

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 31, NOVEMBER 2000

"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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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

KANSAS CITY, MO

KCKN 1340 AM

11:30 A.M.

& 9:00 P.M. MON-FRI

Dear Life-study Listener,

We hope you have been able to continue with us on our life-study journey. We recently went from the inspiration of pursuing Christ in Philippians to a two-week review of how the Lord meets every man's need in the Gospel of John. Then we moved on to our current place, the spiritual revelation of Christ in the Old Testament book of Leviticus. Our hope and prayer for you are that the Lord would speak to you from His Word in new ways and reveal Himself to you as never before.

Life-study of Leviticus touches many subjects that most readers of the Bible usually skip over. The details of the offerings are a rich explanation of the type of Christ as our unique offering (John 1:29). Leviticus 1:6, for example, talks of the offering being "skinned" and "cut into pieces." What does this mean? You will find the answer in the book *Life-study of Leviticus*, Message Seven.

If you have followed us since we began *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* on radio four years ago, we are sure you will agree that this ministry is not one that skates on the surface but rather attempts to reach the depths of meaning in all the Scriptures to point us to Christ. Please stay with us and pray to be one who has an ear to hear what the Spirit is speaking.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS A TYPE IN THE BIBLE?

The Bible is full of types to help us understand the mysteries it contains. We can see these types, or we may say pictures, in the Old Testament along with their explanation and reality in the New Testament. Webster's dictionary defines a type as "a person or thing [in the Old Testament] believed to foreshadow another [in the New Testament]." For example, comparing Adam in the Old Testament to Christ, Romans 5:14 says Adam "is a type of Him who was to come."

There is an old saying: "A picture is worth a thousand words." God surely used many pictures that are rich in meaning in the Bible, especially in the

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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.

About a week and a half-ago, Witness Lee was talking about breathing the Holy Spirit. It was rocket fuel for me. I loved it. When he talks about these types of things, I get a real charge out of it. I love to listen to the man teach. You can tell when someone has the Spirit of God moving within him. Obviously, this man was well endowed with the Holy Spirit. I just can't get enough of this. There's not enough good Bible teaching out there today, and when you run across people like Brother Lee, you've got to take and grab all you can. This is meat and potatoes.

Vancouver, WA

I drive a semi, so I'm able to listen all the time while I drive. The Philippians life-study is great. Also, you mentioned some of your books. I was thinking of getting one today, How to Study the Bible. I pull my truck over for that thirty minutes and that's when I take my break. Then I'm not distracted with the driving. What I also like about the program is the way you give the explanation so well. You give another overview of it, which is wonderful. I was born and raised Catholic. We have to overcome religion. We have to overcome culture and philosophy. One thing that really sticks with me is the overcoming part. We have to overcome. It's a day-by-day growing experience.

Antelope, CA

I listen to the broadcasts on my radio in the car whilst delivering in London, England. The messages are timely, and the format is the best I have heard in five years. You discuss the content, preach the content, and then review what we have listened to. The only problem is that the programmes are too short!

London, England

Excerpt from

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE TABERNACLE AND THE OFFERINGS IN THE WRITINGS OF JOHN

BY WITNESS LEE

From October 1982 to June 1983, Witness Lee gave a series of messages that comprise the book The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John. The following is an excerpt from chapter thirty-six.

SPIRIT AND LIFE

Two crucial matters in the Gospel of John are life and the Spirit. John is a book on eternal life, and eternal life is related to the Spirit. Without eternal life and the Spirit, we can have only a picture of the tabernacle and the offerings, but not the reality and practicality of the tabernacle and the offerings....

THE OFFERINGS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Perhaps you are wondering where in the Gospel of John we can find the sin offering, the trespass offering, the burnt offering, the meal offering, and the peace offering. We have the sin offering in chapter three, a chapter that describes the case of Nicodemus. Verse 14 says, "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." This verse speaks of Christ as the sin offering to deal with indwelling sin, that is, to deal with our serpentine nature.

