

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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"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 Listeners,

Isn't Christ's salvation wonderful? Christ has accomplished redemption and is now living in us to carry out God's plan of full salvation. We hope you are enjoying the programs on God's full salvation in the *Life-study of Acts*. The recent programs from Acts 2:21 about calling on the name of the Lord as the fulfillment of Joel's prophesy in the Old Testament have brought many of our listeners into a more practical relationship with Christ in their daily experience. Our prayer is that you are one of those listeners.

Because calling upon the name of the Lord is so crucial to our personal experience of Christ, we are covering it again this month in our "Path of Life" article. Have you taken the time to try this simple life practice? If you have, we trust that calling on His name has strengthened your faith and deepened your love for Him. If not, will you take a moment to open your mouth to vocally call upon the name of the Lord? Many of us only prayed silently to the Lord before (which is also important since we are charged to pray unceasingly), but when we discovered calling upon the name of the Lord from the Bible, our experience entered into another realm; we found a practical handle to enjoy Christ.

In *Life-study of Acts* we have seen the resurrected Christ propagating Himself in His ascension through His disciples to produce the churches, the kingdom of God. In contrast to Christ, the great French conqueror Napoleon defeated many nations to form his empire. But at the end of his life, he acknowledged that while he had founded his empire by force, Jesus had founded His empire upon love. Napoleon was able to persuade his soldiers to die for his cause when he was alive, but when he died, his cause died with him. However, two thousand years after Christ's death, men and women all over the world are still willing to live and die for Him. May we all be His disciples today through whom He is still conquering and spreading His kingdom upon the earth.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

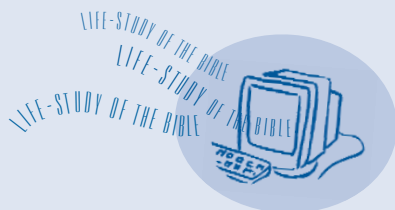
## WHAT IS GOD'S ECONOMY?

*"And to enlighten all that they may see what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things." Eph. 3:9*

Because God has a purpose, He needs an economy. The Greek word for economy is *oikonomia*. This Greek word is composed of two words—*oikos* meaning house or household and *nomos* meaning law. Economy is a "house law," a household administration. This household administration is for the carrying out of God's purpose, God's plan. God's economy is God's planned administration to carry out His eternal purpose. . . .

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## GOD'S ECONOMY

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If you trace the root of the word economy, it goes back to a word that refers to the parceling out of food, the distributing of food as in parcels. Joseph is a good illustration of this. His job was to distribute all the food supply of Pharaoh to feed all the hungry people. This root word also means to distribute food to the cattle for grazing. To distribute is to dispense. In God's economy, He dispenses Himself into His people as life, as life supply, and as everything to them. God wants to dispense Himself as food to us.

The Holy Bible tells us that God is rich as food to us. The Lord Jesus declared that He was the bread of life (John 6:48), and Paul said that he was charged to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ (Eph. 3:8). Christ is life, and His riches are unsearchable. All these riches of life are to be dispensed into His believers. Paul was commissioned to be a dispenser of these riches, a steward. He was to be a steward in the same way that Joseph was a great steward to distribute the rich life supply of Pharaoh's household. . . . By this we can see what the proper denotation of the word *oikonomia* is—God's household administration to dispense the divine riches of the Triune God as life and life supply into His chosen and redeemed people. . . .

*The Divine Economy*, pp. 7-10, by Witness Lee

The Divine Trinity is for God's dispensing. The matter of dispensing is revealed in Ephesians 3:2 and Colossians 1:25-27. In these verses the word stewardship has the sense of dispensing. God's stewardship is the dispensing of the processed Triune God in Christ into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated people that He may be their life and everything, to produce the unique Body of Christ in the universe to be His corporate expression. This Body is the church in this age and the New Jerusalem in eternity.

This is what God is after. God saves us for this. He regenerates us, transforms us, makes us spiritual, and causes us to be seeking, all for this. We are not saved, regenerated, transformed, spiritual, or seeking, for ourselves. Rather, we become such in order that we may be delivered from the natural life and the self so that we can be built up with all the saints into God's habitation. This is God's economy and dispensing.

*The Economy and Dispensing of God*, pp. 8, 20

For further reading on this subject please see *The Economy of God*, *God's New Testament Economy*, *The Divine Economy*, and *The Economy and Dispensing of God* published by *Living Stream Ministry*.

