

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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VIDEOS
of Life-study
BY WITNESS LEE

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Witness Lee's messages and other
current ministry, please go to
www.lsmwebcast.com.*

Dear Life-study Listener,

Next month we start the life-studies of First and Second Peter and Jude. Peter's writings include several unique revelations in the Holy Scriptures. For example, 2 Peter 1:4 says, "Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust." No other writer in the New Testament gives such a clear word about our partaking of the divine nature. So order your copy of the life-study of the Epistles of Peter, and then you will be able to follow along with our broadcasts.

We talk much about the New Testament ministry on the radio and in our writings, but what is the ministry? In this issue we have taken an excerpt from *The Ministry of the New Testament and the Teaching and Fellowship of the Apostles* to help answer that question. Acts 26:16 says, "But rise up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you as a minister and a witness both of the things in which you have seen Me and of the things in which I will appear to you." The Recovery Version footnote says, "The ministry is related mainly to the work, to what a minister does; a testimony is related to the person, to what a witness is." May the Lord make us all a minister and a witness!

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE MINISTRY?

No other portion in the Bible shows us the matter of the ministry more clearly than 2 Corinthians 3 and 4. First, in these chapters Paul touches the matter of the ministry based upon God's covenants, the new covenant and the old covenant. Without God's covenant, there is no possibility to have any ministry. A ministry is to carry out what God has covenanted with His

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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. God who was not mentioned in the book of Esther is Christ who is caring for me and others through the Life-study of 1 Timothy and the recovery books on Branson radio KLFC FM. Hallelujah, Christ is life for His recovering patients!

Omaha, OR

I have been reading Watchman Nee books for a few years now and then heard about Witness Lee. When Living Stream's radio program would air Witness Lee's teachings, I would pass right by the radio dial, having no idea at all that it was him. Thanks to Living Stream, they have connected me to other believers in New Jersey. What a small world but a big God!

Newark, NJ

I would strongly recommend the two consecutive life-study messages on the Triune God that recently aired from the Life-study of 1 John to any believers who love the Lord. These two messages show no separation between the three of the Godhead, but they also show the distinction between the three. I doubt if such a clear word on the Trinity has gone over the airwaves since radio was invented. Although we are limited in our human capacity to understand, much less articulate the matter of the Godhead in a complete way, your balanced, scriptural presentation was very helpful. Grace be with you all.

Houston, TX

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF JUDE

THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE EPISTLES OF PETER AND JUDE

In his writings Peter embraces all the matters of God's eternal economy, the same matters that Paul covers in his Epistles. Paul, of course, was highly educated. He had been trained in the Scriptures of the Old Testament, and he also had been educated in Greek and Roman culture. Peter, however, did not have this learning. Nevertheless, he wrote his two Epistles in a marvelous way.

Peter even used certain terms and expressions that Paul did not use. For example, Peter speaks about being partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). This profound expression cannot be found in the writings of Paul. Not only does Peter use deep and profound expressions, but in his Epistles he also covers a number of significant details. In quantity Peter wrote much less than Paul wrote, but in certain points he may be richer than Paul. Therefore, we need to spend adequate time to study the two Epistles of Peter to see the crucial points and the details.

THE TRIUNE GOD AS OUR PORTION

The first basic matter covered by Peter in his writings is the Triune God. Peter indicates that the God in whom we believe is the Triune God. In the opening words of Peter's first Epistle we can see the Triune God: "According to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ" (v. 2). Here we have the foreknowledge of God the Father, the sanctification of the Spirit, and the obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ. God the Father has regenerated us (1 Pet. 1:3), Christ has accomplished redemption with His precious blood, and the Spirit applies God's full salvation to His chosen people. Here we see the Triune God in the accomplishment of full salvation....

At the end of his first Epistle Peter says, "But the God of all grace, who called you into His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will Himself perfect, establish, strengthen, and ground you" (5:10). Here Peter indicates that we shall be grounded in God Himself. Then at the end of his second Epistle Peter says, "But grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (3:18). Here the knowledge of our Lord is equal to the truth, the reality of all that He is. Therefore, in this verse Peter charges us to grow in grace and in truth, reality. Although Peter covers many matters in his Epistles, the basic structure of his writings is the Triune God becoming our grace that we may enjoy Him, grow in life, and through the growth in life be perfected, established, strengthened, and grounded in the Triune God.

Life-study of Jude, pp. 25-28, by Witness Lee

THE MINISTRY (continued from page 1)

people. Without God's covenant, we do not have any work to do. Without God's covenant, whatever we may do cannot be considered a ministry. The ministry is just the service that we render to God to carry out God's covenant. Whatever we may do to carry out our own preference or desires is not a

*There is one new
covenant ministry
of many new
covenant ministers.*

ministry of God but is merely a human work....

The unique ministry of the New Testament comprises all the works (ministries) of all the apostles, the ministers of the new covenant. In 2 Corinthians 3 the plural *ministers* is used clearly in verse 6, and the singular *ministry* is used in verses 8 and 9. Then, in the first verse of chapter four Paul said, "Therefore having this ministry as we have been shown mercy, we do not lose heart." Here Paul used the plural pronoun *we*. He did not say that he (singular) had this ministry; rather, he said that we (plural) have this ministry (singular). *We* here includes not only Paul but all the New Testament ministers. All this indicates that there is one new covenant ministry of many new covenant ministers.

