

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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"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,

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the midst of our radio broadcast of *Life-study of Jeremiah*. As we read through Jeremiah, a long book with many chapters, it may be easy for us to be distracted with Israel's negative history and failure. But hidden in this book are many treasures. The revelation of the new covenant in chapter thirty-one is the basis for the apostle Paul's important message in Hebrews chapter eight. When we see this, we can appreciate that what Jeremiah spoke of in the Old Testament is the basis for the entire New Testament. In light of this, we are reprinting in this issue and the next the two-part article "What Is the New Covenant?" from the November and December 1999 issues of the *Hearing of Faith*.

The provision God made for His failing people revealed in Jeremiah is a strong encouragement. In the midst of Jeremiah's account of Israel's failures, Jehovah promised to raise up a righteous Shoot to David who would be called "Jehovah our righteousness" (23:5-6). Rather than abandon us, the fallen mankind, God promised to make Christ our righteousness.

Those of you who have access to the Internet will want to check out our new developments. The entire New Testament Recovery Version with footnotes is available at www.recoveryversion.org, and many Living Stream publications are available in their entirety at www.ministrybooks.org.

Living Stream Ministry

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WHAT IS THE NEW COVENANT?

PART 1

The revelation concerning the new covenant, or the new testament, is one of the greatest truths presented to us in the Scriptures. Sadly, very few believers have been adequately enlightened concerning this truth. As a result, many are not enjoying the marvelous spiritual blessings and benefits that are ours in the new covenant.

(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 had to respond because of the joy which the Lord has brought with His presence. I can say now, for the first time since first becoming a Christian, that every day is sweeter than the day before. I am very thankful to be in the flow. I had no idea how rich our Savior was, even though I considered myself to be a student of the Bible. My eyes have been opened to see how blind I am, and the little sight I now have been mercifully given will be fixed on Jesus, with the help of the Body. My wife and I have enjoyed Christ so much through the radio program and by being brought into the local church by the compassion and mercy of the Lord. Thank you again for the time you put into the program. I know countless others are enjoying Christ through the radio programs.

Jacksonville, FL

I thank you for your program. I started listening to you during the broadcast of Life-study of Revelation. May the Lord continue to bless the ministry and wonderful teaching on God's powerful Word. I've been saved three years now and the Lord has delivered me from sixteen years of drug and alcohol addiction.

Brooklyn, NY

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF JEREMIAH

"This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares Jehovah: I will put My law within them and write it upon their hearts."

Jeremiah 31:33a

What kind of law can be put into people and be written upon their hearts? Such a law must be a law of life, and this law itself must be a life. Otherwise, it could not be put into us. Furthermore, this law will be written upon our hearts, indicating that it will spread from the

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center of our being, our spirit, to the circumference, our heart. Thus, this law must be God's life, the divine life, and God's life is God Himself. In the new covenant God will put Himself into His chosen people as their life, and this life is a law.

Every life is a law. For example, the dog life is the dog law, and the bird life is the bird law. Likewise, the life of the peach tree is the law of the peach tree. The principle is the same with human beings. As human beings we have a human life, and this human life is a law that regulates us in every way. In particular, the law of the human life regulates the growth and development of a human being and causes all the parts of one's body to be in the right place and to function in the right way.

God's life is the highest life, and the law of this life is the highest law. The New Testament calls this life eternal life, a life that is divine, uncreated, and indestructible. This eternal life is embodied in Christ (1 John 5:11), and it is actually Christ Himself (John 14:6). The law of this life is wrapped up with the life-giving Spirit, who in Romans 8:2 is called "the Spirit of life." Hence, God, Christ, and the Spirit are this life, and through our regeneration this life is now within us to function as a law to us. This law is righteous and holy, and it is a law of love and of light. Because the eternal life within us is a law, it controls, governs, regulates, and restricts us in everything. What a marvelous law we have within us!

The law of life within us is for God's economy. Without giving us His life as the inner law, God has no way to accomplish His economy. God's economy is to dispense Himself into our being that our being may be constituted with His being to be one constitution with His being. This can be accomplished only by God putting Himself into us as the divine life.

Life-study of Jeremiah, pp. 178-179, by Witness Lee

NEW COVENANT *(continued from page 1)*

In order to begin to grasp the meaning and significance of the new covenant, we need to know the difference between a promise, an oath, a covenant, and a testament. A promise is an ordinary word by God in which He tells us that He will do a certain thing. That promise is strengthened by an oath in which God Himself swears by His immutable Godhead that what He has promised will be fulfilled. Once a promise has been strengthened by an oath, it becomes a covenant. A covenant is somewhat like a contract in which two parties agree to fulfill certain conditions. A testament is a much stronger form of a covenant. A testament means that the person who has entered into a covenant has died, and the death of that person now makes that covenant a testament. As a

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result, the parties involved no longer need to do something in order to fulfill the requirements. Rather, the beneficiaries of the testament need to realize that everything has been done for them. All the items in the covenant have become bequests in the testament, or will, and these bequests are for them, the recipients.

Our Lord Jesus through the shedding of His redemptive blood on the cross has enacted a new covenant (Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24; Luke 22:20). This new covenant in

actuality is a testament. The whole New Testament is such a covenant, such a testament, containing countless items concerning the person and work of Christ that are available to the believers in Christ for their continual experience and enjoyment. This may be comparable to a person being designated an heir in someone's will and testament. Once that person has died, the will, the testament, is enacted, and now the heir simply receives the relevant bequests.