## THE STONE-SAVIOR

*As we have studied the book of Acts, a particular matter concerning Christ has emerged which, though not widely known, is a central point not only in the New Testament, but in the entire Bible. Below is an excerpt concerning Christ as our Stone-Savior from Life-study of Acts.*

In chapter three of Acts Peter presents Christ, the Healer, as God's Servant, the Holy One, the Righteous One, the Author of life, the Prophet, and the seed in whom all families of the earth will be blessed. . . . But in chapter four Peter was given the opportunity to present this Healer in a further way, presenting Him as a stone for God's building. Concerning this, 4:11 and 12 say, "This is the stone which was despised by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is no salvation in any other; for neither is there another name under heaven given among men in which we must be saved." . . .

God came in incarnation to be a stone for the building up of His universal habitation, but the Jewish leaders, who should have been the builders, despised this stone. . . . The Jewish leaders rejected Him by killing Him. But God honored Him by raising Him up from among the dead and making Him a particular stone, the cornerstone, the very prominent stone that joins the walls of a building. Christ is the cornerstone of God's habitation.

I do not believe that throughout the centuries many have taught from the Word that Jesus Christ is a stone for God's building. He is not only the Servant, the Holy One, the Righteous One, the Author of life, the Prophet, and the seed; He is a stone for God's building. According to 4:12, this stone is the One in whom we can be saved. Hence, He is the Stone-Savior. As the Stone-Savior, He is solid, strong, and reliable. We can rely on Him and stand on Him. This stone is the rock, the foundation stone, and the cornerstone. In Zechariah 4:7 we see that He is even the topstone. Christ is the material for God's building. God's building is entirely of Christ.

Christ is not only the stone for God's building; He is also the stumbling stone and the smiting stone. . . . To the believers, Christ is the foundation stone in whom we trust (Isa. 28:16). But to the unbelieving Jews, He is the stumbling stone (Isa. 8:14-15; Rom. 9:32-33), and to the nations He will be the smiting stone. According to Daniel 2:34 and 35, Christ as the stone will smite the nations at His coming back.

For us as believers Christ. . . has become the building stone. First, we became His propagation, and now He is building us up together into God's dwelling place. He is both the Builder and the material for God's building. He is the Stone-Savior. In God's economy He is building His eternal habitation. . . .

In the Bible there is a line concerning stone from Genesis 2 through Revelation 22. In Genesis 2 we have the onyx stone at the beginning, and then in Revelation 21 and 22 we have the jasper city as the consummation. . . . How much truth, therefore, is indicated and implied by Peter's referring to Christ as the stone rejected by the builders but made by God the cornerstone in resurrection!

*Life-study of Acts*, Message 16, pp. 127-31, 134

See insert for information on *Life-study of Acts*

# LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of the broadcast of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*. We invite you to write to us to share your comments with us and other listeners that we all may be encouraged in the Lord. All letters are subject to editing for the sake of space, content, and clarity.

*Bless you all for airing Witness Lee's teaching and for making the lessons available in written form. These teachings are real meat and are encouraging for those of us who try to live the overcoming life. This is a Christian broadcast that nothing interferes with my tuning the dial to.*

*Thank you one and all. I for one am deeply grateful to you for your dedication.*


C.M., Sierra Madre, CA

*I have been listening to your broadcast of the Life-study of the Bible programs on KFIT 1060 for about six weeks. This is the highlight of my day because I receive so much life and revelation from them as never before. I am always looking forward to listening to this program. It stands out from all the rest of the Christian programs. Christ becomes so real and lovable when you speak His Word.*

*I am encouraging all my family, mother, brothers, and sisters, and friends to listen, too. We also listen to it in the evenings with Spanish translation of Brother Witness Lee.*

*My husband and I are very happy these programs are reaching us, too. Thank you for all your hard labor and for being so faithful to the Lord and to His people. We pray strongly that the Lord's blessings will be pouring down on you always.*

P.V., Austin, TX

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THESE TEACHINGS ARE  
REAL MEAT AND ARE  
ENCOURAGING TO THOSE OF  
US WHO TRY TO LIVE THE  
OVERCOMING LIFE



*Thank you so very much for sharing with me this wonderful book on Revelation. May I be worthy of it and anointed and blessed as I study and share its riches with others.*

*This is a great opportunity for me and I praise and thank the Lord for the work you all do. My prayers are always with you and before God that Living Stream Ministry grows and blesses more and more people.*

