

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 34, FEBRUARY 2001

*"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,

We hope you are enjoying *Life-study of Colossians* on the radio. We understand, however, many of you can no longer hear the program in your area. Because of the lucrative demand for other types of radio audiences, Christian programming as a whole is suffering as Christian stations are being sold or converted to secular formats. Please pray for the reversal of this trend so that Christian stations around the country can stay strong and the Lord's ministry can continue to be available to His seekers and lovers.

This month's issue of *The Hearing of Faith* is a somewhat special one with a particular theme of the wonderful process our saving God went through to reach us sinners and fulfill His purpose. The diagram on page two summarizes the process and draws attention to His goal of making His home in our heart that "to Him be the glory in the church" (Eph. 3:17, 21). Because the thought of God going through a process is so foreign, maybe even offensive, to many of our ears, our "What Is" article also focuses on this subject to help explain this important matter. This article is an excerpt from an entire Leviticus radio program on the subject, which was broadcasted in December. A transcript of that program is available for your further study.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer as we also stand with you for your increased experience of our wonderful Christ!

*Living Stream Ministry*

### **Life-Study of the Bible**

W E L C O M E S

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

KLFE 1590 AM  
8:30 A.M. MON-FRI

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

KKMO 1360 AM  
9:00 A.M. MON-FRI

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF GOD'S ECONOMY?

We must pay careful attention to an expression such as "the processed Triune God" to correctly understand what it means. This matter is in the depths of the divine revelation, based on the Word of God and not on philosophy, religious mysticism, nor a self-invented understanding. The Bible clearly reveals that there is one God who is immutable in His essence and attributes; He does not change (Isa. 45:5; 1 Cor. 8:4). He is eternally the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. All Three are God (1 Pet. 1:2; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4), eternal

*(continued on page 3)*

# 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.

*These newsletters are the most inspired of any I receive from any other ministry. Witness Lee was God's man, for sure. Such revelation! I share your mailings with Sunday School teachers, ministry students, and other pastors, counselors, and friends. I want them to know where I gain some of my wisdom and knowledge. God bless your work. It surely takes the religion out and puts God up front.*

Denver, CO

*Because I work while the broadcast is on the air, I tape it on my clock-radio and listen to it while I commute to work the next day. Therefore, I am always in commuter traffic when I listen to the program. When Dick Taylor gave his practical illustrations about forbearance being Christ as we are driving, I was receiving on-the-spot practical help. Praise the Lord for a ministry that does not adjust our old life but ministers Christ for us to experience for His Body! I look forward to Leviticus.*

Houston, TX

*I love good teaching and sound doctrine. I thank God for good teachers like Witness Lee and the other brothers that are on [the broadcast]. They let me know that they're serious people and that they get the Word out. There's no doubt about it. My husband and I both enjoy it at 4:30 in the morning. I don't have to be at work until 7:30, but I have to catch a bus around 6:00. The Lord caught us to this ministry, a teaching ministry. This is really good.*

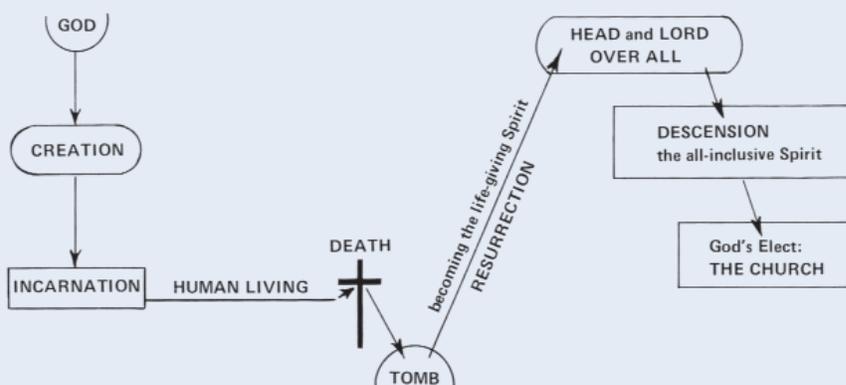
Dallas, TX

## Highlights

### FROM LIFE-STUDY OF COLOSSIANS

In eternity past God existed alone. Then, in time, He created all things. At a certain point in history, this creating God, the Creator of all, became a man. This crucial step is called incarnation. By means of incarnation, God put on man with all of creation, for man is the head of creation. The Lord Jesus, God incarnate, lived on earth for thirty-three and a half years. When He was crucified, all creation was crucified with Him. This means that not only did Christ go to the cross, but the very man God had put on Himself with the entire creation

