

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 law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5

In

T H I S

I S S U E

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE HEALING OF BLINDNESS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST CORINTHIANS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—KNOWING CHRIST

Dear Life-study Listener,

Did you ever want to have a Bible study, but you did not know where to begin? We would like to pass on an idea that some of our listeners in different parts of the world have told us about. Some are gathering in small groups to listen to the *Life-Study of the Bible* radio messages. As you know, most of the broadcasts are divided into three small segments, with Witness Lee sharing insights from portions of the Scripture. Each part is introduced and followed by a brief discussion by the host and his guest. Many have found this to be an ideal format for bringing to light the deeper meaning of the Bible. The printed messages contain much more information than the shorter spoken messages so they are ideal for home study and further discussion.

This issue of *The Hearing of Faith* has an encouraging article on page two entitled "Accepting our Circumstances." We all need to see that our "circumstances are actually God coming to us in disguise." Whether we are going through good situations or difficult ones, it is very heartening to realize that according to God's faithful Word everything is working for good.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE HEALING OF BLINDNESS IN THE GOSPEL OF MARK?

[In Mark chapter 10] the Lord asked the same question both of James and John and of Bartimaeus: "What do you want Me to do for you?" (vv. 36, 51). In the Lord's understanding, the two sons of thunder were the same as the poor beggar. However, there was a significant difference: James and John begged in a wrong way, but Bartimaeus begged in a right way. James and John

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

AUGUSTA, GA

WFAM 1050 AM

6:00 A.M. & 8:30 A.M. MON-FRI

**LIFE-STUDY OF
THE BIBLE**
with Witness Lee

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Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST CORINTHIANS

ACCEPTING OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Another very important point revealed in this chapter [I Cor. 7] is that those who love the Lord, who are for Him, and who are one with Him must be willing to accept any kind of circumstance or situation. For example, if a brother's unbelieving wife desires to remain with him, he should accept this situation. But if she decides to leave, he should also accept this circumstance.

It is very important for us to see that God is always in our circumstances. We may say that the circumstances are actually God coming to us in disguise. Apparently we are in a particular circumstance; actually that circumstance is God coming to us and God with us. In verse 24 Paul says, "Each one, brothers, in what state he was called, in this let him remain with God." Notice the words "with God." They indicate that when we take our circumstances we take God. Both within the circumstances and behind them, God is present.

*I know that
when I take my
circumstances, I
take my God.*

Once again we see that Paul had an excellent spirit, a spirit which was submissive, content, and satisfied. Paul did not have any complaints...To

him, every situation was of the Lord, and he would not initiate anything to change it. Paul could say, "To me, everything works for good. This is the reason I don't want to change anything. I know that when I take my circumstances, I take my God. In every situation is my God, the One whom I love and the One to whom I belong absolutely." What an excellent spirit is displayed in this attitude!

In 1 Corinthians 7 Paul's spirit is expressed in the way he deals with the questions asked by the Corinthian believers. When we read this chapter, we need to sense Paul's spirit and even touch his spirit.

The way we answer others or respond to a situation always indicates the kind of spirit we have. Suppose a brother is very happy in the morning. When his wife calls him for breakfast, he says, "Praise the Lord!" His response reveals his spirit. But suppose his spirit is heavy when his wife calls him. He may respond in a very different way, in a way which indicates that he is not happy. His reaction may indicate that he is unhappy with his wife and that he has a problem with the Lord. The principle here is that our answers and responses always express our spirit.

I appreciate 1 Corinthians 7 not primarily for all the answers it gives, but because this chapter conveys the spirit of a person who loves the Lord, who cares for the Lord's interests on earth, who is absolutely for the Lord and one with the Lord, and who in every respect is obedient, submissive, and satisfied with God and the circumstances arranged by Him.

Life-study of First Corinthians, pp. 374-375, by Witness Lee

HEALING OF BLINDNESS (continued from page 1)

asked to sit on the Lord's right and left, but Bartimaeus asked to receive his sight.

We believe that, in spiritual significance, the healing of the blindness of Bartimaeus was also a healing of the blindness of James, John, and the other disciples. The Lord did not give them a position at His right and left, but He certainly was willing to heal their blindness. He knew that He had come to be the light of the world. Therefore, He was willing to give sight to the blind.

THROWING AWAY THE GARMENT OF POSITION

Mark 10:50, speaking of blind Bartimaeus, says, "And throwing away his garment, he leaped up and came to Jesus." A person throwing away his garment signifies that this one does not care for position. A garment or uniform signifies position. For example, a uniform worn by a policeman or a nurse signifies position. When a policeman is off duty, he will lay aside

*By dying with Him we pass
out of our blindness and
into the Lord's resurrection.*

his uniform. Bartimaeus did not care for any position. His only desire was to have sight. Therefore, when he heard that Jesus called him, he immediately cast aside his garment and went to the Lord to receive sight...

