

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 42, OCTOBER 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 began broadcasting *Life-study of Deuteronomy* in September. In Deuteronomy, the final book of Moses, we see a loving and mature father who saw the first generation pass away and who knew the rebellious nature of God's people. Out of his loving concern, Moses emphatically repeated God's law so that God's people would not fall into idolatry and fornication after entering the good land. We think you will see this message was not only for the children of Israel but is also needed by us today.

In our recent conclusion of *Life-study of Luke*, we spent five programs on the matter of the jubilee. These programs generated some of our highest listener response. The jubilee strikes a chord within man's heart about freedom. People today are seeking freedom from so many things and in so many places. But we can find true freedom only in Christ, who proclaimed the year of jubilee in Luke 4:17-19.

If you have not discovered the "Listen to Today's Broadcast" button at our Web site at www.lifestudy.com, we want to tell you about it, especially if you who want to stay current with our daily schedule but cannot hear the radio program in your area. Each day's broadcast and all past broadcasts are available for you to hear via the Internet at www.lifestudy.com.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BATON ROUGE, LA
WSKR 1210 AM
8:00 A.M. SUNDAY

BIRMINGHAM, AL
WYDE 850 AM
1:30 P.M. SATURDAY
2:30 P.M. SUNDAY

ATLANTA, GA
WGKA 1190 AM
12:30 P.M. MON-FRI

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GOOD LAND?

The Old Testament contains many types of Christ, including the light, the land, the sun, the stars, the trees (Gen. 1-2), the Passover lamb, the manna, the water from the cleft rock (Exo. 12-17), and persons such as Adam, Abel, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Aaron, David, and Solomon. All of these types portray different aspects of Christ. The good land of Canaan, however, is an all-inclusive type of Christ, signifying Christ as everything to the believers.

(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 really appreciate this ministry. I have a couple of Watchman Nee books, including The Spiritual Man. I have been greatly influenced by Witness Lee. I don't know of anyone who has the revelation concerning the Bible that this man has. I consider him my teacher. I hope to get all of his life-studies.

Sacramento, CA

This month's topic regarding Jesus' resurrection being His glorification was further enlightenment to me. He is the vine, and we are the branches, enlivened by His life-giving Spirit. He is the tree of life, and we are His fruit. We are to grow up and produce fruit as we live in the Spirit. Wow!

Denver, CO

I heard your broadcast today for the first time, and I absolutely loved it. The word was so rich. I would like to request your free monthly newsletter. I cannot tell you how full I am from just hearing this thirty-minute broadcast on KOLE. I am full of the Word from your broadcast today. God bless you. I will listen every chance I get.

Bridge City, TX

Today's broadcast on Luke 15 brought me to the Lord in a new and wonderful way. Also, the teaching combined with the article on loving Christ opened my eyes to a new way in the Lord. I was at His feet in deep contrition, and I feel like a whole new person in God.

De Kalb, IL

Excerpt from

THE ALL-INCLUSIVE CHRIST

BY WITNESS LEE

Deuteronomy says that the land is good in water. Listen to the different terms that are used: "a land of brooks of water"—that means a land full of streams of waters—and a land "of fountains and springs" (8:7)....

...Brothers and sisters, what is the meaning of these waters? We can immediately turn to the Lord's word for the answer. The Lord said that the water He gives will be in us a well of water, a fountain, springing up unto the life of eternity. These waters are types of the various kinds of supply of Christ's life. The life of Christ as the supply to us is just like the different kinds of waters.

The Lord told us that out of the innermost part of those who believe on Him will flow rivers of living water.

What is this? This is the supply of the life of Christ as living water. If you reflect upon

your experience and consider it carefully, you will realize that in one aspect Christ is so spacious and exhaustless, and in another aspect Christ is transcendent and in the heavens. Then, if you view it accurately, you will realize that the supply of the life of Christ is just as living water within you. Many times you are thirsty—not thirsty in your physical body, but thirsty in your spirit. When you come athirst to the Lord and contact Him, you have a certain sense within you. You feel refreshed, you feel watered. When you are thirsty, it means that your spirit, your inner man is dry. But when you contact the Lord Jesus, it is not long before you feel watered and your thirst is quenched. You are refreshed more by this drink than by any physical beverage. Then, if you contact the Lord more and more and even moment by moment, you will feel more than watered; there will be a stream flowing forth from within you.

You may ask what I mean when I speak of a stream flowing forth from within you. Do you not have such experiences? When you are dry and thirsty in the inner man, you come to the Lord, you contact Him and you are refreshed. Then the more you contact Him, you are not only watered, but you are filled, you are full of water. I believe that the moment you meet a brother, you will say, "Hallelujah!" What is this? It is a stream flowing forth from within you. Then in the evening when you come to the meeting, you will come singing, you will come refreshed. You will immediately offer praise or a prayer, which will be just like a living stream flowing forth from within you. All the brothers and sisters will be watered by your prayer.

The All-Inclusive Christ, pp. 37-39

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THE GOOD LAND

(continued from page 1)

Hence, it is the ultimate type of Christ found in the Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 8:7-10 says, "For Jehovah your God is bringing you to a good land, a land of waterbrooks, of springs and of fountains, flowing forth in valleys and in mountains; a land of wheat and barley and vines and fig trees and pomegranates; a land of olive trees with oil and of honey; a land in which you will eat bread without scarcity; you will not lack anything in it; a land whose stones are iron, and from whose mountains you can mine copper. And you shall eat and be satisfied, and you shall bless Jehovah your God for the good land which He has given you."