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In chapter four, which describes the case of an immoral Samaritan woman, we have the trespass offering. Nicodemus' problem was the serpentine nature, but the Samaritan woman's problem was her trespasses, for she had had five husbands and was living with someone who was not her husband. She needed Christ as her trespass offering.

In chapter seven we see that Christ is absolute for God's glory and also absolute to do God's will. This is Christ as the burnt offering for God's satisfaction.

We find the meal offering in chapter six, a chapter that speaks of the bread of life. Here the bread of life is the meal offering.

Finally, in chapter twelve we see Christ as the peace offering. In a house in Bethany the Lord Jesus and some of the believers were feasting. Together they were enjoying the peace offering. Therefore, in chapters three, four, seven, six, and twelve we see Christ as the fulfillment of the five basic offerings in the Old Testament.

A FULL PICTURE OF THE TABERNACLE

Along with the altar and all the offerings, we need the laver. As we have pointed out, the laver is a place for washing. Chapter thirteen of the Gospel of John gives us the laver for foot-washing.

After the laver, we have the tabernacle. The laver is in chapter thirteen, and the tabernacle is in chapters fourteen through sixteen. In these chapters we have the tabernacle with the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Then in chapter seventeen we have the incense altar, for in this chapter we have Christ's intercessory prayer. If we put all these matters together, we shall see that in the Gospel of John we have a full picture of the tabernacle.

The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John, pp. 341-343

TYPE IN THE BIBLE

(continued from page 1)

Old Testament. One may compare the Old Testament to a picture book, full of vivid pictures. However, if a reader did not have the words to go along with the colorful pictures, the story would still be difficult to follow. The New Testament gives us the “words to the pictures,” explaining the reality of the Old Testament pictures or types. Moreover, the words of revelation in the New Testament become even more clear to us when we see and understand the types in the Old Testament.

If we read the entire New Testament, we can see that interpreting the pictures from the Old Testament

and Christ as our Passover (Exo. 12; 1 Cor. 5:7). The types in the Old Testament and the clear words in the New Testament together unveil to us how wonderful our Christ is.

The Lord Jesus said in John 5:39, “The Scriptures...testify concerning Me.” Since the Scriptures testify concerning Christ, we should not take any Scripture for granted. This is why types are so important to us as New Testament believers. We live by faith, and what we believe in depends on what we hear of the spiritual things (Rom. 10:17). In Ephesians 3:8, the apostle Paul said that his commission from the Lord

Since the Scriptures testify concerning Christ, we should not take any Scripture for granted.

is not only legitimate but necessary. The Lord Jesus Himself used this principle with His sad disciples as they walked on the road to Emmaus: “And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, He explained to them clearly in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself” (Luke 24:27). By this we see that all the Scriptures lead us to know Christ in a more detailed and intimate way. How could we clearly understand and appreciate the things concerning Christ as the Lamb of God in John 1:29, for example, without seeing all the aspects of the lamb in the Old Testament type? A few other examples of types portrayed in the Old Testament and explained in the New Testament include Christ as the brass serpent (Num. 21:4-9; John 3:14), Christ and the church typified by Adam and Eve (Gen. 2:21-24; Eph. 5:25-32),

was “to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel.” Since the riches of Christ which Paul announced are “unsearchable,” we need to learn from him to see the spiritual reality behind the physical examples used by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. Otherwise, the Old Testament would remain merely a story book to us, unapplicable today, and we would miss seeing and enjoying so many rich aspects of Christ as revealed in His Word. “To you therefore who believe is the preciousness” (1 Pet. 2:7a).

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Ephesians*, message 30 and *The Fulfillment of the Tabernacle and the Offerings in the Writings of John*, both by Witness Lee; and *Affirmation and Critique*, Volume 4, no. 3 (July 1999), all published by Living Stream Ministry.

