

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 56, DECEMBER 2002

"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,

Thank you for your response to our recent book offer. We are happy so many of you let us know you are reading our newsletter each month and listening to *Life-study of the Bible* each day. Your accompanying comments of appreciation are especially encouraging to us.

Recently we concluded *Life-study of Second Corinthians*, and the final verse of Paul's Epistle gives us the opportunity this month to address the question, "What is the dispensing of the Triune God?" We use our regular "What Is" column in the *Hearing of Faith* to address terminology that may be new to our listeners or readers. This month we chose part of a long footnote on Second Corinthians 13:14 from the New Testament Recovery Version to give you Witness Lee's comments on the dispensing of the Triune God. We hope you find this helpful, and if you would like to seek out more on this subject, as usual, we have listed further reading suggestions at the end of the article for your study.

The believer's experience of Christ depends upon the Triune God's dispensing, so this matter of dispensing is great. Witness Lee wrote many hymns, and the Triune God's dispensing was often the theme. The hymn we selected on page two is an example, and we hope it will help bring you into further enjoyment of our wonderful Triune God who has been dispensed into us, the tripartite man!

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE DISPENSING OF THE TRIUNE GOD?

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

This verse is strong proof that the trinity of the Godhead is not for the doctrinal understanding of systematic theology but for the dispensing of God Himself in His trinity into His chosen and redeemed people. In the Bible the Trinity is never

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SOUTHINGTON, CT

WNTY

3:00 P.M.

990 AM

SUNDAY

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 want to let you know how much I appreciate this ministry, especially on Christ our glorious Lord. I have known the Lord and studied His Word for a little over twenty-four years. But having just recently come across the Life-study of the Bible program and then having read Witness Lee's book The Tree of Life, I realize I had been eating from the wrong tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, instead of the tree of life. This truth has revived me with my walk with the Lord, for now I realize my focus is not on imitation, that is, being like the Lord Jesus, but transformation—allowing Christ to live His life out through me.

Duncanville, TX

I have been hungering for the depth of the teaching that I hear from Witness Lee and Watchman Nee. They really have what I had been searching for. The Lord has been telling me to put down everything and study from this teaching. I have ordered a number of Witness Lee's little books. With each one I have read, I know it was the Lord who led me to read it because I got so much insight into some things the Holy Spirit was revealing to me. The same thing that God had shown him, I'm finding out the Lord is showing me—the heart of God.

Hobbs, NM

Today's program was wonderful. It was so clear and so rich. I am losing my sight, and I am so blessed by the broadcast. I am experiencing what I had been missing. I find myself strengthened in ways I never knew before.

Clearwater, FL

The following is a hymn written by Witness Lee in worship of the Triune God as the source of life.

First tune. 8 6 8 6

I O God, Thou art the source of life, Di-vine, and rich, and free!
As liv-ing wa-ter flow-ing out Un-to e-ter-ni-ty!

Second tune.

I O God, Thou art the source of life, Di-vine, and rich, and free!
As liv-ing wa-ter flow-ing out Un-to e-ter-ni-ty!

- | | |
|---|--|
| 2 In love Thou in the Son didst flow Among the human race; Thou dost as Spirit also flow Within us thru Thy grace. | 5 Thou as the Spirit in the Son Hast mingled heretofore; Thou wilt thru fellowship anoint And increase more and more. |
| 3 Though we in sin and wickedness Went far from Thee apace, Yet in the Son Thou didst redeem, Bestowing life and grace. | 6 The love of God, the grace of Christ, The Spirit's flowing free, Enable us God's wealth to share Thru all eternity. |
| 4 Though we have often slighted Thee, Thy Spirit often grieved, Yet Thou dost still as Spirit come As life to be received. | 7 The Father, Son, and Spirit — one, So richly care for us; Thy love with one accord we sing And e'er would praise Thee thus. |

(Hymns, #12)

THE DISPENSING OF THE TRIUNE GOD

(continued from page 1)

revealed merely as a doctrine. It is always revealed or mentioned in regard to the relationship of God with His creatures, especially with man, who was created by Him, and more particularly with His chosen and redeemed people. The first divine title used in the divine revelation, *Elohim* in Hebrew, a title used in relation to God's creation, is plural in number (Gen. 1:1), implying that God, as the Creator of the heavens and the earth for man, is triune. Concerning His creation of man in His own image, after His own likeness, He used the plural pronouns *Us* and *Our*, referring to His trinity (Gen. 1:26) and implying that He would be one with man and express Himself through man in His trinity. Later, in Genesis 3:22 and 11:7 and Isaiah 6:8, He referred to Himself again and again as *Us* in regard to His relationship with man and with His chosen people.

The trinity of the Godhead is not for the doctrinal understanding of systematic theology but for the dispensing of God Himself in His trinity into His chosen and redeemed people.

