

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 33, JANUARY 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

In

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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SAN FRANCISCO, CA

KCBC 770 AM
2:45 P.M. MON-FRI
1:30 P.M. SAT-SUN

FIELDING AND PALMERSTON NORTH, NEW ZEALAND

COMMUNITY RADIO 999 AM
1:15 P.M. SUNDAY

HASTINGS, NEW ZEALAND
COMMUNITY RADIO 1431 AM
5:30 P.M. SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

We recently finished *Life-study of Leviticus*, which some consider the most difficult book in the Bible to understand. If you have been listening, however, we believe you would agree with the words of the hymn by George Rawson: "The Lord hath yet more light and truth to break forth from His Word." We experience new light and truth from God's Word in every radio program and hope you do as well.

One of the difficult challenges we face in the broadcast section at Living Stream Ministry is deciding what portions from Witness Lee's vast life-study library to deliver to you our listener. We have only a small amount of time to air a fragment of the riches in their original spoken form. The printed volumes, however, comprise the entire life-study with all its detailed riches. These volumes are available as a set covering the entire Bible or individually as a section of messages on any book of the Bible. We must again encourage you to seriously consider getting your own copy of the printed life-studies so you can search out the many gems that we simply cannot include in the radio programs.

We have also just ended a two-week review of *Life-study of Genesis* and have begun *Life-study of Colossians* on radio. In the first sentence of the printed life-study Witness Lee said, "In the book of Colossians Christ is unveiled to a fuller extent than in any other book in the Bible." We eagerly anticipate experiencing with you the unveiling of Christ to a fuller extent as we begin the new year.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE PRIESTLY SERVICE?

In God's New Testament purpose and plan, the priesthood is the believers' primary, indispensable ministry. The meaning and function of the physical Old Testament priesthood is presented straightforwardly in the Scriptures.

(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.

I'm learning to call on the Lord and to let Him live through me instead of imitating Him. I'm really appreciative of the radio broadcast and of your service there. It's really something to be in the Body and with the Body.

Apollo Beach, FL

The Hearing of Faith newsletter has been a great help to me and I look forward to it every month. I share it with my friends and they like it very much. I am sure it will help seeking believers who receive it.

I am still enjoying this wonderful program. I am so delighted about it that I sound a note to almost everyone I meet and would like to encourage listeners who are really enjoying this program to do the same in order that the Lord might gain the increase and expression of His Body. Also, many I talk to are very anxious to listen to it, but because of their working hours it is not possible. Could you please try to add Saturday or Sunday to enable them also to enjoy it? God bless you all and bless His move on the earth.

Texas City, TX

I started to listen [to the program] in September or October 1999, and it has been a great blessing to hear the genuine Word of God through the revelation that Brother Lee received directly from God. Every program is a wonderful experience of knowledge that my soul receives to keep me walking with Jesus until He comes for His church.

Norwalk, CA

Excerpt from

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST

BY WITNESS LEE

*Everything
is in Him
and He is in
everything.*

We have seen in the Old Testament that the land with its temple and city is the center of God's plan. What God planned to do on this earth was to obtain that piece of land with the temple and the city built upon it. The temple is the center of God's presence, and the city is the center of God's authority. God's presence and God's authority could only be realized by the temple and the city built upon that piece of land. I must ask you to consider the whole record of the Old Testament more and more. The entire Old Testament deals with that piece of land and its temple and city.

We have already seen that this land is the full type, the all-inclusive type of Christ. We know that there are many types in the Old Testament. We know that the passover lamb is a type of Christ, and we know that the manna is a type of Christ. The tabernacle with all its furniture, utensils, and various offerings is also a type of Christ. But I wish to point out to you that without this piece of land, there is no all-inclusive type of Christ. The passover lamb is not the all-inclusive type, and neither is the manna or even the tabernacle with all the things related to it. Many different kinds of offerings were ordained by the Lord, but they only depicted various aspects of Christ. Only the land of Canaan is the full type, the all-inclusive type of Christ. We have all accepted Christ as our Redeemer. That is quite wonderful! But we must realize that Christ as the Redeemer is not the all-inclusive One. We are told in the Scriptures that Christ is all and in all, that Christ is the all-inclusive One. Everything is in Him and He is in everything. There is no other type in the Old Testament but the land of Canaan which shows Him as such.

What do we mean by the word "all-inclusive"? We are told that Christ is the light, but this is not all-inclusive. We are told that Christ is our life, but this also is not all-inclusive. We are told that Christ is the food and the living water, but even these do not make Him the all-inclusive One. Christ is all and in all. Christ is not only the light, the life, the food, and the living water, but Christ is everything to us. Whatever you need, whatever you contact, whatever you obtain, whatever you enjoy, whatever you experience—all these things must be Christ. Christ is the all-inclusive One to us.

The All-Inclusive Christ, pp. 18-19

THE PRIESTLY SERVICE

(continued from page 1)

However, the understanding of the spiritual New Testament priesthood has been obscured by centuries of erroneous tradition. The New Testament Greek language uses two different words for the English equivalent of *priesthood*: one means the office, function, or ministry of the priest, while the other refers to the corporate body of priests. Much inaccurate and inadequate understanding of the meaning of the office or function of a priest persists even today.