We may say that the Lord Jesus died so that those who believe in Him may receive their sight. By dying with Him we pass out of our blindness and into the Lord's

resurrection. Then in resurrection we receive our sight.

RECEIVING OUR SIGHT IN RESURRECTION

The healing at the end of chapter ten is the last miracle of healing recorded in the Gospel of Mark. The final miracle of healing was the healing of blindness...

After the healing of blindness in Mark 10, the Lord's followers were ready to enter into His death. By entering with Him into death, they would also be able to enter into His resurrection.

We need to be impressed with the fact that the Lord Jesus was not the only one who would pass through death in order to be in resurrection and ascension. All of His followers would go with Him into death in order to enter into His resurrection and ascension. In chapter sixteen of Mark we have a glorious scene in which all the Lord's followers enter into His ascension through His death and resurrection. By the end of chapter ten, the disciples were qualified and prepared to go through death and resurrection so that they could be with the Lord in His ascension.

In your spiritual experience have you come to the end of chapter ten?

Have you received a final healing, the healing of your blindness? Praise the Lord that we can say that our blindness has been healed! Hallelujah, we have no more blindness, darkness, sin, and death! Now we are ready to go with the Slave-Savior into death, through His resurrection, and into His ascension.

Life-study of Mark, pp. 296-298, by Witness Lee

VERSE *and* FOOTNOTE

FROM THE HOLY BIBLE
RECOVERY VERSION

ROMANS 5:3

Romans 5:3—And not only so, but we also boast in our 'tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces endurance;

'Tribulations are part of the "all things" in 8:28 that God causes to work together for good that we might be sanctified, transformed, and conformed to the image of His Son, who has entered into glory. Because of this, we can receive tribulations as the sweet visitation and incarnation of grace and thereby boast in them. Through tribulations the killing effect of the cross of Christ on our natural being is applied in us by the Holy Spirit, making the way for the God of resurrection to add Himself to us (see 2 Cor. 4:16-18).



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.

KNOWING CHRIST

WHAT THINGS WERE GAINS, NOW BEING COUNTED AS LOSS ON ACCOUNT OF CHRIST

In Philippians 3:5-6 the apostle Paul speaks of his inborn strength and natural merit and also of the accomplishments that were the result of his effort. Paul says that he was "circumcised the eighth day; of the race of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, persecuting the church; as to the righteousness which is in the law, become blameless."

In verse 7 he continues, "But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ." *What things were gains to me* refers to that which was in the natural realm, including his inborn strength, natural merit, and accomplishments, including being born a Hebrew, being blameless in the law, and serving God and keeping the law. He counted all these things, which once were gains to him, as loss on account of Christ. This means that he no longer cared whether these things were gains to him and were no longer important to him. These things could not coexist with Christ. If he kept these things, relying upon his inborn strength, natural merit, and accomplishments, he could not know Christ...

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST CAUSING US TO KNOW CHRIST

Verse 9 continues, "And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the

righteousness which is out of God and based on faith." Paul did not have a righteousness that was worked out by his own effort but the righteousness

that is through faith in Christ, that is,

the righteousness Christ lives out of us. Verse 10 says, "To know Him." This righteousness caused Paul to know Christ. The righteousness that we work out by our own effort does not cause us to know Christ. The more we do by our own effort, the less we know Christ; the more we love others by our own effort, the less we know Christ; the more zealous we are by our own effort, the less we know Christ. Instead, through faith Christ can live out righteousness from within us, and this righteousness causes us to know Christ...

KNOWING CHRIST BY STOPPING OUR EFFORT AND ZEAL

The meaning of Philippians 3:9 is that we must stop doing not only evil things but also good things. We need to stop not only our opposition to God but also our service to God. In verses 4 through 6, we can see that Paul was a man who zealously served and who was zealous in doing good. He was full of energy and exceedingly active in serving God and being a good person, but he acted in himself. At that time, he did not have any relationship with Christ. When he relied on his own effort to do good and serve God, he had no way to know Christ. In verse 9, however,

he stopped his efforts to do good, stopped his zealous service, and had "faith in Christ." This meant that he lived in Christ, put himself in Christ, and let Christ be his everything and no longer strived, struggled, and acted by himself. He

stopped himself, he believed in Christ, he let Christ live, and he lived by Christ. His stopping enabled him to know Christ. This is a basic principle: If we desire to know Christ, we must stop ourselves.

Further Talks on the Knowledge of Life, pp. 185-187, by Witness Lee

If we desire to know Christ, we must stop ourselves.

THE HEARING OF FAITH

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