

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 48, APRIL 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

T H I S

I S S U E

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTHRIGHT?
- 2 FOOTNOTES FROM MATTHEW AND FIRST CORINTHIANS
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—LIVING IN THE LORD'S LIFE BY LOVING THE LORD

Grace
BE WITH ALL
THOSE WHO
LOVE OUR
LORD JESUS CHRIST
IN
INCORRUPTIBILITY.

EPHESIANS 6:24

Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently, Living Stream Ministry attended the National Religious Broadcasters Convention in Nashville. We were encouraged to meet so many of the Lord's people as they visited our booth where we displayed the historical development of study Bibles. Did you know the Geneva Bible was one of the first translations into English from the original languages? It was first published in 1560 and was heavily footnoted with John Calvin's teachings. We displayed an original edition printed in 1606 at the convention. This version became known as the "Pilgrim's Bible." King James viewed the footnotes in it as threatening and published his own translation of the Bible in 1611 without footnotes.

Any study Bible should safeguard the truth and communicate the light recovered by the Lord at that point in time. The Geneva Bible did this, and so did the Scofield Reference Bible three hundred years later. Today the New Testament Recovery Version follows this pattern by standing on the shoulders of many great Bible teachers, delivering a rich heritage to God's people.

We are now pleased to announce a Bible study minute produced daily for radio stations and the Internet. Many radio stations told us in Nashville of the need for such a ministry minute. In this short feature, a selected verse and footnote are read from the New Testament Recovery Version. Two samples can be found on page two. We hope to make this available via a daily e-mail to anyone who subscribes. To hear an actual production sample, please go to www.recoveryversion.org.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTHRIGHT?

Few Christians today understand the biblical notion of the birthright. Yet to the writers of both the Old and New Testaments, it was a tremendous matter. We believers, by virtue of our second birth, are the sons of God and participate in God's blessings as our spiritual birthright in both this age and the next. Our

(continued on page 3)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BIRTHRIGHT

(continued from page 1)

birthright as Christians is to inherit all that God is in Christ. The apostle Paul told us that Christ Himself is our allotted inheritance (Col. 1:12; Eph. 1:14), that we are heirs of God (Rom. 8:17), and that we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ” (Eph. 1:3).

The birthright promised to God’s people is in three aspects: image, dominion, and participation in God’s kingdom. God’s central intention in creating man is that man would bear His image to express Him (Gen. 1:26). But because of Adam’s fall, man completely failed to express God. However, Christ came to fully declare the unseen God (John 1:18) and be the image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). Through regeneration, we gain the divine life to become sons of God. When we live Christ and magnify Him (Phil. 1:20-21), we fulfill God’s intention and desire to have His image expressed through man. Christ, who is God’s image, lives again through us, the members of His Body.

The second aspect of the birthright concerns man’s having dominion. God’s intention is for man to have dominion to subdue every negative thing on earth and exercise God’s authority (Gen. 1:26). Instead, Adam himself was subdued by Satan. Christ came and fulfilled God’s intention. He defeated the enemy Satan and in ascension, all things were subjected under His feet (Eph. 1:22). Our birthright as New Testament believers is to experience Christ’s subduing power and to participate in Christ’s dominion today. In Christ, we enjoy everything being subjected under the Lord’s feet. By our receiving the abundance of grace and the gift of

righteousness, we may reign over all things in Christ (Rom 5:17) to exercise God’s authority.

The third aspect of our wonderful birthright is our participation in God’s kingdom. This includes the church life as the kingdom of God in the present age (Rom. 14:17) and the kingdom’s full manifestation in the coming millennium (Rev. 20:6). Today, we enjoy the kingdom’s

Our birthright as Christians is to inherit all that God is in Christ.

righteousness, peace, and joy by gathering for fellowship as the Body of Christ. Then in the next age, the victorious believers who have valued their birthright in this age will reign with Christ for a thousand years. This kingdom participation is both our birthright today and a marvelous coming reward.

We must be warned by Esau’s tragic folly of greatly undervaluing his birthright and selling it cheaply to Jacob (Heb. 12:16). We New Testament believers must treasure our birthright by refusing any worldly or sinful pleasures that rob us of our enjoyment of Christ. To those who treasure their birthright, the world’s shallow enticements cannot compare with having Christ expressed through us, reigning in us, and corporately enjoyed by us as the church, His kingdom.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of Genesis*, message 67, by Witness Lee; and footnote 1 of Hebrews 12:16 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

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lived on this earth; as such a man, He...
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of John unveils Him as the Son of...
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life to the world. Amos, who is...
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recovery of the original text. Mark and John...
do not. To testify that Jesus is the...
King, the Christ, who prophesied in...
the Old Testament, Matthew needs to...
show us the antecedent...
this King...
filling this...
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