Our eyes need to be opened to see that in Christ, God has made a new covenant, which is a testament enacted in the blood of Jesus (Heb. 9:15-23). According to the terms of this covenant, this testament, God in His righteousness wants to give us in Christ countless bequests. He simply wants us in faith to open our being and to see and receive all that God in Christ has for us as bequests in the testament.

The Lord Jesus, the very One who enacted the new testament in His blood, is now interceding on our behalf, praying that we would be enlightened to realize what is in this covenant. He is also executing, enforcing, carrying out, applying all the bequests of this new testament (Heb. 9:15). He has enacted the new testament, and now He is executing the new testament, praying for us that we will see it, believe it, receive it, experience it, and enjoy it for the carrying out of God's New Testament economy. May our eyes be opened to see this marvelous revelation and may our faith be strengthened to enter into it and to experience it.

For further reading on this subject please see Life-study of Hebrews, messages 36 and 41 and the footnotes for the above referenced verses in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The Recovery Version
NEW TESTAMENT
Online

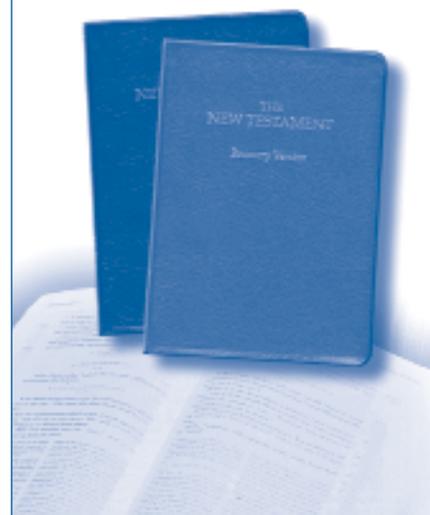


Living Stream Ministry is pleased to announce that **THE ENTIRE TEXT OF THE NEW TESTAMENT RECOVERY VERSION,** complete with footnotes and cross references, **IS NOW AVAILABLE ON-LINE.**

Search by verse reference or key words. Also select by book and chapter for daily reading and study.

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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 SECURITY OF THE NEW COVENANT

What we receive is God's grace, but God has used the blood to make a covenant with us, so that through the covenant we may ask God to deal with us according to His righteousness. We stand upon the ground of grace, but grace comes to us through

Through the blood of the Lord Jesus we have the right to enjoy all that is in the covenant.

righteousness. The blood of Christ has become the foundation of righteousness, so that the covenant God has made with us will not become void. We are standing upon the foundation of the blood, the foundation of righteousness, to deal with God. Therefore, God has no choice but to fulfill in us all that is in the covenant.

One experienced in the Lord has said, "God's covenant is His therapy for the unbelieving ones. He uses His covenant to heal them." For example, some may think that in order to have forgiveness of sins they must pray until they feel peace; then they will have evidence of forgiveness. But God's Word says, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). One thing to which we must pay attention is whether or not we have confessed our sins. Of course the confession spoken of here is not a careless act without the least feeling of hatred towards sin. The confession here refers to really seeing sin as sin under the light, and condemning it for what it is. Naked before God,

we confess the sin we have seen; we confess the sin which we have condemned. When we confess the sins, God will forgive and cleanse us of our sins. Therefore, once we have confessed, we should believe that God has forgiven, and our hearts should have complete peace. A brother has said, "As you have done your part, is it possible that God will not do His part?" This remark is very meaningful. The problem lies in whether or not we have confessed. If we have truly confessed our sin, we should not care for our feeling; nor should we care for what others say about us. Neither should we care for the thoughts Satan sends us; we should only believe God's Word.

Therefore, the Christian's life has no other secret than living by holding on to God's Word, believing that God is faithful and righteous, and that what He has said, He will do. If we stand fully upon the covenant which the Lord Jesus has established, God will care for us and fulfill what He has said in the covenant, for He has accepted the blood of the Lord Jesus. God binds His own will to the covenant and can only move within His covenant. If He had not established a covenant with us, He could treat us as He wished. However, since He has made a covenant with us, He can only do according to what is said in the covenant. He must fulfill His covenant; He cannot be unrighteous. We praise God that He loves us and has had mercy toward us to such an extent that He cannot treat us in any way other than righteousness. There is no grace greater than this!

We must say that without the blood

of the Lord Jesus we are not entitled to anything. But through the blood of the Lord Jesus we are entitled to everything! Through the blood of the Lord Jesus we have the right to enjoy all that is in the covenant. When, by the blood of the Lord Jesus, we ask God to give His blessings to us according to the covenant, God cannot be unrighteous. He must give them to us according to the covenant. This new covenant was made by the Lord with His own blood. The Lord has paid the price of the blood. Now we can ask God to accomplish upon us all that is in the covenant according to the value of the blood which is before Him.

The New Covenant, pp. 59-60, by Watchman Nee and 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.

Living Stream Ministry
P.O. Box 2121 • Anaheim, CA 92814
Phone: (714) 236-6020
Fax: (714) 236-6024
E-mail: radio@lsm.org
Web site: www.lifestudy.com

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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