

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 71, MARCH 2004

"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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Dear Life-study Listener,

Good news! The Recovery Version of the entire Bible with footnotes is now available! Since the New Testament Recovery Version was released in 1985, people have asked us frequently, "When will the Old Testament with footnotes be available?" We are very happy to announce that the Holy Bible Recovery Version with footnotes is now here and in stock. Those of us who have begun reading through the rich text and notes find it was well worth the wait. On page two we have included sample footnotes from Genesis and Joshua, which in turn refer to two more excellent notes in the New Testament Recovery Version.

If you do not have a New Testament Recovery Version but do have Internet access, you can read the New Testament and notes at online.recoveryversion.org. You can call (800) 549-5164 to order your own copy of the Holy Bible Recovery Version printed at Cambridge University Press in England on the finest paper available. It is available in black or burgundy bonded leather.

The signal of new station information at the lower left listed under San Bernardino can be heard on the eastern side of Orange and Los Angeles Counties. KTIE is currently broadcasting at 1000 watts but expects an increase in power to 2000 watts. Stay tuned because when that power increase occurs, we expect the signal to increase throughout southern California.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SAN BERNARDINO, CA

KTIE 590 AM
4:00 P.M. SUNDAYS

AUSTRALIA

WOW 100.7 FM
8:00 A.M. SUNDAYS

WHAT IS THE OLD MAN?

The term *the old man* is used three times in the New Testament (Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; and Col. 3:9). In Romans 6:6 the old man is something personal, whereas in Ephesians and Colossians, according to the context, it is clearly something corporate.

In Romans 6:6 the old man refers to our natural but fallen life; it is the life of our soul, which acts independently of God. This is the "I" that Paul said was

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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.

The Hearing of Faith is very much needed. I was saved by reading the material Man and the Two Trees published by Living Stream Ministry. I was washed in the spirit again by reading another book published by Living Stream Ministry entitled Sit, Walk, Stand. One verse struck me so much, Ephesians 2:6 saying that we have been raised up together with Christ and seated together with Him in the heavenlies.

Tonawanda, NY

The messages have been the most encouraging thing I have heard in a long time. The way they are presented is very uplifting and helpful. It is very palatable and easy to understand.

Seattle, WA

Miracles and blessing I have received as I start a new beginning by surrendering my life to Jesus Christ. Your ministry was introduced to me by divine timing.

Oceanside, CA

AND HAVE PUT ON
THE NEW MAN,
WHICH IS
being renewed
UNTO
FULL KNOWLEDGE
ACCORDING TO
THE IMAGE OF HIM
WHO CREATED HIM.

COLOSSIANS 3:10

VERSES *and* FOOTNOTES

FROM THE HOLY BIBLE RECOVERY VERSION

GENESIS 17:10 AND JOSHUA 5:2

Genesis 17:10—*This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your seed after you: Every male among you shall be¹circumcised.*

¹The spiritual meaning of circumcision is to put off the flesh, to put off the self and the old man, through the crucifixion of Christ (Col. 2:11, 13a; Deut. 10:16; Jer. 4:4a; Acts 7:51; Gal. 5:24; Rom. 6:6; Eph. 4:22; Col. 3:9). In ch. 16 Abraham exercised his flesh to produce Ishmael. Here God asked him to cut off his flesh, to terminate his natural strength, so that God could come in and bring forth Isaac by His grace for the fulfillment of His purpose. The circumcision in the Old Testament is the equivalent of baptism in the New Testament (Col. 2:11-12 and notes). The real circumcision is not outward in the flesh but inward "of the heart, in spirit, not in letter" (Rom. 2:28-29). See note 2¹ in Josh. 5.

Joshua 5:2—*At that time Jehovah said to Joshua, Make knives of flint, and¹circumcise again the children of Israel a second time.*

¹The purpose of circumcision was to make God's chosen people a new people for the inheriting of God's promised land (cf. Gen. 17:7-12). The circumcising of the new Israel typifies the circumcision of Christ, by His death, applied to the believers in the putting off of the body of the flesh that they may inherit Christ in resurrection as the portion allotted to them by God (Col. 2:11-12; 1:12).

Spiritual circumcision is a continuation of the burial in the death of Christ. Through the crossing of the river Jordan, the old Israel was buried and a new Israel came forth. This was an objective work done by God. Israel still needed to apply this work to their flesh. Their being circumcised was their practical application of what God had done in the crossing of the river Jordan. In the New Testament spiritual circumcision is the constant application of Christ's death to our flesh (Phil. 3:3; Col 2:11 and notes). Although in fact we have been baptized into the death of Christ and have been buried and raised with Him (Rom. 6:3-4), in practicality we still must apply the circumcision of the cross to our flesh by the Spirit day by day (Rom. 8:13; Gal. 5:24). This is the reality and practicality of remaining in the death and burial of Christ. See notes 24² in Gal. 5 and 13² in Rom. 8.

