

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 77, SEPTEMBER 2004

*"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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VIDEOS  
*of Life-study*  
BY WITNESS LEE

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*For information concerning  
Witness Lee's messages and other  
current ministry, please go to  
[www.lsmwebcast.com](http://www.lsmwebcast.com).*

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

We trust you have been enjoying the *Life-study of Job* and Job's experience of the mysterious transaction in his relationship with the mysterious God. To help make the mystery in Job more understandable according to the divine revelation in the New Testament we have selected some highlight programs from Paul's fourteen epistles and have used them to supplement the *Life-study of Job*. We have already produced radio programs for all of Paul's fourteen epistles and you can hear them in their entirety at [www.lsmradio.org](http://www.lsmradio.org). We plan to be completely done with all the books in the Bible at the end of next year.

In the near future we hope this will become more than a "radio" newsletter written to "listeners" because we are earnestly pursuing the production of a television program. Over the last eight years the Living Stream Ministry Broadcast Section created radio programs, but now we are working on television production. We are encouraged at the prospect of reaching millions of homes with this ministry and ask you to pray for the final production and distribution of a television program for *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. Many local television stations are looking for good content to add to their schedule. Perhaps Life-study on television would be a good fit in your community and you could become a "viewer" in addition to being a "listener."

*Living Stream Ministry*

## WHAT IS GOD'S PURPOSE?

Several crucial verses in the New Testament speak of God's purpose, especially God's eternal purpose. In Ephesians 3:11 we have this phrase eternal purpose. In Romans 8:28 Paul says that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God and are called according to

*(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](mailto:radio@lsm.org). Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*I have been listening to 'Life study programs' over the Internet for sometime (soon finished with Genesis). I am so thankful to you all for producing these programs. It is a real blessing to me. I was saved only 1½ years ago and by the Lord's mercy met a brother in Norway [half a year ago]. The life study is so full of life, and I really think that the programs contribute to the transformation of my soul which is so important for me now.*

*Hallelujah for the life-study of Witness Lee, and once again thanks very much to all of you in the LSM for producing and commenting on these unique programs which dispenses real life to the listeners. God bless you all.*

Kristiansand, Norway

*I have been following Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee for over 4 years already. It has been a great blessing to me all these years. I can testify that the life-studies have been a source of life, light, and enjoyment to me. May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, brothers, strengthen you into your inner man that you may continue bringing such a blessing to us.*

Fresno, CA

*I have been thoroughly interested in your studies and I would love the printed version of the programs. THANK YOU!!*

*I sent for the New Testament and when I received it in the mail I could not put it down and had to order the whole Bible. I have been enjoying it for about 2 weeks now and take it everywhere with me. My husband really enjoys it also. I really feel like I have studied when I do put it down because of all those wonderful detailed footnotes...I was reading it out by the lake one day and several people were interested. I pray that very soon people will be able to go and get one off the shelf. Well, God bless all of you, In Jesus Name.*

Sequim, WA

## Highlights

### FROM LIFE-STUDY OF EPHESIANS

*The mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in spirit.*

*Eph. 3:4b-5*

Ephesians 3:3 says, "That by revelation the mystery was made known to me, as I have written previously in brief." God's hidden purpose is the mystery, and the unveiling of this mystery is the revelation. To carry out this revelation is the apostle's ministry for the producing of the church. A revelation is an unveiling, the taking away of a veil. In the New Testament we have the revelation, the unveiling, of God's economy. In other ages and generations this economy was a hidden mystery. It was not made known to Adam, to Abraham, to Moses, to David, or to Isaiah and the other prophets. If they had been asked what God's economy is, they would have been unable to answer, for during their time the mystery was still veiled. God's economy, the dispensing of Himself into man to produce a Body for His Son, had not been revealed to them.

## *God's economy is to dispense Himself into His chosen people.*

The Son of God is the embodiment of God. God's economy is to dispense Himself into a great number of human beings in order to produce a Body for this embodiment of Himself. This means that the Son of God as the embodiment of God requires a Body, an increase, an expansion. This expansion can be produced only by God's dispensing of Himself into His chosen people. This is the greatest mystery in the universe. Although many political leaders and dignitaries know nothing about this great mystery, by God's mercy we know what it is. Even the young sisters among us know what presidents and philosophers do not know. We know that God's economy is to dispense Himself into His chosen people in order to produce the Body as the expansion of the Son of God for the full expression of God in the universe. Nothing is greater or more important than this...

[Ephesians 3:5] says that the mystery has been revealed to the apostles and prophets in spirit. The word "spirit" here refers to the human spirit of the apostles and prophets, a spirit regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit of God. It can be considered the mingled spirit, the human spirit mingled with God's Spirit. Such a mingled spirit is the means by which the New Testament revelation concerning Christ and the church is unveiled to the apostles and prophets. We need the same spirit to see such a revelation.

From *Life-study of Ephesians*, pp. 249-255

## GOD'S PURPOSE *(continued from page 1)*

His purpose. In 2 Timothy 1:9 Paul says that God has saved us according to His own purpose. If we ponder these verses, and if we have a heart to seek the Lord and the significance of our salvation, we surely will want to understand what God's purpose is.

