

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 38, JUNE 2001

"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 reading our monthly note to you in the *Hearing of Faith*. We realize there is a barrage of information these days, and we appreciate your taking time to share this ministry with us. We hope you find it worthwhile and trust you will continue to do so.

Living Stream Ministry received more response from radio programs on *Life-study of Revelation* than from any of the other fourteen books of the Bible we have broadcasted so far. Perhaps this is because our Lord's second coming is like a mysterious puzzle, and in *Life-study of Revelation*, the pieces all come together. We believe when the great tribulation arrives, these messages will be widely circulated as a defining word. For those of you who can hear us daily, we are sure you enjoyed the review of Revelation just concluding.

Now we are moving on to *Life-study of Luke* where we will focus on the mysterious aspect of the Lord's first coming, God becoming a man. We are happy to get into the Gospel of Luke with you as we turn our full attention to this wonderful God-man. As you join us, we think you will agree that seeing our precious Lord Jesus Christ really makes the things of earth fade away. Thanks again for spending the time to draw closer to Him through this ministry.

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SIMPSONVILLE, SC

CPR 88.1 FM
2:00 A.M. 5:30 A.M. SUN-SAT
12 NOON, 9:00 P.M.,
AND 11:30 P.M.

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INCARNATION?

To the believer, incarnation speaks of God becoming man in the person of Jesus Christ. The word *incarnated* means enfleshed, as John the apostle indicated when he wrote, "The Word was God....and the Word became flesh" (John 1:1, 14). Paul also proclaimed, "In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" (Col. 2:9). In the person of Jesus Christ, God is united and

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INCARNATION

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perfectly mingled with man. At His birth He was at once both the Son of God (Mark 1:1) and the Son of Man (Matt. 11:19), for His being is of two natures—divine and human. Thus, He is the God-man, truly God and truly man. He is the complete God and the perfect man.

Although the fact that God became a man is a mystery that is beyond our ability to understand, it is not beyond our ability to experience, for it is through incarnation that God has become knowable and can even be experienced by us. This can be seen in the naming of the newborn God-man. Joseph and Mary were told that they were to name the child Jesus (Matt. 1:21; Luke 1:31), meaning *Jehovah Savior*. We are also told He would be called Emmanuel, which means *God with us* (Matt. 1:23).

Before the birth of Christ, God was separated from mankind because of sin, and all mankind was destined to eternal punishment. As a sinner, every human being needs a Savior to deliver him from God's righteous judgment. The only solution to mankind's problem was a sacrifice that could take the sinner's place in death. God had to become a man, for He alone was capable of paying such a price. To die for man, He had to take on flesh and blood (Heb. 2:14). Jesus, who is God incarnated to be a sinless man, is our Jehovah Savior. All humanity can now rejoice with the words penned by Charles Wesley, "Amazing love! how can it be that Thou, my God, shouldst die for me?" The wonderful

name of Jesus reveals depths of unspeakable love and sacrifice. It reveals that the almighty God condescended to be a lowly man (Isa. 9:6) to be our Savior.

Through incarnation, God is now Emmanuel, God with us. On the one hand, today Christ Jesus as the embodiment of God sits upon the throne (Rom. 8:34; Rev. 22:1). On the other hand, He is now also with His believers (Matt. 28:20), indwelling them as the Spirit (Rom. 8:9, 10) in their spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). God is now with us believers in such an intimate and subjective way.

*God is no longer
unapproachable or
far away from us.*

Since His incarnation, God is no longer unapproachable or far away from us. God has acquired humanity! Once God became incarnated, He committed Himself to humanity so that He might become our Savior, and even more, so that He could be joined with us. He is now, as Charles Wesley wrote in one of his many hymns, "Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel."

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Four Major Steps of Christ and God's New Testament Economy*, chaps. 2-5, both by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

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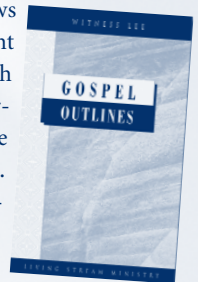
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GOSPEL OUTLINES

A book by Witness Lee

In *Gospel Outlines* Witness Lee presents many clear and precious examples of the gospel in the Bible. These passages are presented in outline form for easy comprehension and application. Through these outlines, Witness Lee shows how to cut straight the word of the truth in order to powerfully present the gospel to others. May we all be diligent to present ourselves approved to God in sharing with every man the hope that is in us.



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