

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 7, NOVEMBER 1998

"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

DENVER, CO

KLZ AM 560  
9:00 P.M. MON-FRI

SALT LAKE CITY, UT

KWLW AM 700  
9:00 A.M. SUNDAY

Dear Listeners,

We hope you have enjoyed hearing *Life-study of Acts with Witness Lee*. We began broadcasting *Life-study of the Bible* in September 1996. So far we have covered five books: John, Genesis, Romans, Hebrews, and Acts (concluding this month). You can hear the broadcasts on these books over the internet at [www.lsm.org/radio](http://www.lsm.org/radio). Isaiah will be the next book in our eight-year life-study journey.

The book of Isaiah is the vision which Isaiah saw (1:1), the word which Isaiah saw (2:1), and the burden which Isaiah saw (13:1; 15:1). The vision, word, and burden in Isaiah are concerned with God's eternal economy in Christ. The spiritual essence of Isaiah is this: The Christ processed for the divine purposes being the centrality and the universality of the great wheel of the move of the Divine Trinity for the divine dispensing of Himself into His elect. This one-sentence summary of the spiritual essence of Isaiah, though requiring some time to chew, will prepare you for what's coming later this month.

We want to let you know about a few recent events so you can remember us in your prayers. First, the Living Stream Ministry Radio Section is moving into new studios this month! We have been producing the English, Spanish, and Chinese radio programs in a limited working space and now the Lord has provided us with a larger facility to expand His work. If you are in the Anaheim, California area, we invite you to come by and visit us in our new environment. Please call ahead so we can adequately give you a tour.

We also want to let you know of some wonderful meetings that took place over the Labor Day weekend in Tampa, Florida. Because of the positive response to our broadcasts in that area, Chris Wilde and Ron Kangas traveled to Tampa and met with some of our listeners. To fellowship in person with some of you that have been regularly enjoying the program was an encouragement to both Ron and Chris. If you would like to arrange for some meetings in your area, please let us know, and we will prayerfully consider the matter before the Lord.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

## WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE?

Several crucial verses in the New Testament speak of God's purpose, especially God's eternal purpose. In Ephesians 3:11 we have this phrase *eternal purpose*. In Romans 8:28 Paul says that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to *His purpose*. In 2 Timothy 1:9 Paul says that God has saved us according to *His own purpose*. If we ponder these verses, and if we have a heart to seek the Lord and the significance of our salvation, we surely will want to understand what God's purpose is.

God's eternal purpose by definition is something eternal. It was conceived by God in Christ in eternity past with the intent to work out something that will remain in eternity future. So God's

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## GOD'S PURPOSE

*(continued from page 1)*

purpose is the eternal plan of God made in eternity past with a particular intent. It was made in eternity past, it will be carried out in time, and the results will stand forever in eternity future.

God's eternal purpose is closely related to God's will. God's will, simply stated, is what God wants, intends, and desires. God's purpose is God's plan according to His will. God wants something. To attain what He wants, He has a plan that is according to what He wants, according to His will. This plan of God that is according to the will of God is what the Bible calls the eternal purpose of God.

God as a God of purpose is surely determined to fulfill His purpose. God is absolute. When He wills to do something, when He resolves to do something, He will surely do it. God's purpose is God's purposeful determination in His plan.

We see then that God has a good pleasure, which is the desire of His heart. This good pleasure or heart's desire of God is expressed as God's will, God's wish. To fulfill this heart's desire, He needs to have a plan with a purposeful determination. This plan with its purposeful determination is God's eternal purpose. Our God is a God of purpose and His purpose has its source in the desire of His heart. Because God has a heart's desire, He wants something that will fulfill this desire. What He wants is His will. Since God is a God of purpose, He does not act in a random, arbitrary way. On the contrary, God acts according to plan. He has made a detailed, determined plan in eternity past that will stand in its result for eternity future. That plan is His purpose.

God's will is linked to God's economy. God's economy is God's arrangement and administration to fulfill His plan so that He may attain what would satisfy the desire of His heart. God's economy can be traced back to the desire of God's heart. We begin from within the desire of God's heart, then we see God's will as what He wants, and then His plan, which is His purpose. For His purpose to be carried out, God must have an administrative arrangement. That arrangement is God's economy.