THE OLD MAN (continued from page 1)

crucified with Christ (Gal. 2:20). Since that old “I,” the old man, was crucified with Christ, it is good for nothing but burial, which Paul speaks of in Romans 6:4. Thus, in this sense the old man is something personal. We had an old life apart from Christ and corrupted by sin. This old man was crucified with Christ and should be buried. If we continue to live out this old man, our life is full of death and defeat, as described in Romans 7. However, when we rise from the waters of baptism to “walk in newness of life” (Rom. 6:4), we take Christ as our person, the new life of our soul. Before we were saved, our fallen soul and the life of that soul was our person and was totally independent of God. After we are saved and Christ comes into us as our life (Col. 1: 27; 3:4), He becomes our real and new person. Our old man, the life of our soul, is crucified with Christ; however the faculty of our soul—our mind, emotion, and will—can now take the resurrected and indwelling Christ to be its very life. Our soul then becomes the organ to express this new life, which is Christ. Thus, we can say with Paul, “I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” Christ lives in us, and we live, yet it is not our old man that lives but Christ living and being expressed through our soul.

The other two usages of *the old man* occur in the context of the new man referred to in Ephesians 4:24 and Colossians 3:10. There the old man refers to the old mankind as a corporate entity. God created Adam as the father of the human race, so we all descended from him. When Adam fell, he became “old” and the “old man,” since sin results in oldness and corruption. All mankind as Adam’s offspring became the enlargement and extension of this

old man, thus becoming the corporate old man filling the earth.

When we are saved and baptized, we put off the old man both in a personal way and in a corporate way. We put off the old mankind and enter into a new mankind, the church, which is God’s redeemed,

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regenerated, transformed, and glorified people. As the new man we do not express fallen Adam, the old man, but the One we have been transferred into and joined to by faith—the last Adam, the second man, the new man, who is Christ as the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 6:17; 15:45, 47). This new man is composed of Christ the Head with us the members of His Body. Just as Adam had an enlargement and expression, which is all of us as his fallen children, Christ has His enlargement and expression, which is the church as the new man.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The One New Man*, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

NOW AVAILABLE

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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.

TURNING OUR HEART TO GOD TO BE THE PURE IN HEART

If God wants to work in us but we do not cooperate with Him, He will use some ways to make us willing to cooperate with Him. Here we see that if we want God to work in us, we have to cooperate with Him; otherwise, we are asking for trouble. But what is the way to cooperate with God? First, it is a matter of our heart. If we want to cooperate with God and allow Him to work in us, first of all we must turn our heart to God, for those who are pure in heart shall see God. A pure heart in the Bible refers mainly to a heart that desires God. The object of those who are pure in heart is God Himself. They do not want money, position, or beautiful clothing and expensive perfume. They also do not focus too much on their husband or children. Their heart is solely for God. Matthew says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (5:8); and the Psalms say, "Whom do I have in heaven but You? / And besides You there is nothing I desire on earth" (73:25). The pure in heart have a heart so pure that they just want God and nothing other than God.

If Christians are willing to allow God to work in them, the first thing they have to do is to turn their heart to God. God does not have the way to work on many people because their heart is not set on Him. We cannot say that they do not want the Lord. They really do want the Lord, but they also want something other than the Lord Himself. The elderly sisters desire the Lord, but many also desire their children, and many also desire to find a good wife for their son. Many people love the Lord on the one hand, but on the other hand, love money and the respect of the saints.

They come to the meeting hall to clean the chairs. This shows that they really love the Lord; however, after they have cleaned the chairs, if the responsible brothers do not show their appreciation of them, they feel uncomfortable. So if we say that they do not love the Lord, we do them an

The pure in heart gain God Himself.

injustice, but if we say that they love the Lord, we do the Lord an injustice. Their inner being is very complicated, but love should be very simple. A wife should love her husband, not for the money that he gives her. In the same way, Christians should love God, not because God gives them money. However, many people love God as the One they can go to when they want to ask for something. Psalm 73:2 says, "But as for me, my feet were nearly turned aside; / My steps had almost slipped." Even the psalmist said that his steps had almost slipped; what is our situation?

Many times we may be perplexed and wonder why those who are pure in heart are often not prosperous, while those who do not love the Lord are often very prosperous. The answer to these questions is made clear when we enter into the sanctuary of God (v. 17). Other people gain only earthly joy and earthly peace, but the pure in heart gain God Himself. This is what a clean heart possesses. We have to bear in mind that the reason why God cannot work in us is that our inner being is not clean enough. It is hard for God to work in us because our heart is not pure. Once our heart is not proper, our focus is also incorrect. This is why the Bible

says that whenever our heart turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away (2 Cor. 3:16). For this reason, it is hard to see God's work in many of God's children. All their problems hinge on whether their heart is on money, on their children, or on God. Judging others does not avail, neither does merely searching the Scriptures. Only turning our heart to God is profitable to us. Some people have half of their heart turned to God, while other people have their heart completely turned away from God. We have to bear in mind that how much our heart is for God determines how much work God will do in us. May we all be those who are pure in heart toward Him.

The Pure in Heart, pp. 11-13, 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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