The all-inclusive Christ, signified by the good land, is exceedingly rich! He is the springs and fountains (John 4:10, 14; 7:37-38). He is the wheat, barley, and vines (John 12:24; 6:9; 15:1, 5).

The innumerable riches of the good land illustrate the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8). This understanding concerning the good land is confirmed by Colossians 1:12, which speaks of "the allotted portion of the saints in the light." The term *allotted portion* refers to the allotment of the good land given to the children of Israel as their inheritance, showing that the portion given to the New Testament believers is not a physical land but the all-inclusive Christ for their enjoyment.

God's purpose is to have a dwelling place among His chosen people for His expression. In the Old Testament, God led the children of Israel out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and

into the good land for the fulfillment of His purpose. In Egypt they enjoyed the Passover lamb for their deliverance and exodus. Through the wilderness, they were sustained by the manna, which enabled them to build God's tabernacle. Finally, after God led them into the good land, they enjoyed that land as their portion. Through their enjoyment of the rich produce of the land, they worshipped God and built up the temple for God's testimony and His unique dwelling place.

In typology, each of these places represents a stage in the progress of the experience of Christ and the fulfillment of God's purpose. We,

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the New Testament believers, progress in our experience of Christ as the Passover Lamb to Christ as our daily manna and consummately to Christ with all His riches as our good land. By our enjoyment of the the all-inclusive Christ as everything to us (Col. 3:11), the church as God's testimony and unique dwelling place is realized and built up (Eph. 2:20b-22), and God's purpose to have His expression is fulfilled (Rev. 21:2, 3, 22).

For further reading on this subject, please see *The All-Inclusive Christ; Life-study of Ephesians*, message 30; and *Life-study of Colossians*, messages 20 and 21, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

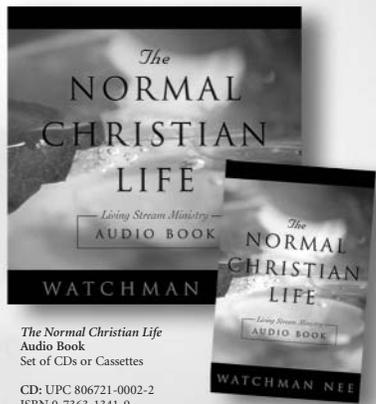
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The PATH OF Life

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.

TO OVERCOME THE LEAVING OF THE FIRST LOVE

I must testify that I love the Lord. I received the Lord sixty-seven years ago in 1925. After all of these years, I feel that the Lord is still so intimate to me and that I am so close to Him. I do not care for any religion. I care for this dear One, this living One. Whenever I mention His name, I am happy. When we wake up in the morning, the first thing we should do is say, "O Lord Jesus. O Lord Jesus." It is better to add, "I love You." We should say, "O Lord Jesus, I love You. O Lord Jesus, I love You." How intimate, how sweet, and how affectionate this is!

Our God, our Christ, our Lord, is not only loving, but also very affectionate. He is full of affection. God has "fallen in love" with us, His chosen and redeemed people. If you say, "O Lord Jesus, I love You," right away you will fall in love with Him. Quite often I would not do some things, not merely because they are not right or because I fear God but because I love Him. I would say, "Lord Jesus, I love You, so I cannot do this." I just cannot do certain things, because I love Him.

We need to overcome the loss of the first love. The church in Ephesus was a good church. It was an orderly church and a formal church (Rev. 2:2-3). Surely we would like such a church, but such an orderly church had left the first love (v. 4). The Greek word for *first* is the same as that translated *best* in Luke 15:22. Our first love toward the Lord must be the best love for Him. When the prodigal son in Luke 15 came back home, the father told the servants to bring the best robe. The *best* here is the first.

Now I would like to consider what the first love is. Many Christians think

that the first love is the love with which we loved the Lord Jesus when we were saved. I would not say that this is wrong, but it is not adequate. The first love which is the best love is much more than this.

The first love is the love which is God Himself. In the Bible we are told that God is love (1 John 4:8, 16). In the whole universe, only God is love. The Lord charges the husbands to love their wives. But it is impossible for the

Christ should be first not only in big things but also in small things.

husbands to love their wives in themselves because we are not love. There is only one Person who is love—God.

God is not only the best but also the first. In the whole universe, God is first. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God..." This is the opening of the Bible. God is the beginning. God is the first. Colossians tells us that our Christ must have the first place. He must have the preeminence (1:18b)... What is it to recover the first love? To recover the first love is to consider the Lord Jesus as the first in everything. If we make Christ everything in our life, that means we have overcome the loss of the first love....

Christ should be first not only in big things but also in small things. When the brothers buy a necktie, they should give Christ the first place. If I wore a certain kind of tie in a very worldly style, I would not be able to speak for the Lord in my ministry. Even for the sake of my conscience, I cannot wear

certain styles of ties. The sisters should give Christ the first place in the way that they style their hair. If the sisters give Christ the preeminence in the way that they style their hair, this means that they are taking Him as their first love. Sisters who have a worldly hair style do not have Christ as their first love. They are not giving Him the preeminence. We should give Christ the preeminence in the way that we dress and the way that we style our hair. When we give Christ the preeminence in everything, this is to recover the loss of the first love.

The Overcomers, pp. 30-32, 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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