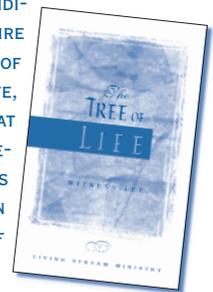
The HEARING OF Faith NEWSLETTER

Find all the monthly articles we have published over the last 2 years on the Internet

www.lsm.org

The TREE OF LIFE

WHEN GOD CREATED MAN, HE PLACED HIM BEFORE TWO TREES: THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL AND THE TREE OF LIFE. IN WARNING MAN TO AVOID THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, GOD INDICATED HIS DESIRE FOR MAN TO EAT OF THE TREE OF LIFE, SIGNIFYING THAT MAN SHOULD RECEIVE GOD AS HIS LIFE SUPPLY. IN *THE TREE OF LIFE*, WITNESS LEE PRESENTS A VIEW OF GOD'S HEART THAT IS LITTLE UNDERSTOOD AND SELDOM EXPERIENCED BY BELIEVERS TODAY. GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR WELL-BEHAVED CHRISTIANS; HE IS LOOKING FOR THOSE WHO WILL EXPERIENCE AND ENJOY CHRIST AS THE REALITY OF THE TREE OF LIFE, FULFILLING HIS ETERNAL INTENTION FOR MAN.



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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 LORD'S RECOVERY—EATING

The Lord's recovery is to recover what He ordained in the beginning. God ordained that man should eat Him, and this would become man's destiny. Our lot is not to do this or that but to eat the Lord. For forty years in the wilderness the Israelites did nothing but gather manna and eat it every day. Eating was their occupation. Likewise, today God wants us to eat and enjoy Christ every day. It is not how much we do for the Lord but rather how much we eat the Lord. This is the Lord's recovery.

One can never graduate from eating.

Christianity is a religion with activities and works. There are many laboring Christians, but very few of them enjoy Christ in their spirit by eating Him. The whole church must enjoy Christ in this way. In Revelation 2 and 3, in the seven times the Lord calls for overcomers, the matter of eating is mentioned three times. The first time is with regard to eating the tree of life, the second time to eating the hidden manna, and the third time to eating the feast. These are like the three kinds of eating by the people of God in the Old Testament. Revelation 2 and 3 are for the recovery of the eating that was in the Old Testament. Christianity has lost this, and the Lord is calling us to overcome and to be recovered back to the beginning. When you eat Christ and are filled with Him, your temper is terminated, and the world is gone. Therefore, just take care of eating Christ.

One can never graduate from eating. Every day there is a repetition of eating. Hardships from husbands, problems from wives, and difficulties on the job can all be dealt with by eating Christ. When you eat Christ a little more, your problem will be solved. This way might seem to be too simple, but once you enter in, you will find that the more you eat Him the sweeter He is, and the more you enjoy Him the richer He becomes. . . .

At the end of the book of Revelation, it says, "Blessed are those who wash

their robes that they may have right to the tree of

life" (22:14). This blessing is for those who come to the tree of life. Thus, ultimately man is destined to eat the tree of life, that is, to eat the Lord. Man will eat the Lord for eternity.

To be sure, after a person is fed he will work. Well-fed children are very active and may even act like a destroying army. Therefore, we must first feed ourselves and then feed others. When everyone is fed, the church will be living. It is not a matter of doing things outwardly but of being alive inwardly. When we are filled by eating Christ, we become energetic. Today we do not need mere outward encouragement; we need only the inward supply. . . .

In the Lord's recovery we must practice calling on the Lord. When we call on the Lord, our spirit is opened, and when we breathe the Spirit in as air, we are refreshed and enlightened within. In the New Jerusalem there is only one tree of life

yielding fruit for us to eat; everyone there simply will be eating daily. The church in Ephesus became degraded because she neglected the eating and was devoted to working. The Lord told her to repent. The elders and co-workers should not consider too much about how to work; they should take the lead to eat. Let us all come to keep the feast, to come and dine together. What is the Lord's recovery? Eating! What is the Lord's way? Eating! What is it to be over-coming? Eating! What is it to be spiritual? Eating! Eating! Eating! Eating!

The Lord's Recovery of Eating, pp. 10-12, 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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