The first of the new covenant ministers were the twelve apostles. In Acts 1:17 and 25 Peter used the term *this ministry*. That ministry was the ministry of the twelve apostles, who were the first twelve New Testament ministers. The ministry is the service, the work, and the ministers are the persons who serve. The persons who serve

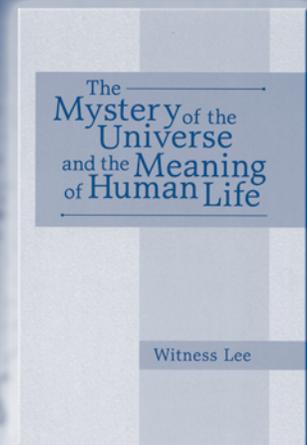
are many. After the twelve apostles, many ministers, including Paul, Barnabas, and many others, entered into the ministry. Although the ministers were many, all these many ministers had only one ministry.

In 2 Corinthians 4:1 Paul used the pronoun *we*, referring to many ministers. Then in 2 Timothy 4:5 Paul charged Timothy to fully accomplish his ministry. In this verse Paul spoke of Timothy's ministry, referring to an individual's ministry. This was Timothy's personal ministry, but this personal ministry was a part of the corporate ministry, "this ministry," the unique ministry of the New Testament. The ministry in 2 Corinthians 4:1 is the corporate ministry of all the New Testament ministers. In this corporate ministry Paul had his portion, Peter had his portion, and Timothy had his portion. All the ministers have their own portion of the ministry. When we add all the portions together, we have "this ministry," which is the New Testament ministry.

The work of the New Testament ministry is to accomplish God's New Testament economy concerning the church (Eph. 3:9-10) in the building up of the Body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12 says that all the saints need to be perfected "unto the work of the ministry." This means that hundreds and even thousands of saints can be perfected unto the work of the ministry. In this verse the term *the ministry* is used. No doubt this refers to the unique ministry of the New Testament to carry out God's eternal purpose, which is contained in the new covenant.

The Ministry of the New Testament and the Teaching and Fellowship of the Apostles, pp. 8-11, by Witness Lee

THE MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE MEANING OF HUMAN LIFE



by Witness Lee
ISBN0-7363-2416-X

*But there is a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty
gives them understanding
(Job 32:8)*

"WHEN WE LOOK AT HEAVEN, EARTH, AND OURSELVES, WE CANNOT EXPLAIN THEM. After all, what is heaven, what is earth, and what are human beings? Many astronomers and geologists, and some anthropologists as well, have spent much time on these questions yet have not been able to find the answers. We have to come back to the Bible to look at these questions" (p. 10).

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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 WAY THE LORD WORKS WITHIN US

We need to be impressed that the Savior we have received into us as our life has both the divine nature and the human nature; He is not only divine but also human. Today He works within us not in a miraculous way but in a very human way. Many times it is difficult for us to believe that it is His working. One morning when you rise up, read the Scriptures, and pray, you may have just a little feeling or sense within to give up certain things. You may doubt whether this is something of the Lord. Do not doubt but believe, for this is the way the Lord works within us today, not in a miraculous way but in a very human way.

In China there was a young girl with a strong will and a peculiar character. She was from a rich family and wanted a share in the family's inheritance, but in China the inheritance passes only to sons, not to daughters. Therefore, she purposely went to school to study law in order to file a lawsuit against her brothers over the inheritance. During one winter vacation her mother, who was a genuine believer and had been recently revived by the Lord, brought her to a church meeting. Although there were several hundred people there, I noticed her immediately because of her peculiar hairstyle. Two or three weeks later she came to the meeting, and I noticed something had changed. Her hairstyle had changed somewhat. After two or three more days she came again, and something more had changed. From then on, each time she came to the meeting, something had changed.

Eventually, after several more weeks she came dressed in a very simple way. Many things related to her appearance had changed. When we asked her mother about this, she told

*He is all-inclusive
and unlimited,
yet He works in a way
that is small, quiet,
normal, ordinary,
and human.*

us that she had not dared to touch this matter with her daughter. Later, we discovered that the daughter had believed in the Lord, and subsequently nearly every day there had been a sense within her to give up certain things. Many times she had thought that this might be herself and not the Lord, but the more she doubted, the more constant the sense was. It was present with her not in a peculiar or miraculous way but in a very ordinary and normal way.

As a newborn Christian, this sister grew rapidly. In time she testified that the secret of experiencing Christ as life and of taking Him as our life is to take care of the little inner feeling and sense. That feeling, though it may be small, comes from the wonderful One. He is all-inclusive and unlimited, yet He works in a way that is small, quiet, normal, ordinary, and human. If we go along with Him, He

will be real, rich, and available to us. We will enjoy many items of what He is and will gradually grow. Day by day, little by little, we will be saturated and permeated by Him. Although our spiritual progress may seem very slow, it will be very steady. This is the way to experience Christ.

We should not expect the Lord to give us marvelous, miraculous, supernatural, or extraordinary experiences. Even though some may occasionally have such experiences, the ordinary way to experience Christ is in a normal, quiet, and human way.

The Relationship of God with Man in God's New Creation, pp. 91-92, 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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