

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 38, JUNE 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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Dear Life-study Listener,

Thank you for reading our monthly note to you in the *Hearing of Faith*. We realize there is a barrage of information these days, and we appreciate your taking time to share this ministry with us. We hope you find it worthwhile and trust you will continue to do so.

Living Stream Ministry received more response from radio programs on *Life-study of Revelation* than from any of the other fourteen books of the Bible we have broadcasted so far. Perhaps this is because our Lord's second coming is like a mysterious puzzle, and in *Life-study of Revelation*, the pieces all come together. We believe when the great tribulation arrives, these messages will be widely circulated as a defining word. For those of you who can hear us daily, we are sure you enjoyed the review of Revelation just concluding.

Now we are moving on to *Life-study of Luke* where we will focus on the mysterious aspect of the Lord's first coming, God becoming a man. We are happy to get into the Gospel of Luke with you as we turn our full attention to this wonderful God-man. As you join us, we think you will agree that seeing our precious Lord Jesus Christ really makes the things of earth fade away. Thanks again for spending the time to draw closer to Him through this ministry.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SIMPSONVILLE, SC

CPR 88.1 FM
2:00 A.M. 5:30 A.M. SUN-SAT
12 NOON, 9:00 P.M.,
AND 11:30 P.M.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INCARNATION?

To the believer, incarnation speaks of God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ. The word *incarnated* means enfleshed, as John the apostle indicated when he wrote, "The Word was God....and the Word became flesh" (John 1:1, 14). Paul also proclaimed, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). In the person of Jesus Christ, God is united and

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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.

I have been listening to your broadcast for over a year, and I am truly blessed. I look forward to 5:30 each evening. Even if I am out, I try to rush home so I won't miss it. I did get a copy of the New Testament, but I would like to get the tapes you broadcast. What a blessing it is to know that in this end time amid all of the false prophets and the cults, God has His servants, those men on the program, so His truth can still go forth. I am praying for you all that God will keep you on the air at this time. God bless you all. Keep up the good work.

Riverdale, MD

Too many of us who are in the Christian world become lost because we are searching for a material promised land, so when Witness Lee mentioned that Christ is our promise, it really touched me. So I would like to get some information on your ministry, your church. I'm tired of going around searching. I have been looking for years.

This morning it was like a light bulb went off. Wow! How could I have missed this? I have been listening to Witness Lee on KBIF. But this morning he touched on several very important things. I said, "Let me really listen to this man." It's awesome. I would really like to know more. I want to be part of a ministry. I want to take the Word to people. I believe your ministry is for the ones who are looking for the meat of the Word.

Fresno, CA

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF LUKE

The Love of the God-Man

Because the Man-Savior's divine nature with the divine attributes was expressed in His human nature with the human virtues, it is difficult to say when He was living on earth whether it was God loving others or a man loving. In the life of the Man-Savior we see a love that is the love of a God-man, the love of the One who lived a human life filled with the divine life. Because the Lord lived in this way, His love was the human virtue of love filled with the divine attribute of love.

Certain cases recorded in the Gospel of Luke illustrate the fact that the Man-Savior's love was a love in which the attribute of divine love is expressed in the virtue of human love. We see this love in the case of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), in the case of the sinful woman in the house of Simon the Pharisee (7:36-50), and in the case of the thief on the cross who asked the Lord Jesus to remember him (23:39-43). In each case the Lord Jesus exercised a genuine human love. However, His love was not merely human; it was a human love filled with the divine love and also strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine love.

In reading the Gospel of Luke, we may not see that with the Man-Savior we have human love filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine love. Readers of the New Testament can easily realize that the Lord Jesus loves others. Children are even taught to sing, "Jesus loves me, this I know." But what kind of love does Jesus have? Is His love human or divine? His love is not merely human love nor merely divine love; His love is human love filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by and with the divine love. This wonderful love is a composition, a mingling, of the divine love with the human love. This love was the living of the Man-Savior, the living of the God-man. The Lord's living was a matter of the human virtues filled, strengthened, uplifted, and enriched by the divine attributes.

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human.*

Qualified to Be the Man-Savior

It was this kind of living that qualified the Lord Jesus to be our Man-Savior. He saved sinners by such a human-divine living, by a living that was humanly divine and divinely human. The living of the Lord Jesus was not merely human nor merely divine; it was humanly divine and divinely human. His living was the dynamic power by which He saved pitiful sinners.