#### THE PROCESS OF THE DIVINE ECONOMY



went to the cross with Him. Therefore, Christ's death on the cross was an all-inclusive crucifixion. After His crucifixion, Christ was buried in a tomb. The man and the creation which were crucified with Christ were also buried in that tomb. After three days, Christ arose from the dead in His resurrection. Through resurrection and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. Furthermore, in His ascension to the third heaven, He was crowned and became the Head and the Lord over all. Then He descended upon His Body as the all-inclusive Spirit.

Because God, after completing the work of creation, passed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, and descension, we may speak of Him as the processed God. The diagram portrays the process through which He has passed.

*Life-study of Colossians*, pp. 219-220, by Witness Lee

## GOD'S ECONOMY

(continued from page 1)

(Isa. 9:6; Heb. 1:12; 9:14), and coexist, meaning They exist simultaneously (Matt. 3:16-17; John 14:16-17). All Three coinhere, meaning They dwell in one another (John 14:11, 17, 20; 17:21). This eternal, coexisting, coinhering Triune God is, always has been, and always will be, perfect. His perfection in His eternal Godhead is not subject to change.

The New Testament, however, clearly reveals that God became a man (John 1:14). In this man, the Lord Jesus, the fullness of the Godhead dwells (Col. 2:9). Consider the steps through which He passed. God was conceived by the Spirit within

dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16). How can we approach such a God? How can such a God approach us? Yet, when He became a man, He became the light of the world (John 8:12). Now as the Spirit, He lives in us (Rom. 8:9), and we are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). In His Godhead, God dwells in unapproachable light. In His economy, God has become the indwelling light of life in us (John 8:12) to make us a city of light situated upon a mountain (Matt. 5:14).

As we reckon with the totality of the divine revelation and attempt to describe what the Bible reveals, we use words such as *processed*. In

*In His essence and Godhead, God is eternally without change; yet, in His economy, God in Christ has passed through a process to become the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit to get into us.*

the womb of a human virgin (Matt. 1:18). Then He was born, and as an infant He was worshipped by the magi (2:11). That little infant was God. Isaiah 9:6 says, "A child is born to us, . . . called. . . Mighty God." This wonderful God-man lived a human life, died an all-inclusive death, was resurrected, and ascended. Now the God-man Jesus Christ, with His humanity brought into divinity by resurrection, is on the throne in this universe (Heb. 1:8). Furthermore, for God's economy, Christ as the last Adam, who is God in the flesh, in resurrection became the life-giving Spirit to impart life, which is God Himself, into us (1 Cor. 15:45b).

Here, then, is a profound revelation in two aspects: in His essence and Godhead, God is eternally without change; yet, in His economy, God in Christ has passed through a process to become the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit to get into us. God

Himself, God is immutable, but in Christ, God has passed through a process to become the life-giving Spirit. Therefore, we say that God, who is perfect and immutable in His Godhead, has become the completed God, the processed God, in His economy. He is not only the perfect God but also the completed God who is being dispensed into us for our experience and enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14) that we may live Him for His corporate expression unto His eternal glory and satisfaction.

