

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 64, AUGUST 2003

"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,

One of our favorite portions each month of this newsletter is what you tell us, which we include under "Response from Listeners." This month is particularly interesting because of the places the comments come from. Did you know that *Life-study of the Bible* is heard internationally in so many places? France and Ghana! In addition to being heard on the Internet, the English version is heard in London, Australia, New Zealand, and Africa. Russian and Spanish editions are broadcast in their respective areas, and new programs are being developed in Polish and Korean. Please pray for the international spread of this ministry over the airwaves.

We are receiving an increased amount of response from the Internet and want to remind those of you who can no longer hear us on a local radio station that our programs are available on-line. Another economical and convenient way to listen is to take advantage of the special packages available on cassette tape for the programs on different books of the Bible. For more on this option, see the column on page three or the enclosed flyer. A few of you requested that we make the programs available in MP3 format. If enough of you call or write us to tell us that you think this is a good idea, we will produce that for you. What do you think?

Living Stream Ministry

*Life-Study of the Bible
with Witness Lee*

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WHAT IS THE MINGLING OF GOD AND MAN?

The person of Jesus Christ is a great mystery. He is God, yet He is also a man. The testimony concerning Him is clearly documented in the Bible. He, as the eternally existing and self-existing Word, was eternally with God; He even was God (John 1:1). The entire creation came into being through Him (v. 3). Then at a singularly momentous point in history, He entered into His own creation—He became flesh (John 1:14). Paul declares that in the great

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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.

Thank you for teaching the deep truth of God's Spirit-filled Word. God has confirmed through the teaching what the Holy Scriptures has taught me.

Eatonville, WA

My mother is elderly but very young in our wonderful Lord. She is unable to leave her house but enjoys the Houston radio broadcast daily and shares what she receives from it with others in her building who otherwise would not have a way to be fed in such a rich way. Thank you! And thank the Lord for meeting us where we are moment by moment.

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for sending the Hearing of Faith. Although the articles are short and concise, they are nevertheless rich in content and nourishing to the inner man. Keep me on your mailing list. Thank you for this ministry.

Calais, France

I really appreciate your programs. I had the opportunity to read about Watchman Nee, his life and his death. It was very inspiring, so when I heard that Witness Lee was teaching, I stopped to listen in.

Ghana, Africa

scripture

To him who overcomes, to him I will give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.
Rev. 2:7b

commentary

"God's original intention was that man should eat of the tree of life. Because of the fall, the way to the tree of life was closed to man. Through the redemption of Christ, the way by which man could touch the tree of life, which is God Himself in Christ as life to man, was opened again..."



Scripture & commentary

Scripture & Commentary presented by
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MINGLING OF GOD AND MAN (continued from page 1)

mystery of godliness, God “was manifested in the flesh” (1 Tim. 3:16). Jesus Christ was the incarnated God, God manifested in the flesh. He was both God and man united in the body of one Person—two distinct natures but one unique Person. He is the mingling of God and man.

The Old Testament presents the meal offering as a figure of this wonderful person: “And when you present an offering of a meal offering baked in the oven, it shall be of fine flour, unleavened cakes mingled with oil” (Lev. 2:4). The term *mingled* indicates that two or more elements are combined or

These two essences, divine and human, existed and continue to exist in the one Person, Jesus Christ.

joined with one another into one entity but that each of the elements remains distinguishable in the combination. In the meal offering the mingling of the fine flour with the olive oil typifies the mingling of the humanity of Jesus with His divinity.

In order to become the incarnated God in man, Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary (Matt. 1:18, 20); because of such a conception, He has the divine essence, the essence

of God. He is the infinite God and the complete God. In view of the fact that He was born of a human virgin, born of a woman, Jesus also has the essence of man (Luke 1:31; Gal. 4:4). He is a genuine man. Hence, He has two essences—the essence of God and the essence of man. These two essences, divine and human, existed and continue to exist in the one Person, Jesus Christ. He is the God-man, possessing both divinity and humanity mingled together. The unique God, the eternal God, has been embodied in the man Jesus (Col. 2:9). He is both God and man, perfect in His divinity and complete in His humanity. These two natures exist harmoniously in Him as one person; the two can neither be divided from one another nor confused with one another. He is one Person having two natures, which are distinct but not separated.

