

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 26, JUNE 2000

"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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Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

DALLAS, TX

KSKY 660 AM

5:30 P.M. SUNDAY

RALEIGH, NC

WDTF 570 AM

12:30 P.M. MON-FRI

Dear Life-study Listener,

Towards the end of this month we will finish *Life-study of Revelation* and begin *Life-study of Daniel*. If you have been listening to the radio programs, you know *Life-study of Revelation* has been an in-depth and enlightening study. Many of our listeners have ordered and received the large color chart entitled "The Chart of the Seventy Weeks and the Coming of Christ, with the Rapture of the Saints." You can still call us to order the chart, which will also be helpful as we go through the book of Daniel. This same chart is included in the back pages of the New Testament Recovery Version.

Many listeners who enjoy Witness Lee's ministry may not know that he wrote almost 250 hymns in *Hymns*, published by Living Stream Ministry. We are happy to include one of those hymns in this month's newsletter on page two. This particular hymn corresponds with the revelation of the New Jerusalem as the completion of the book of Revelation and of the entire Bible. We hope you enjoy its depth.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE ULTIMATE DESTINY OF THE BELIEVERS?

Christians have been told that they will go to heaven to live in a mansion and walk on streets of gold. But the pure revelation in the Bible tells us that our ultimate destiny is much higher, richer, and more profound. It is the New Jerusalem. We must see three crucial aspects of the New Jerusalem as our eternal destiny.

Firstly, the New Jerusalem is the bride of Christ (Rev. 21:2), His counterpart, for Christ's full satisfaction. As His bride, she is wholly one with Christ, constituted with Christ to be holy, without blemish, and glorious (Eph. 5:27). She speaks in absolute oneness with Him (Rev. 22:17). In the bride, God's plan to be one with man and Christ's desire is finally fulfilled. To be the New Jerusalem as the bride of Christ is our ultimate destiny.

The second aspect of the New Jerusalem is that it is the consummation of God's economy, God's plan. In the first two chapters of the Bible, God's plan to be one with man can be seen by His placing man in front of the tree of life (Gen. 2:9), a picture of God Himself as life to be received by man. In the garden we also see a river flowing with precious materials in it (Gen. 2:10-12). Both the tree of life and the river can again be seen at the very end of the

(continued on page 2)

ULTIMATE DESTINY

(continued from page 1)

Bible in the New Jerusalem (Rev. 22:1, 2, 14, 19). The New Jerusalem, then, is the consummation of God's economy to reach man and be received by man as the divine life and life supply, signified by the flowing river of life with the tree of life.

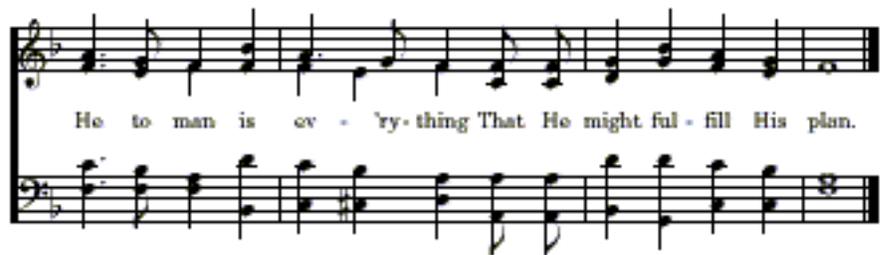
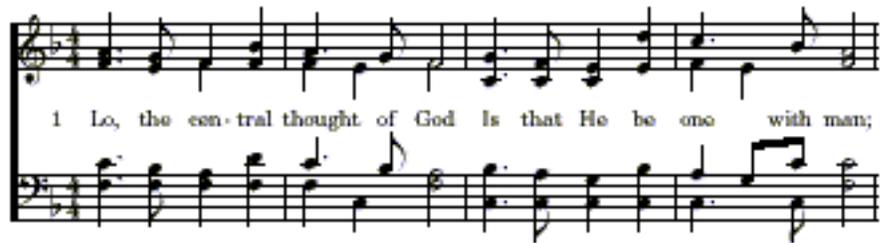
The third aspect of the New Jerusalem is that it is the ultimate consummation of God's building work throughout the ages. God's desire is to dwell with us (John 14:23), to abide in us and have us abide in Him (John 14:20; 15:4), to have His dwelling place in our spirit (Eph. 2:22), and to even make His home in our heart (Eph. 3:17), building Himself into us, and making us a spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). Eventually, all of God's building work is consummated in Revelation 21 in a builded city, the holy city, New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2). Our ultimate destiny is to be this mutual dwelling place of God and man, God builded into us and we into Him.