We all must open to the full light in the Word. If we seek only God Himself, we will eventually see that the God we seek is eternally unchanging and yet processed in His economy for our experience and enjoyment of Him. Praise Him.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Crucial Points of the Major Items of the Lord's Recovery*, by Witness Lee, and footnote 1 of 2 Corinthians 13:14 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

## The HEARING OF Faith

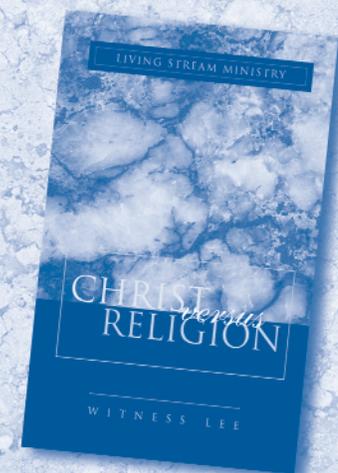
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## CHRIST *versus* RELIGION

Religion includes everything related to Christ or done on behalf of Christ that lacks the living presence of Christ Himself. Christ carried out His earthly ministry entirely outside of religion. The early followers of Christ also lived a vibrant Christian life apart from religion. The apostles charged the early churches to pursue Christ Himself rather than scriptural knowledge or outward observances. Even today Christ is calling His seekers away from doctrines, creeds, regulations, and all other forms of religion to a living and personal relationship with Him.



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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 DIVINE DISPENSING FOR THE DIVINE ECONOMY

The work of assimilation is a good illustration of dispensing. Immediately after eating, the fine work of dispensing begins in order to dispense the food into the cells, fibers, and tissues of our being. In the same way, the dispensing of the Triune God is to make the processed and consummated Triune God the very constitution of our being. This fine work of dispensing continues day by day and will be finalized when the sealing ink of the Spirit permeates

*God entered into us when we were regenerated. Now He is increasing within us by adding more of Himself to us.*

through our entire body (Eph. 1:13-14). This will be the redemption of our body (Rom. 8:23) when we are glorified.

The dispensing of the Triune God into us causes us to grow with the increase of God (Col. 2:19). For anything to grow it must increase with some element or substance. Human beings grow by the food they take in. If you do not eat anything, you cannot grow. We Christians grow with the increase, the surplus, the addition, of God. God entered into us when we were regenerated. Now He is increasing within us by adding more of Himself to us. However, the amount of God each brother or sister has differs.

To have the Lord increase within us, we must come to the Word of God to eat each day. The first stanza of

*Hymns, #811* shows how we must come to the Lord to be fed by Him:

My heart is hungry, my spirit doth thirst;  
I come to Thee, Lord, to seek Thy supply;  
All that I need is none other but Thee,  
Thou canst my hunger and thirst satisfy.

Feed me, Lord Jesus, give me to drink,  
Fill all my hunger, quench all my thirst;  
Flood me with joy, be the strength of  
my life,  
Fill all my hunger, quench all my thirst.

We also must pray in order to be fed by the Lord. Many times, I do not have the time to close my door, kneel down, and pray, but I can say that I often have a spirit of prayer. I have a kind of aspiration within me, and this aspiration causes me to breathe the Lord in very much. It causes me to inhale the living, processed, consummated God into my being....

Ephesians 4:4-6 reveals the dispensing of the Divine Trinity. Verse 4 says that there is one Body and one Spirit. The one Spirit in this verse is the processed, consummated God, the pneumatic Christ. This Spirit is just Christ Himself. We can illustrate this by the way a big melon is processed to become juice. First, there is a big melon which is cut into slices. Then the slices are pressed until juice is produced. The juice is the "spirit" of the melon. The juice of the melon is actually the melon itself. In the same way, the Spirit is the "sliced and pressed Jesus." The Spirit in the Body of Christ is Christ after He was "cut" on the cross and "pressed" unto

death. Now in resurrection, He is the Spirit, the "juice." Through His death and resurrection, He has become the drinkable Spirit. Our need is to drink Him. He is within us, but every day we need more of Him. Although we drink today, it does not mean that one drink will be sufficient for our entire life. Our drinking should be continuous. In eternity, we will still need to drink the river of the water of life (Rev. 22:1, 17) and eat the tree of life (v. 14). We need to eat and drink for eternity.

*The Divine Dispensing for the Divine Economy,*  
pp. 33-35, 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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