*For further reading on this subject, please see The Divine Economy, The Divine Dispensing for the Divine Economy, and The Central Line of the Divine Revelation, published by Living Stream Ministry.*

## Highlights

### FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF ACTS

*We will finish broadcasting Life-study of Acts in November. The following is an excerpt from the concluding message of this marvelous life-study.*

#### A PORTRAIT OF PAUL'S LIVING

Chapters twenty-seven and twenty-eight of Acts do not present anything of doctrine. Rather, in these chapters we have a record of a man living Christ to the uttermost. Paul was imprisoned, bound in chains, and surrounded by guards. The sea was very stormy, and the sailing was rough. Furthermore, Paul was away from his homeland and from most of his friends. Although he was in such a difficult situation, he lived like a reigning king.

Paul's living as presented in these two chapters of Acts reminds us of his word written while he was imprisoned in Rome: "I know that for me this shall turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death; for to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:19-21a). This describes Paul's living during the voyage from Caesarea to Rome. Regardless of the situation, Paul magnified Christ in his body.

As we ponder the picture in Acts 27 and 28, we see that Paul was an outstanding witness of Christ. He was the kind of witness the Lord Jesus spoke about in 1:8: "You shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto the remotest part of the earth."

In 1:6 the Lord's disciples had asked Him if He would at that time restore the kingdom to Israel. The Lord indicated that it was not for them to know times or seasons, which the Father had placed in His own authority. Instead, after they had received power through the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them, they would be His witnesses. Paul was such a witness in Acts 27 and 28. In these chapters Paul was living among Gentiles. There were very few Jews on the ship, if any. Everything on that voyage was Gentile. The food, the environment, and the atmosphere were Gentile. Furthermore, there was nothing Jewish on the island of Malta. Paul was surrounded by Gentiles and the Gentile way of living. But in that situation Paul lived like a king in a palace. I very much appreciate the picture of Paul's living in these chapters.

We all should live Christ in the way Paul did in Acts 27 and 28. If we live Christ only in a situation that is according to our culture, character, constitution, and disposition, our living is not genuine. Here in Acts 27 and 28, Paul lived Christ in a situation that was altogether contrary to his culture and character. Many things were disappointing and discouraging, but Paul nevertheless lived a life of the highest standard. As we have pointed out, in Paul the wonderful, excellent, and mysterious God-man, who lived in the Gospels, continued to live through one of His many members. This was Jesus living again on earth in His divinely enriched humanity. Paul's living, therefore, was a repetition of the living of Jesus.

*Life-study of Acts, Msg. 72, pp. 623-624*

# LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of the broadcast of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All letters are subject to editing for the sake of space, content, and clarity.

*We bear your ministry on radio station WFAX. It has helped us to focus on Christ for life and supply daily. Christ is truly our living stream. We would like to receive Volumes 1 and 2 of your Life-study of Acts. Thank you.*

R.S., Greencastle, PA

*Your radio ministry is a great blessing. I wish I had known about this ministry thirty years ago. It has put my Christian growth into hyperdrive.*

C.D., Hurst, TX

*I received a copy of The Hearing of Faith newsletter from a friend. I find it so refreshing to read, especially the "Letters from Listeners" section. I can see that this newsletter could be used with new believers, and also I can be kept up-to-date on what's happening with the Life-study radio programs. I find no better way for believers to receive the rich food from "Joseph's storehouse" and I do recommend that they listen.*

*I listen to Life-study of the Bible both in my home and during my car travels on radio station KNTR 1550. The reception*

*is very good in the Abbotsford, BC, area (part of the Vancouver/Bellingham area). Please include me on your mailing list for The Hearing of Faith newsletter. Keep up this most excellent work. Thank you!*

B.R., Abbotsford, BC, Canada

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WE FEEL CHALLENGED,  
ENCOURAGED, AND  
SATISFIED BY THE MESSAGES  
OF THE GOSPEL WROUGHT  
THROUGH THIS MEDIUM.  
—  —

*Thank God and thank you for your faithfulness. May God bless you. May you become more and more the image of God. Please send me the study on Acts you are currently sharing. Thank you. I love your insight.*

G.M., Palm Harbor, FL

*God bless you for the work of the gospel that you are doing. Brother Lee is digging into the Word of God in a deeper*

*realm than any human has done since the Apostle Paul. I want to be part of it.*

S.U., Houston, TX

*Thank you for your labor unto the Lord to bring a greater illumination of truths that are rarely touched in the Body of Christ today. We feel challenged, encouraged, and satisfied by the messages of the gospel wrought through this medium. God's richest and best be yours.*