Our God has a much higher destiny for His believers than a material city. Since the New Jerusalem as Christ's bride, the consummation of God's plan and of God's building, is our ultimate destiny, then surely we should take it as the goal of all our life and work today. Today may we cooperate with Him to be conformed to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29) to be His counterpart, His bride. May we be those who continually receive of the divine life and life supply to be transformed into precious stones to be builded together into our ultimate destiny, the New Jerusalem.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Central Thought of God; God's New Testament Economy*, both by Witness Lee; and *Affirmation and Critique* Volume 5, no. 2 (April 2000), published by Living Stream Ministry.

Below is a hymn written by Witness Lee concerning the Scripture's revelation of the New Jerusalem as the ultimate manifestation of God's central thought.

F. F. F. F.



2 Earthen vessel man was made --
Body, soul, and spirit too,
God as life that he may take
And with Him have oneness true.

6 In its center, as its pow'r,
Is the throne of Christ and God,
Whence doth flow the stream of life
As the Spirit's living flood.

3 By the flow of life divine,
Man becomes a precious stone
Fit for building God's abode,
That His glory might be known.

7 Christ, the tree of life, is there
In the flowing of the stream,
Yielding fruit of life divine
As the food of life supreme.

4 'Tis the city God hath built,
'Tis the dwelling God requires,
'Tis the new Jerusalem
Which fulfills His heart's desires.

8 God in Christ, the glorious light,
Thru the city brightly shines,
Scattering all the deathly night
With its light of life divine.

5 'Tis the building of the saints,
'Tis the blend of God and man,
Purposed by the Father's will
Long before the world began.

9 God in man and man in God
Mutual dwelling thus possess;
God the content is to man,
And the man doth God express.

(Hymns #972)

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.

Greetings to you in the wonderful name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am a regular listener of your broadcast here in Nigeria now. I am also a regular receiver and reader of your monthly newsletter called *The Hearing of Faith*. Both your broadcast and your newsletter are enriching my pastoral life. I am praying for you daily.

M.O., Oji-River, Enugu State, Nigeria

I cannot emphasize how much this radio program and the life-study books by Witness Lee are building me in the Lord. I listen to the broadcast on

This radio program and the life-study books by Witness Lee are building me in the Lord.

Saturday morning on WCHP. I have found all the life-studies to be deep and rich. There is so much in Hebrews that is being revealed through the teachings. I am thankful to God for this ministry.

J.F., Montreal, Quebec, Canada

I am a listener of the life-study program, and I just wanted to tell you it has ministered to me, especially the Matthew study. I appreciated so much the points that were brought out. I work for a public school system and to get recharged for the afternoon's challenge, I come out to my car at lunch. I have my lunch and that's when the life-study airs. I need it. I wanted to let you know how much that program is a blessing to me.

A listener in Portland, OR

Thank you very much for sending me a beautifully informative and inspirational New Testament Recovery Version. I am a serious student of God's Word. I listen to your excellent radio program regularly on WROS AM, Jacksonville, Florida. I listen to very few other Christian radio programs even though there are many available. Most of them do not minister to my spirit, but yours truly does.

A brother in Christ, Raiford, FL

Thank you very much for all the material sent already since I wrote to you

about two months ago. Since then I began to meet with the church in Montreal four times a week. I am nourished from the real life of Jesus Christ. I bought a French Bible and a New Testament Recovery Version. I am crazy about the footnotes. According to my character, that's what I need. I just started to read *L'expérience de la vie* [French translation of *The Experience of Life*] by Witness Lee. I am satisfied because when I can read in French, it is easier. Amen Alleluia.

G.B., Chomedey Laval, Quebec, Canada

Thank you so much for your monthly newsletters. They make my Bible study come alive like never before.

