

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

In

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Dear Life-study Listener,

Last month's life-study of Philemon was a marvelous revelation and goes well with this month's article, "What Is the New Man?" God's wisdom displayed through Paul's Epistle to Philemon is amazing, yet most Christians miss the crucial point because they don't have a proper view of the new man. Paul's entreaty of Philemon (an elder in the church in Colosse) to receive back Onesimus (his runaway slave), who was saved through Paul in a Roman prison, affords a marvelous illustration of the new man. The Epistle to the Colossians was written by Paul in A.D. 64, the same time he wrote the Epistle to Philemon. Surely his word to the Colossians that in the new man there cannot be bond or free man but Christ is all in all (Col. 3:10-11) was in Paul's thoughts as he wrote to Philemon. Paul could have sent his new convert to the church in Rome, which was close by, but he instead sent Onesimus on a two week's journey back to Colosse with a moving letter. The Epistle to Philemon is a continuation of Paul's Epistle to the Colossians and sheds uncommon light on God's goal, the new man.

This month we begin the life-studies of Ezra, Nehemiah, Haggai, Zechariah, and Esther. These *recovery* books of the Bible tell the story of the captivity and return of God's people to Jerusalem from their Babylonian captivity. (To read the article "What is the Lord's Recovery?" from our June 1998 newsletter, go to www.lsmradio.org) Stay tuned for much encouragement and vision from these precious Old Testament picture books.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SAN BERNARDINO, CA
KTIE 590 AM
4:00 P.M. SUNDAYS

WHAT IS THE NEW MAN?

The New Testament uses the phrase "new man" three times. In Ephesians 2:15 Paul says that Christ on the cross created "one new man" in Himself. In Ephesians 4:24, Paul tells us to "put on the new man, which was created according to God." Then in Colossians 3:10 Paul says that we "have put on the new man, which is being renewed." What is the new man? Was it created

(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.

Witness Lee and Watchman Nee are my favorite discerners of the Old and New Testaments. They have this remarkable ability to draw the Spirit from the Word and to instruct in the application of the spirit in our walk in Jesus. Thank you for perpetuating these marvelous commentaries.

Green Cove Springs, FL

The older I get and the more I read His precious Word, the more I want the "meat" of his Word. I want to satisfy His heart. Thank you for preaching the pure Word. I am studying Life-Study of Corinthians right now.

Omer, MI

Thank you for your continued supply to the Body from the Head, Jesus our Lord. I enjoyed verse 5 of chapter five of Galatians after reading from the Hearing of Faith about receiving the words of Bible as God's breath. Hallelujah! "For we by the Spirit out of faith eagerly await the hope of righteousness." O Jesus Lord, bless us if we say for very love Thy precious name a thousand times a day! Come quickly, Lord Jesus!

Omaha, AR

I am new to the broadcast. I have heard Timothy before, but I gained more clarity. The teaching is very insightful and really helps. I like the way it is presented.

Jacksonville, FL

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF NEHEMIAH

RE-EDUCATION FOR RECONSTITUTION

In order to reconstitute the people of God, there is the need to educate them with the word that comes out of the mouth of God, which expresses God. This means that to reconstitute the people of God is to educate them by putting them into the Word of God that they may be saturated with the Word.

The Israelites had been in Egypt for at least four hundred years. During those years they must have been constituted with Egyptian learning. Then they were

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brought to Babylon for seventy years. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah were all born and raised among the Babylonians. After the people of Israel returned from Babylon, they mixed themselves with the Canaanites. Thus, the Israelites were constituted with the Egyptian, Babylonian, and Canaanite culture. Nevertheless, they returned to be the testimony of God. But how could a people with a constitution of Egyptian, Babylonian, and Canaanite culture be God's testimony, the expression of the God-man? Such a people were not the God-men. How could they express God? In order to be the testimony of God, His expression, they needed to be re-educated in the Word of God.

THE RETURNED ISRAELITES BECOMING GOD'S TESTIMONY

In addition to being re-educated, the people of Israel needed to be raised up in much the same way as parents raise their children. Parents not only educate their children but spontaneously and unconsciously impart themselves, nearly their whole being, into their children. Parents transfuse what they are and what they think into their children. Eventually, this constitutes their children to be the same as they are. This is what the children of Israel needed.

Before Nehemiah came back, the nation of Israel was a mess. The duties of the priests were not certain, and no one was taking care of the Levites and the serving ones. The singers were there, but no one had opened the way for them to sing and to be formed into companies. Nehemiah, with the help of Ezra, totally reconstituted the nation. Then Israel became a particular nation, a nation sanctified and separated unto God, expressing God. They were transfused with the thought of God, with the considerations of God, and with all that God is, making them God's reproduction. Everyone became God in life and in nature by this kind of divine constitution. As a result, they became a divine nation on earth expressing the divine character. They were reconstituted personally and corporately to be God's testimony. The returned captives became God's testimony through the reconstitution which took place under the leadership of Nehemiah.

Life-study of Nehemiah, pp. 32-33

THE NEW MAN *(continued from page 1)*

by Christ on the cross or is it being created now through our being renewed?

In his first mention of the new man, Paul speaks of how Christ created one new man out of the two peoples on the earth, the Jews and the Gentiles, slaying the enmity that was between them because of ordinances (Eph. 2:15). This shows us that the new man is something corporate, just as Adam was not only a single man but the beginning of man as a collective entity (Gen. 1:26).

We are all members of the “race” of fallen Adam. In this corporate man, also called the “old man” in the Scriptures (Eph. 4:22; Rom. 6:6), we see many characteristics such as pride, selfishness, anger, lust, and vainglory. Although we may think there are many kinds of men, in God’s view, all fallen mankind is part of the old man, the corporate Adam, who was crucified on the cross with Christ.

