 3:9



THE PATH OF OUR GROWTH IN LIFE

contains nine messages that lead believers along the path of the growth in life that they may enter into the identification with Christ's death and resurrection, see how human opinion is versus the resurrection power of God, and live and serve by revelation.

by Witness Lee

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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.

CHRIST WITH HIS DEATH AND RESSURECTION BEING COMPLETE SALVATION

In Christ's salvation there is the element of death. Complete salvation comprises Christ, His death, and His resurrection. The death of the Lord Jesus and His resurrection constitute complete salvation. The salvation that God gives us is Christ plus His death and resurrection. Every saved one has received Christ, and everyone who has received Christ is identified with Him. Moreover, to be identified with Christ is to be identified with His death and His resurrection. Romans 6 clearly mentions that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death and have been buried with Him (vv. 3-4). If through baptism we died and have been buried and raised with Christ, does this mean that we are really dead? Yes, we are dead. It is true that we may know that we have been baptized into Christ's death, but we still may not have been inwardly enlightened to receive the revelation that Christ's death is actually our death. In 1930 I was baptized and died with Christ, but not until 1933 did God show me that I had been crucified with His Son and was already terminated and done away with in Christ. Both the evil and the good in me have been terminated. I have been terminated in Christ's death. His death is my death.

The death of Christ is a great item in His salvation. All that comes out of man and everything that belongs to man, sin, the old creation, the flesh, the world, and Satan have been dealt with through Christ's death. Nevertheless, where His death is, there also is His resurrection. He died, but He was also resurrected. Through His resurrection everything

that belongs to God has been released. Only those who have seen Christ's death and resurrection can live in Christ. They see that Christ's death has already dealt with them, and at the same time they also see that the resurrection life of Christ dwells in them for the glory of God to be expressed through them. Once they see this death and resurrection, they are delivered from themselves and live in God. This is God's revelation, this is service with revelation, and this is absolute deliverance from religious concepts.

Suppose that we all are clear about Christ's death and resurrection and a brother comes to us and says, "The church ought to be such and such. It ought to be exceedingly zealous and do many good works." After hearing these suggestions we should first ask, "Brother, when you say these things, are you hanging on the cross or have you jumped down from the cross?" The question here is whether or not our concepts have passed through the death of the cross. Have we passed through the dealing of the cross? Are we those who are truly hanging on the cross, or have we jumped down from the cross? Only those who have experienced the cross can express something of Christ. Whatever has not passed through the dealing and death of the cross is something of man, of the natural being, and of the old creation. These things may be good in man's eyes, but they are not of God.

What are the things that are of revelation, and what are the things that are of the natural being? What are the things that are of God, and

what are the things that are of religion? Here is the big test. Have we received the breaking of the cross? How much have we been worked on by the death of the cross? Objectively speaking, Christ is one with His death and resurrection, yet subjectively speaking, how do we experience Christ? To experience Christ is to see His death and resurrection and to live in His death and resurrection. Since we are those who belong to Christ, God will open our eyes to show us that all that is out of us has been hanged on the cross—even our entire being has been hanged on the cross.

The Path of Our Growth in Life, pp. 55-57, 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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