God's eternal purpose by definition is something eternal. It was conceived by God in Christ in eternity past with the intent to work out something that will remain in eternity future. So God's purpose is the eternal plan of God made

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in eternity past with a particular intent. It was made in eternity past, it will be carried out in time, and the results will stand forever in eternity future.

God's eternal purpose is closely related to God's will. God's will, simply stated, is what God wants, intends, and desires. God's purpose is God's plan according to His will. God wants something. To attain what He wants, He has a plan that is according to what He wants, according to His will. This plan of God that is according to the will of God is what the Bible calls the eternal purpose of God.

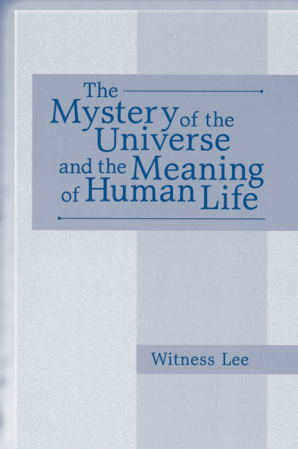
God as a God of purpose is surely determined to fulfill His purpose. God is absolute. When He wills to do something, when He resolves to do something, He will surely do it. God's purpose is God's purposeful determination in His plan.

We see then that God has a good pleasure, which is the desire of His heart. This good pleasure or heart's desire of God is expressed as God's will, God's wish. To fulfill this heart's desire, He needs to have a plan with a purposeful determination. This plan with its purposeful determination is God's eternal purpose. Our God is a God of purpose and His purpose has its source in the desire of His heart. Because God has a heart's desire, He wants something that will fulfill this desire. What He wants is His will. Since God is a God of purpose, He does not act in a random, arbitrary way. On the contrary, God acts according to plan. He has made a detailed, determined plan in eternity past that will stand in its result for eternity future. That plan is His purpose.

God's will is linked to God's economy. God's economy is God's arrangement and administration to fulfill His plan so that He may attain what would satisfy the desire of His heart. God's economy can be traced back to the desire of God's heart. We begin from within the desire of God's heart, then we see God's will as what He wants, and then His plan, which is His purpose. For His purpose to be carried out, God must have an administrative arrangement. That arrangement is God's economy.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Divine Economy*, *The Divine Dispensing for the Divine Economy*, and *The Central Line of the Divine Revelation*, published by Living Stream Ministry. *The Economy and Dispensing of God*, pp. 8, 20

## *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.*

## GOD WORKING CHRIST INTO US THROUGH THE CROSS AND BY THE SPIRIT

### *Applying the Cross in Our Daily Life*

The book of Galatians reveals that God's desire that Christ would be worked into our being is accomplished by two means—the cross and the Spirit. Several times in Galatians the apostle Paul tells us that we have been crucified with Christ (2:20; 6:14). Since we have been crucified, we are dead to the world, the flesh, and everything other than Christ. Since we are dead, we must learn to apply the cross in our daily life. Christ is living within us. Thus, whenever we are going to do something, we must remember that we have been crucified with Christ and ask ourselves, "Am I doing this, or is Christ doing this?" This is to check ourselves with the cross. Applying the cross in our daily life gives the Lord the ground to work Christ into our being.

### *Walking by the Spirit by Following the Inner Sense*

On the one hand, we need to apply the cross in our daily life. On the other hand, we need to realize that today Christ is the Spirit who is within us (1 Cor. 15:45b; 2 Cor. 3:17; cf. Rom. 8:10-11). This Spirit is always acting, moving, working, and living within us, and as a result, we always have some kind of registration, consciousness, or sense within. By this sense we can know the work of the Spirit within. As regenerated believers, we have a consciousness deep within in our innermost part. Wherever we go and whatever we do, we always have this consciousness within us. If we are about to do something that is not of God, we are

conscious that we do not have peace within, and if we are about to do something that is of God, we have a sense of peace within. This peace is a kind of registration or consciousness

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that we can sense and feel. If we desire to walk according to the Spirit, we must follow this consciousness within us. God has given us His Spirit (Acts 2:38; Rom. 5:5; 2 Cor. 5:5; 1 John 4:13), and this very Spirit is living within us as the Spirit of God's Son and the Spirit of life (Gal. 4:6; Rom. 8:2). Thus, we must walk according to Him and live by Him (Gal. 5:16, 25). The secret to this is simply to act according to our inner feeling, our inner consciousness. To walk according to the Spirit simply means to go along with this inner consciousness.

Many times after I have been speaking with a brother or sister for a while, I have the sense deep within that I should not speak anymore. No one tells me this outwardly, and there is no verse in Scriptures that says that I should speak only for a certain amount of time or only about certain topics. Nevertheless, I often have this sense deep within that I should not continue speaking with this brother

or sister. This is an example of the working of the Spirit....

If we go back to the New Testament, we will realize that the apostle Paul stressed the matter of life because he realized that without the divine life there is no Christian life. Everything related to a Christian depends upon the foundation of life. Without this we have nothing. We need to know the inner life, live by Christ, walk in the Spirit, and follow the inner consciousness moment by moment in every situation (Acts 16:6-7; 2 Cor. 2:12-13). If we do this, Christ will be able to occupy our whole being and be formed in us.

*From God's Intention Concerning Christ and the Church, pp. 31-34*

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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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