What many Christians understand of the new man is mainly concerning the individual aspect, considering the new man as our “new person” in Christ. This understanding may not be incorrect (in the sense that Paul spoke of in Galatians 2:20), but it surely falls short of the full revelation of the new man presented in the Scriptures. Ephesians and Colossians speak of a new mankind created by Christ of the two classes of people on the earth, the Jews and the Gentiles. In this new man “there cannot be Greek and Jew. . .but Christ is all and in all” (Col. 3:11).

What then is the new man? The new man is something corporate, and it is of Christ. It is actually just the church, that humanity that is redeemed, regenerated and transformed by Christ Jesus. On one hand, Christ created this new man on the cross. On the other hand,

this new man comes into existence as the Holy Spirit transforms us by His working in us.

The new man is of the new creation, which is God’s old creation with the element of God added to it. When we are regenerated, God’s life and nature enter us, and we become a

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new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). This is the beginning of the new man. We can also say, as Paul indicates in Ephesians 4 and Colossians 3, that the new man is being created as the believers are being transformed daily into the image of Christ and built together into a dwelling place of God in Spirit (Eph. 2:22).

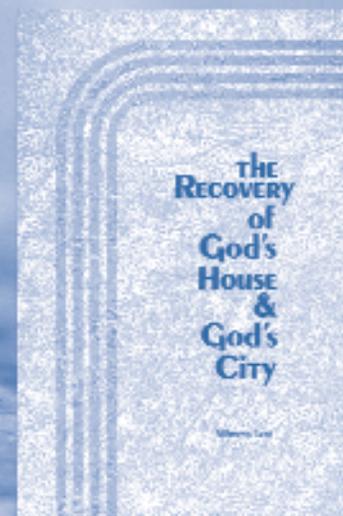
This new man expresses all the divine attributes of Christ in the uplifted and transformed human virtues. The church as the corporate new man, and thus new mankind on this earth, accomplishes God’s eternal purpose of expressing Him in this universe.

For further reading on this subject, please see footnotes to Ephesians 2:15 and 4:24 in the New Testament Recovery Version; *The One New Man*; and *One Body, One Spirit, and One New Man*, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The Recovery OF GOD'S HOUSE AND GOD'S CITY

Many teachers and Christians apply the things which happened in the beginning of the history of the people of Israel to their Christian experiences. But very few Christians know how to apply the last part of the history of the people of Israel. What does the captivity mean to us? How can we apply the captivity to our experiences? What does the recovery, the return from captivity, mean? And how can we apply their recovery to our experiences?

by 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.

THE RENEWAL OF THE MIND FOR THE EXISTENCE OF THE ONE NEW MAN

THE RENEWING OF THE MIND FOR THE ONE NEW MAN

We need to be renewed in our mind not just for our personal, ethical behavior, but for the one new man. Many Christians today still hold on to their natural, religious, and individual concepts because they will not let the Spirit spread into their mind. They do not let the Spirit take over their mind. We all need to open ourselves up to the Lord and pray, "Lord, I am here. I want my mind to be fully opened to You. Come in and fill me up. Permeate, saturate, and possess my entire inward being." I believe if we would pray to the Lord in such a way, the Spirit would have a way to permeate our mind. When the Spirit permeates our mind, the ordinances are over. When the Spirit has possessed and saturated our mind, we will not care for black, white, Chinese, Japanese, American, British, German, French, Italian, or Spanish. We will not care whether the meeting is noisy or quiet. We will only care for the one new man.

By the Lord's sovereignty, due to this modern scientific age and the political situation, the globe has been made small. Many different peoples have been brought together. This is the Lord's doing. Despite the Lord's bringing so many cultures and races together, there is still so much division in religion. In the United States, it is possible to see a Chinese Presbyterian Church and a Korean Presbyterian Church. It is also possible to see the Anglican Church in the United States. We must realize, however, that the church is the new man. Even though in this modern era so many races and peoples have been brought together, people still like to

keep themselves divided. To keep ourselves divided from other Christians because of religious ordinances is to be conformed to this age because this age is one of division. To cause division is to be conformed to this age. We need to interpret Romans 12:2 in the way of not being conformed to this age of division. We Christians are one. Whether we are American, British, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Chinese, or Japanese, the Lord has made us one. No natural person has any place in the one new man.

The only way the one new man can be realized practically is by our minds being renewed. The one new man cannot be realized by our being corrected or taught but by the Spirit of God permeating our mentality. When the element of God gets into our mentality, we will think as He thinks; we will see things the way He does; and we will consider the situation as He does. It is then that the one new man will come into existence. There will be no races, no social ranks, and no religious differences. Christ will truly be all and in all. I believe that this is the up-to-date vision of the Lord's move on this earth. The Lord is moving on to get the one new man.

THE LORD'S MOVE TO USHER IN THE PRACTICAL EXISTENCE OF THE NEW MAN

The Lord prophesied in Matthew 16:18 that He would build His church. Whatever the Lord has prophesied must be fulfilled. Without the practical existence of the new man, the building up of the church may be vain talk. The building of the

church depends upon the existence of the new man. If the new man comes into existence, no doubt, the builded church is here. Regardless of the present situation of division, the Lord is going to get the new man. Everything that the Lord is doing in this present age is to usher in the practical existence of the one new man. To drop our natural, religious concepts, our mind needs to be saturated, permeated, possessed, and taken over by our mingled spirit. Then our concepts will be fully revolutionized and we will no longer have any ordinances. The new man will then come into existence. This is the Lord's move on the earth today.

The One New Man, pp. 64-65, 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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