K.-H.L., North Andover, MA

eManna

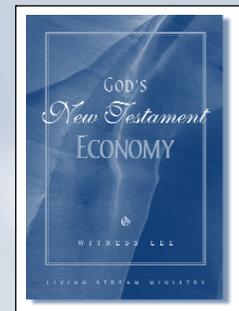
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Sample portion: What is grace? Grace is neither God requiring something nor God receiving man's work, but grace is God doing His own work. When God comes forth to do something for and on behalf of man, that is grace...

www.livingstream.com/emanna

GOD'S NEW TESTAMENT ECONOMY



ISBN 0-87083-199-2
\$15.75

WITNESS LEE

Drawing upon nearly 60 years of studying the Holy Scriptures, Witness Lee provides a comprehensive view of God's purpose and plan in God's New Testament economy. God's New Testament Economy is a thorough study of the New Testament. It does not provide superficial inspiration nor is it a dry, systematic analysis. However, it presents a revelation of the Triune God's plan that will both inform and encourage the reader to pursue a full experience of our wonderful Triune God.

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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.

ENJOYING CHRIST BY CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

EXPRESSING GOD AND CONQUERING HIS ENEMY IN OUR DAILY LIFE

... If we do everything in our daily life by enjoying the Lord, whatever we do will be the expression of God and the subduing of His enemy. Suppose another brother rebuked you, and yet you were so patient with him, without losing your temper, by

divine as well as human. He is compounded. He also went to the cross and was crucified. He walked into death, through death, and out of death. He was not captured by death. He conquered death, subdued death, and walked out of death. Then He was resurrected, and He ascended to the heavens, where He was enthroned.

He has accomplished all these things and has attained the highest place in the universe.... He

has the divine nature and the human nature, and He has such a complete accomplishment and high attainment. He is the compounded Christ. He is the all-inclusive Christ, yet today He is within us as the Holy Spirit.

Do not consider that the Holy Spirit is someone other than Christ. Christ is the Spirit. First Corinthians 15:45b says that the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. The last Adam is Christ, and the life-giving Spirit, no doubt, is the Holy Spirit. So Christ became the Spirit. Also, 2 Corinthians 3:17 says that the Lord is the Spirit. This is our quotation from the Bible, not our interpretation. The Lord Christ is the very Holy Spirit who dwells within us.

Furthermore, the Bible is the breath of God, and the breath of God is the Spirit. The Lord Jesus told us that the words He speaks to us are spirit and life (John 6:63). The holy Word says that all Scripture is God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16). Every word of this holy book is the breath of God, the Spirit. So we have Christ within us as the Spirit, and we have the Bible in our hand as the Spirit. The way to enjoy Christ as the Spirit is to call upon Him and to pray-read His word.

When you live a life of calling on the Lord, all the barriers will be broken down. Then there will be a thorough passage for Christ to get in and to get out of you. If you open the window, the air without gets in and the air within gets out. When you call, "O Lord Jesus," the window of your being is opened, and the air gets in and gets out. This is the way to enjoy Christ. The way to touch the Word is to pray-read. You need the calling, the praying, and the reading. You have to mingle your reading with praying and calling on the name of the Lord.

The Fulfillment of God's Purpose by the Growth of Christ in Us, pp. 32-33, by Witness Lee

So we have Christ within us as the Spirit, and we have the Bible in our hand as the Spirit.

the enjoyment of Christ. Others would be able to realize the expression of Christ and the conquering of the enemy with you. But this should not be your doing. This must be Christ's doing through your enjoyment of Him. Do not try to do anything by yourself. Never try to express God by yourself. Never try to conquer, to subdue, the enemy by yourself. If you try to conquer him, be sure that you will be conquered. We can never face our enemy, because we are not adequate. But praise Him, we have Christ as our life. Christ must get into us as our life so that He can live Himself through us.

HOW CHRIST GETS INTO US

Now we have to ask again, "How can Christ get into us?" We have the Holy Spirit within us and the Holy Bible in our hand. The Holy Spirit within us is actually the wonderful Christ, the all-inclusive Christ, the compounded Christ. When I say the compounded Christ, I mean that now this Christ is no more simply God. He is God but also man. He was God incarnated to be a man, and now He still has the human nature. He is

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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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