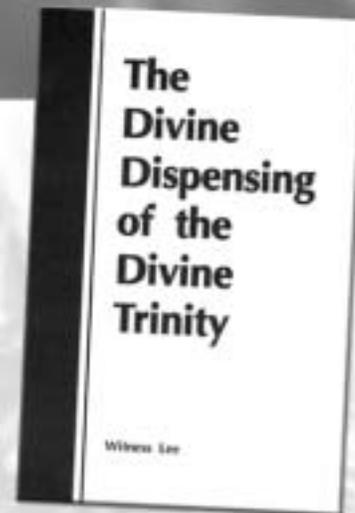
In order to redeem fallen man that He might again have the position to be one with man, He became incarnated (John 1:1, 14) in the Son and through the Spirit (Luke 1:31-35) to be a man, and lived a human life on the earth, also in the Son (Luke 2:49) and by the Spirit (Luke 4:1; Matt. 12:28). At the beginning of His ministry on the earth, the Father anointed the Son with the Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 4:18) in order that He might reach men and bring them back to Him. Just before He was crucified in

the flesh and resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45), He unveiled His mysterious trinity to His disciples in plain words (John 14-17), stating that the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son (John 14:9-11), that the Spirit is the transfiguration of the Son (John 14:16-20), that the three, coexisting and coinhering simultaneously, are abiding with the believers for their enjoyment (John 14:23; 17:21-23), and that all that the Father has is the Son's and all that the Son possesses is received by the Spirit to be declared to the believers (John 16:13-15). Such a Trinity is altogether related to the dispensing of the processed God into His believers (John 14:17, 20; 15:4-5) that they may be one in and with the Triune God (John 17:21-23).

After His resurrection He charged His disciples to disciple the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19); that is, He charged the disciples to bring the believing ones into the Triune God, into an organic union with the processed God, who had passed through incarnation, human living, and crucifixion and had entered into resurrection. Based on such an organic union, the apostle, at the conclusion of this divine Epistle to the Corinthians, blessed them with the blessed Divine Trinity in the participation in the Son's grace with the Father's love through the Spirit's fellowship. In this Divine Trinity, God the Father operates all things in all the members in the church, which is the Body of Christ, through the ministries of the Lord, God the Son, by the gifts of God the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

The above is an excerpt from footnote 1 of 2 Corinthians 13:14 in the New Testament Recovery Version. For further reading on this subject, please see the complete footnote in the Recovery Version; *The Economy and Dispensing of God*; and *The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity*, published by Living Stream Ministry

The DIVINE DISPENSING of the DIVINE TRINITY



IF WE LOOK INTO THE ENTIRE BIBLE from Genesis to Revelation, we could see God's works and also the goal of God's works. We can realize that God has been going on toward a goal. Some may say that this goal is simply God's full salvation. But what then is the goal of God's salvation? Not many Christians have seen the definite goal of God's salvation.

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.

BEING IN THE LIGHT AND BEING CLEANSSED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS

First John 1:5 and 6 say, "And this is the message which we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and are not practicing the truth." After fellowship we have light. If we are in the fellowship, we must be in the light,

*As long as we
are in the light
we sense the
need of the
cleansing
of the blood.*

because the fellowship brings us into the presence of God who is light. That is why if we are still in darkness but say we are in the fellowship, we are lying.

Verse 7 continues, "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin." Light is God Himself with whom we fellowship. When we are in the light, we need one thing: the blood. The word *cleanses* here is in the present tense. Regardless of how much we have grown, as long as we are in this old

nature and as long as we are on this earth, there is always some defiling touch. When we are in the fellowship and the fellowship brings us into the presence of God, who is light, we are in the light. Then at this time we realize that we need the cleansing. Because we are under the light and in the light, the light exposes us and we see that we are dirty. Therefore, right away we sense the need of the blood; we need the cleansing of the blood. Consider your own experiences. If we do not neglect the inner fellowship, in the light of God we will always realize and sense that we are dirty, sinful, wrong with something, and wrong with someone. For this reason, as long as we are in the light we sense the need of the cleansing of the blood.

Here we have four items: life, fellowship, light, and blood. We receive the life, and the life brings us into the fellowship, the current, the flowing of life. This fellowship brings us into the light, and in the light we sense the need of the blood. Many times when I hear brothers and sisters praying, they do not definitely and strongly mention that they need the cleansing of the blood. I doubt a little that they are truly in the fellowship. To be in the fellowship means that they are in the light. Why then do they not realize their need of the cleansing of the blood? If we are truly in the light, we will have the real sense, the real realization, that we need the cleansing of the blood, because we are still in this old nature and we are still on this earth. Regardless of how careful we are, we are still dirty. Can we be so careful

for a whole week that we do not need to wash our face and hands? Regardless of how careful we are, we still have to wash. I am not careless, but I still need to wash my hands five, six, or seven times a day. If I do not wash, I have a certain kind of feeling. I may not see that I am dirty, but I still need to wash. Then after washing, I feel refreshed and cleansed. Even while we sleep at night, some dirt comes upon our face. There is no need to touch the dirt; the dirt comes to visit us. This is a dirty universe and earth, so we need the cleansing.

Practical Lessons on the Experience of Life, pp. 51-53, 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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