G.M., Palm Harbor, FL

*I listen to your radio program in Ferndale. I live in Bellingham, Washington. I've been walking with the Lord eighteen years. God's timing is perfect. I know because He is perfect. Your ministry, your teaching, has rekindled, resparked me. There are just no words to tell you how appreciative I am to God for your*

*ministry. When I was born again, I was introduced to some of the books by Watchman Nee. I have several of his books in my little collection. Your ministry was brand new to me. I'm just deeply thankful to God for your teaching and your dispensing, and your being a medium, a vehicle for God to dispense Himself to me and to all those who are listening. Bless you. I pray for you. See you in glory.*

D.S., Bellingham, WA

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# THE *Path* OF *Life*

*Below are excerpts focused on matters and practices of 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.*

## CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD

### THE PURPOSE OF CALLING

Why do we need to call on the name of the Lord? Men need to call on the name of the Lord in order to be saved (Rom. 10:13). The way of praying quietly does help people to be saved, but not so richly. The way of calling loudly helps people to be saved in a richer and more thorough way. Thus, we need to encourage people to open themselves and to call on the name of the Lord Jesus. Psalm 116 tells us that we may partake of the Lord's salvation by calling on Him: "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord" (v. 13). In this one Psalm, calling on the Lord is mentioned four times (vv. 2, 4, 13, 17). As we have seen earlier, the way to draw water from the springs of salvation is to call upon the name of the Lord (Isa. 12:2-4). Many Christians have never called upon the Lord. If you have never called, even shouted before the Lord, it is doubtful that you have enjoyed the Lord in a rich way. "Call upon His name! . . . Cry out and give a ringing shout" (Isa. 12:4, 6). Try shouting before Him. If you have never shouted about what the Lord is to you, try it. The more you shout, "O Lord Jesus, You are so good to me!" the more you will be released from your self and filled with the Lord. Thousands of saints have been released and enriched through calling on the name of the Lord.

Another reason for calling on the Lord is to be rescued from distress (Psa. 18:6; 118:5), from trouble (Psa. 50:15; 86:7; 81:7), and from sorrow and pain (Psa. 116:3-4). People who have argued against calling on the Lord have found themselves calling on Him when they were subject to a certain trouble or illness. When our lives are free from trouble, we may argue against calling on the Lord. However, when trouble comes, no one will need to tell us to call on Him; we will call spontaneously.

Also, the way for us to participate in the Lord's plenteous mercy is to call upon Him. The more we call upon Him, the more we enjoy His mercy (Psa. 86:5). Another reason for calling on the Lord is to receive the Spirit (Acts 2:17a, 21). The best and easiest way to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to call on the name of the Lord Jesus. The Spirit has already been poured out. We simply need to receive Him by calling on the Lord. . . .

Romans 10:12 says that the Lord of all is rich to all who call upon Him. The way to enjoy the riches of the Lord is to call upon Him. The Lord is not only rich, but also near and available, because He is the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). As the Spirit, He is omnipresent. We may call on His name at any time and in any place. When we call on Him, He comes to us as the Spirit, and we enjoy His riches.

First Corinthians is a book on the enjoyment of Christ. In chapter twelve, Paul tells us how to enjoy Him. The way to enjoy the Lord is to call on His name (12:3; 1:2). Whenever we call "Lord Jesus," He comes as the Spirit, and we drink of Him (12:13), the life-giving Spirit. If I call a person's name, and if he is real, living, and present, that person will come to me. The Lord Jesus is real, living, and present! He is always available. Whenever we call on Him, He comes. Do you want to enjoy the Lord's presence with all His riches? The best way to experience His presence with all His riches is to call on His name. Call on Him while you are driving on the freeway or while you are at work. Anywhere and anytime you may call. The Lord is near and rich to you. . . .

### THE NEED OF PRACTICE

Calling on the name of the Lord is not merely a doctrine. It is very practical. We need to practice it daily and hourly. We should never stop our spiritual breathing. We hope that many more of the Lord's people, especially new believers, will begin the practice of calling on the Lord. Today, many Christians have found that they can know Him, that they can be brought into the power of His resurrection, that they can experience His spontaneous salvation and that they can walk in oneness with Him by calling on His name. In any situation, at any time, call: "Lord Jesus, O Lord Jesus!" If you practice calling on His name, you will see that it is a wonderful way to enjoy the Lord's riches.

*(Calling on the Name of the Lord by Witness Lee, pp. 5-11)*

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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 one of our listeners is 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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