T.B., Houston, TX

*After listening to all the programs of Life-study of Hebrews, I can find only one word to describe the experience—WOW! What an organic wake-up call this must have been to all the listeners.*

C.H., Tucson, AZ

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# THE *Path* OF *Life*

*Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of 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.*

## A SIMPLE WAY TO TOUCH THE LORD PART 1

In his Epistles Paul unveils to us clearly and emphatically the ultimate goal or objective of the Christian walk: "To know Him" (Phil. 3:10); "To me, to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21); "Christ our life" (Col. 3:4). Through these verses we can see that the reality and central point of the Christian life is simply Christ Himself. As people who have been born of God and have Christ living within them, all Christians must be brought by the Lord's mercy to the point where they are no longer wholly caught up in studying about Christ, doing something for Christ, or even serving Christ, but rather are in the reality of touching and experiencing Him in a living way day by day. Romans 5:10 testifies, "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life." This "much more" must be *more of Christ*. A Christian's initial salvation experience is indeed wonderful. He is now one who has been born of God, but "much more" he is to be saved by the *life* of Christ. Every person who knows Christ as his Savior can and must be brought into this experience of "much more," which is entering into the fullness and reality of a life wholly centered on Christ—experiencing, touching, and enjoying Him moment by moment.

### ACCOMPLISHING REDEMPTION

. . . The Bible reveals to us that in the beginning Jesus Christ was God (John 1:1). Then one day this very God became a man to dwell on the earth (John 1:14) and to accomplish redemption for all. He was among us as the Lamb of God that through the shedding of His blood we might partake of redemption (Eph. 1:7) and be reconciled to God. This is indeed glorious! . . . However, if Christ had stopped here, this would be the summation of our Christian experience. All could enjoy forgiveness of sins, but none could be saved by His *life*. None could touch and experience Him in a daily, practical way. . . .

### A LIFE-GIVING SPIRIT

Shortly before His crucifixion He told His disciples that He was *among them* but that He was going to be *in them* (John 14:16-20). How could this be accomplished? If Jesus had only died and been buried and that was the end, He could never have entered into His disciples, nor could He enter into His people today. But, praise the Lord that three days after His burial, He burst through the bonds of death and was raised from the dead. . . . In what form is He today? He is the *Spirit!* "The last Adam [Christ] became a life-giving Spirit" (1 Cor. 15:45b).

Jesus had told His disciples that He would enter into them; therefore, shortly after His resurrection He appeared before them in a room in which the doors were closed. He could never have done this had He not been the Spirit. There "He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). At that moment Jesus, who had been among them and outside of them, came into them. Christ could never have entered into His disciples had He not been the Spirit. "The Lord is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:17), and all that have been reconciled to God have this *life-giving Spirit dwelling within them to be their bountiful supply and all they need*. Since Christ has become the Spirit and has entered into every Christian, He is now so available to them; He is so easy for them to contact, experience, and even enjoy. . . .

### CALLING UPON THE LORD

. . . How can we touch and experience Christ in a *practical way* as *our* very life moment by moment? The Lord has given us a *simple way*. All we have to do is call upon Him, and we will touch Him who is the life-giving supply. In Romans 10:12b-13 the Bible says, "For the same Lord is Lord of all and rich to all who call upon Him; for 'whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.'" In the past we may have had the concept that these verses were only applicable to an initial salvation experience; however, every Christian also needs a daily salvation from sin, self, human weakness, and other negative things. On the positive side he also needs a bountiful supply of the Lord to nourish and strengthen him in order that he may grow up into Christ in all things. The way into the realization of this is simply by calling on the Lord. . . .

Many Christians today have begun to practice calling upon the Lord daily, hourly, and moment by moment in a simple, practical way. They have found to their joy that the Lord is all they need and that they can touch and fellowship with Him at any time and in any circumstance just by calling on Him from deep within. Our calling upon the Lord should not be in an objective manner, calling on the Christ who dwells in the heavens, but calling on the Christ who is the Spirit and who dwells within our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). By calling upon Him from deep within, we will sense the flowing and fellowship of Christ within us.

*(A Simple Way to Touch the Lord, by Witness Lee, pp. 1-7)*

## 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 one of our listeners is 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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