This God-man Jesus Christ was crucified for us, and in resurrection He was begotten in His humanity as the firstborn Son of God (Acts 13:33; Rom. 1:3-4; Heb. 1:5). Now He is our wonderful Savior. Through faith in Him, we are redeemed from eternal perdition. Even more astoundingly precious is the fact that we human beings are regenerated with the divine life of God to become children of God and the many brothers of Christ (Rom. 8:29). We are the same as He is in life and nature, but of course, not in His Godhead. Now we the many sons of God (Heb. 2:10) are also the mingling of God and man. We are the extension and enlargement of this wonderful God-man Jesus Christ, God mingled with man!

For further reading, see *The Person of Christ*; *The Move of God in Man*, pp. 20-29; and *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, message 26, pp. 281-284, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

RADIO ARCHIVES

Living Stream Ministry has now completed radio programs for two-thirds of *Life-study of the Bible* (www.lsmradio.org).

All past radio archives are available on cassette tape for you to listen to in your car or home and at your own pace. A sample list is below.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS:

L-S of Deuteronomy
L-S of Hebrews
L-S of Galatians
L-S of Genesis

COMPLETE SETS:

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L-S of Samuel

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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.

LOVING THE LORD RESULTING IN LIVING WITH THE LORD

Do we love the Lord Jesus? Since we all love Him, we should live with Him. Suppose there is a brother who has not taken a shower for three days, and his entire body smells. If this were the case, it would be difficult for me to love him and live with him. For two people to live together, they must love one another, and in order to love one another, they must find each other lovable. Our Lord Jesus is truly loveable. Formerly, we were not lovable, but the lovable Jesus has made us lovable. Thus, not only is Jesus lovable, but He has also made every one of His lovers lovable.

I know that this is true. I have seen people who were great sinners. Before they were saved, they were like monsters. Then one day they believed in the Lord and called, "O Lord Jesus!" Within two or three days after they believed in the Lord, they became most lovable. The loveliness of Jesus made them lovable. This illustrates that if you love Jesus, you will become lovable. Moreover, your loving Him and your becoming lovable will produce a result. Because He is lovable and you have become lovable, and because He loves you and you love Him, the two of you will live together. Because you love one another, you will want to live together all day long. Because He is truly lovable, and you love Him, you will want to see Him often and live with Him. He is your life, and you are His image. You and He, He and you, will then become one. He loves you, and you love Him, so the two of you will live together.

In John 14:23 the Lord Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, . . . My Father will love him, and We will come to him

and make an abode with him." The Lord does not say that the Father and the Son will merely visit us and say "hello." He says that They will make an abode with us. For the Father and Son to make an abode with us means

Because He is truly lovable, and you love Him, you will want to see Him often and live with Him.

that They will live, walk, and move together with us. It is truly amazing that the Lord said, "If anyone loves Me, . . . My Father will love him." Our love for Him is not a love of someone who is below for someone who is above, and His love for us is not a love from someone who is above for someone who is below. Our love for Him and His love for us is a love shared by two who are on an equal standing. This is the Christian life.

What follows such a love? What follows is a life of living with the Lord. The Christian life is a life of living with the Lord and a life of the Lord living with us. Eventually, we will live together with the Lord to such an extent that when we say to the Lord, "Lord, let us go to the movies together!", we will be able to sense the Lord saying, "I am not going!" Moreover, not only will we sense that the Lord does not want to go, but we will also say, "Lord, You do not want to go? Since You do not want to go, then I will not go. What would You like to do?" We may say to

the Lord, "Lord, they are playing mah-jongg at Mr. Lee's, but they are short one person. Can we go play mahjongg?" And when the Lord says, "No!", then we will not go. However, when there is a special gospel meeting, we may say to the Lord, "Lord, tonight there is a special meeting at the stadium. Shall we go there?" Then when the Lord says, "Yes, let us go!", we will say, "Okay, Lord. Let us go together." This is to live with the Lord. We say, "Lord, I have not had a haircut in four weeks, should I go get a haircut today?" Then if the Lord says, "Yes!", we say, "Then which barber shop should I go to?" This is the Christian life.

Living with the Lord, pp. 34-36, 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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