Life-study of Luke, pp. 493-494, by Witness Lee

INCARNATION

(continued from page 1)

perfectly mingled with man. At His birth He was at once both the Son of God (Mark 1:1) and the Son of Man (Matt. 11:19), for His being is of two natures—divine and human. Thus, He is the God-man, truly God and truly man. He is the complete God and the perfect man.

Although the fact that God became a man is a mystery that is beyond our ability to understand, it is not beyond our ability to experience, for it is through incarnation that God has become knowable and can even be experienced by us. This can be seen in the naming of the newborn God-man. Joseph and Mary were told that they were to name the child Jesus (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31), meaning *Jehovah Savior*. We are also told He would be called Emmanuel, which means *God with us* (Matt. 1:23).

Before the birth of Christ, God was separated from mankind because of sin, and all mankind was destined to eternal punishment. As a sinner, every human being needs a Savior to deliver him from God's righteous judgment. The only solution to mankind's problem was a sacrifice that could take the sinner's place in death. God had to become a man, for He alone was capable of paying such a price. To die for man, He had to take on flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14). Jesus, who is God incarnated to be a sinless man, is our Jehovah Savior. All humanity can now rejoice with the words penned by Charles Wesley, "Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" The wonderful

name of Jesus reveals depths of unspeakable love and sacrifice. It reveals that the almighty God condescended to be a lowly man (Isa. 9:6) to be our Savior.

Through incarnation, God is now Emmanuel, God with us. On the one hand, today Christ Jesus as the embodiment of God sits upon the throne (Rom. 8:34; Rev. 22:1). On the other hand, He is now also with His believers (Matt. 28:20), indwelling them as the Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 10) in their spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). God is now with us believers in such an intimate and subjective way.

*God is no longer
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Since His incarnation, God is no longer unapproachable or far away from us. God has acquired humanity! Once God became incarnated, He committed Himself to humanity so that He might become our Savior, and even more, so that He could be joined with us. He is now, as Charles Wesley wrote in one of his many hymns, "Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel."

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Four Major Steps of Christ and God's New Testament Economy*, chaps. 2-5, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

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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.

FAITH AND LOVE

Paul says in 1 Timothy 1:14, "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." Grace is abundant in two aspects: in faith and in love in Christ Jesus. Originally, Paul as Saul of Tarsus had nothing to do with Jesus Christ. He was even full of hatred toward the Lord. But one day he received mercy and grace from the Lord, not only to believe in Jesus, but also to love Him. Once he hated Jesus; then, by the grace of God he loved Jesus. This is the greatest mercy, and this is real grace. It is not enough just to believe in the Lord Jesus. We also must love Him. I am sure we have all thanked God for His mercy and grace which have caused us to believe in the Lord Jesus. But have we ever prayed, "O Father, how I thank You that by Your grace I love the Lord Jesus"? Not only do we need faith, but also love.

The entire Gospel of John shows us these two things. In the first part of the Gospel, we read that the Lord Jesus, who was God Himself, was the Word in the beginning. Then one day He became incarnated as a man to dwell among us, full of grace and reality. John's Gospel encourages us to believe in this One. One of the most important verbs in the Gospel of John is "believe." The Word has been made flesh and we must believe in Him. To believe simply means to receive. John 1:12 says, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God,

even to them that believe on his name." We believe by receiving, and we receive by believing. We believe what God has given, and by believing we receive what He gives.

But this is not all. In the Gospel of John, after speaking of believing, the Lord Jesus appeals for our love. He tells us "...he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to

To love is to enjoy what you have received.

him....If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him" (14:21, 23). In these verses the Lord Jesus did not say, "he that believes in me." To believe in the Lord is one thing, but to love Him is another. To believe is to receive, *but to love is to enjoy what you have received.* So in the last chapter of John's Gospel, the Lord asks Peter three times, "Lovest thou me?" By this, the Lord was showing Peter that, as one who had received Him, he must learn to enjoy Him by loving Him.

We know that the sisters go to the supermarket, buy many groceries, and store them. Though these groceries are bought and stored, they have not yet been enjoyed. Therefore, the sisters must not only store them, but also enjoy them.

It is unnecessary for me to ask if you believe in the Lord Jesus. But I have a big question mark as to whether you love the Lord Jesus. Tell me honestly, do you love the Lord Jesus? Do you love Him more than all other things? Peter could say, "Lord, thou knowest that I love you." Can we say the same thing? With an honest heart, can we say, "Lord Jesus, You know that I love you"? Now that we have believed in the Lord, He is appealing for our love.

Life and Building as Portrayed in the Song of Songs, pp. 18-19, 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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