What does the New Testament say about the priesthood? According to Revelation 1:6 and 1 Peter 2:5, every believer is a priest to God. While the

the life-giving Spirit. Such a priest is simply one who has allowed Christ to make His home in his heart (Eph. 3:17) to have his inward being saturated with Christ's essence and element. He is occupied and permeated with Christ by continually contacting God through prayer. He serves God by spending time in His presence until he is one with the One whom he serves. Then his service is not so much his work *for God* as it is the overflow *of God* from within him. Rivers of living water issue from his innermost being (John 7:37-39). This overflow becomes his Christian service to God.

A New Testament priest is a normal believer who is filled and saturated with Christ as the life-giving Spirit.

dictionary may define a priest as a professional who makes a career of serving God, the New Testament reveals that God intends that *all* His people serve Him as priests. Hence, the believers in Christ are "a kingdom of priests" (Rev. 1:6), "a holy priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:5), and "a royal priesthood" (1 Pet. 2:9). Contrary to religious thought, the New Testament priesthood revealed in the Word of God does not require taking a vow of celibacy, wearing distinctive priestly garb, or becoming a member of the clergy. Rather, the priesthood is a particular service rendered to God by every child of God.

Though to be a New Testament priest involves serving God, it is not simply a matter of doing something *for* God. Rather, a New Testament priest is a normal believer who is filled and saturated with Christ as

By being filled with Christ, the New Testament priests experience, gain, and magnify Christ. Christ becomes their true burnt offering as the One who is absolute for God, their meal offering for God's satisfaction, their sin and trespass offerings to satisfy God's righteousness, and their peace offering to bring in oneness and harmony between God and man. Then, through their praying, singing, praising, and speaking, they offer to God the Christ they have experienced as the reality and fulfillment of all the Old Testament offerings. What a blessing and privilege it is that every child of God has been called to serve God as a priest with Christ Himself as the content of his offering!

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Priesthood* and *The New Testament Priests of the Gospel*, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

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The ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST

In this book Witness Lee expounds portions of the book of Deuteronomy, showing that the land inherited by the children of Israel is a full type of the all-inclusive Christ, who is our New Testament inheritance. He presents a detailed study of some of the unsearchable riches of the good land, including its brooks and streams, its wheat and barley, its figs and vines, and even its iron stones. Each type is explained and applied to our experience as believers.



The All-Inclusive Christ
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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.

CALLING ON THE LORD WHILE READING THE WORD

Regrettably, some Christians today like to read the Bible with their mind. They read the Word but will not call on the Lord. As a result, they contact the Bible but not the Lord. Please remember that if you do not call on the Lord, the Scriptures will be merely letters and not spirit. The letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. If you read the Bible with your mind, every word and sentence of the Bible will

For your difficulties you must touch the Lord Himself; for your lacks you must receive the Lord Himself.

fill you. Everyone who "researches" the Bible is deadened. You have to believe me. Before you researched the Bible, you might have been a little alive; but after you search and research, you become dead in your spirit, because this is the wrong way.

This is not to say you should not study the Bible. However, it is not the biblical doctrines that can edify you, save you, supply you, or be life to you. No! Only the Lord Himself can be your life, and only He can save you. For your difficulties you must touch the Lord Himself; for your lacks you must receive the Lord Himself. The words of the Bible are the means. In your reading you must call on the Lord with your spirit: "O Lord! In the beginning was the Word. O Lord! In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. O Lord! You created the heavens. O Lord! You created the earth." Immediately you will see that the words of the Bible are living. As a result, what

you gain is not a doctrine but a living Lord. This is what we need today.

Although many brothers and sisters have heard this teaching, the practice among us is not adequate. We are too accustomed to using our mind to understand the Scriptures, but we are not in the habit of using our spirit to call on the Lord and touch the Word simultaneously. We definitely have to build up this habit of calling on the Lord whenever we open the Bible. If we call on the Lord and pray while we read the Word, the words of the Bible will become alive. Then our darkness will be dissipated and our weakness will be turned to strength. The Lord will supply us within in many ways. This is the right way.

Sometimes you may not remember the verses you pray-read. But, praise the Lord, whether or not you remember them, by praying and reading the Word, exhaling and inhaling, you will receive the Lord into you. To remember the words of the Bible, you need to exercise your memory, but memorizing is not necessary for you to receive the Lord. As long as you breathe in the Lord, He will operate in you to water, enlighten, comfort, and support you; He will even carry out the work of transformation in you, not to correct you from without but to change you from within.

Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must learn to call on the Lord, and you also must learn to mingle your calling on the Lord with your pray-reading of the Word. If you practice

these two ways every day, you will not need to listen to the teachings concerning holiness, victorious living, or life, but you surely will be holy, overcoming, and full of life. To be sure, your entire being will be saturated with the Lord. The Lord is really the true and living Spirit. He does not care whether you understand and comprehend the doctrines; He cares only to operate in you. For the Lord to operate in us, we must learn to call on the Lord until this becomes a natural habit in our living.

The Lord's Recovery of Eating, pp. 29-30,
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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