

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 9, JANUARY 1999

"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 THIS ISSUE

- 1 Letter from Living Stream Ministry Radio
- 1 What Is the New Jerusalem? Part 1
- 2 Hymn
- 3 Letters from Listeners
- 3 Campaign '99 Announcement
- 4 The Path of Life—Pray-Reading the Word, Part 1

### Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

NASHVILLE, TN  
WNQM 1300 AM  
7:30 A.M. SATURDAY  
11:00 A.M. SATURDAY

LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE  
CAN BE HEARD ON  
MORE THAN EIGHTY  
RADIO STATIONS IN  
CHINESE AND SPANISH.  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL:

CHINESE: (888) 388-9958  
SPANISH: (800) 810-1149

*Dear Listeners,*

With this issue of *The Hearing of Faith* we usher in a new year. As we begin this year, we would like you to consider the enjoyment of Christ revealed in Colossians 2:16-17: "Let no one therefore judge you in eating and in drinking or in respect of a feast or of a new moon or of the Sabbath, which are a shadow of the things to come, but the body is of Christ." Eating and drinking is a daily matter; the Sabbath is a weekly matter; a new moon is a monthly matter; and feasts are a yearly matter. Whether daily, weekly, monthly, or yearly, we can enjoy Christ, since the body, or reality, of all these matters is Christ Himself. With a new year we have Christ as our new beginning and as our feast for our enjoyment throughout the year. Christ is our new beginning not only each year, but each month, each week, and even each day. In Christ we are full of new beginnings! May you enjoy Christ in many ways as He becomes new to you through all the situations and environments of this upcoming year.

Many of you participated last year in Campaign 98, which we conducted in January. During that time we offered a free book to everyone who called us. Our purpose was to evaluate the stations we broadcast on to find out how many people we are reaching, beyond our existing database of names. This helps us in our stewardship of what the Lord has given us for this work. We will conduct Campaign 99 this year from January 18 through January 31. We hope to hear from new listeners and those who have not yet had an opportunity to call us. We will reward their effort by sending each a free book. Our aim is not to appeal for money; we are sincerely trying to find out to what extent our message is being heard and appreciated. Could you tell a friend to tune in and call us during those two weeks so that they can become one of our new listeners and receive our gift for calling?

*Living Stream Ministry Radio*

## WHAT IS THE NEW JERUSALEM? PART 1

In this two-part article, we will cover a great matter mentioned in the Bible, the New Jerusalem. The New Jerusalem is profoundly rich in significance. In Part 1 we explore the Father's house, His dwelling place, as one aspect of the New Jerusalem.

Paul tells us that the church is the house of the living God (1 Tim. 3:15) and that corporately the believers are the temple of God (1 Cor. 3:16), and Peter says that the believers in Christ are living stones of this spiritual house (1 Pet. 2:5). In John 14:2 the Lord said, "In My Father's house are

*(continued on page 2)*

# NEW JERUSALEM

(continued from page 1)

many abodes." *Abodes* is the correct translation in John 14:2. The same word is used in the singular in verse 23 where the Lord said that He and the Father would make an abode with the one who loved Him. In the Father's house, the Body of Christ, there are many abodes, many dwelling places. Each member of the Body of Christ is an abode, a dwelling place, of God. God dwells in each of us who have received Him in Christ.

The Lord Jesus went on to say, "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I am coming again and will receive you to Myself, so that where I am you also may be. And where I am going you know the way. . . I am the way. . . no one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:2-6). What did the Lord mean when He said that He was going to prepare a place for the disciples, so that where He was, they also could be? The Lord was about to go to prepare a place in God the Father through His death and resurrection. He is the way to God the Father; He is in the Father (vv. 10-11); and His desire is that we would be in the Father also (17:21). Through His death and resurrection we have been brought into the Father God. For this reason, Paul addressed the church of the Thessalonians as being "in God the Father" (1 Thes. 1:1; 2 Thes. 1:1).

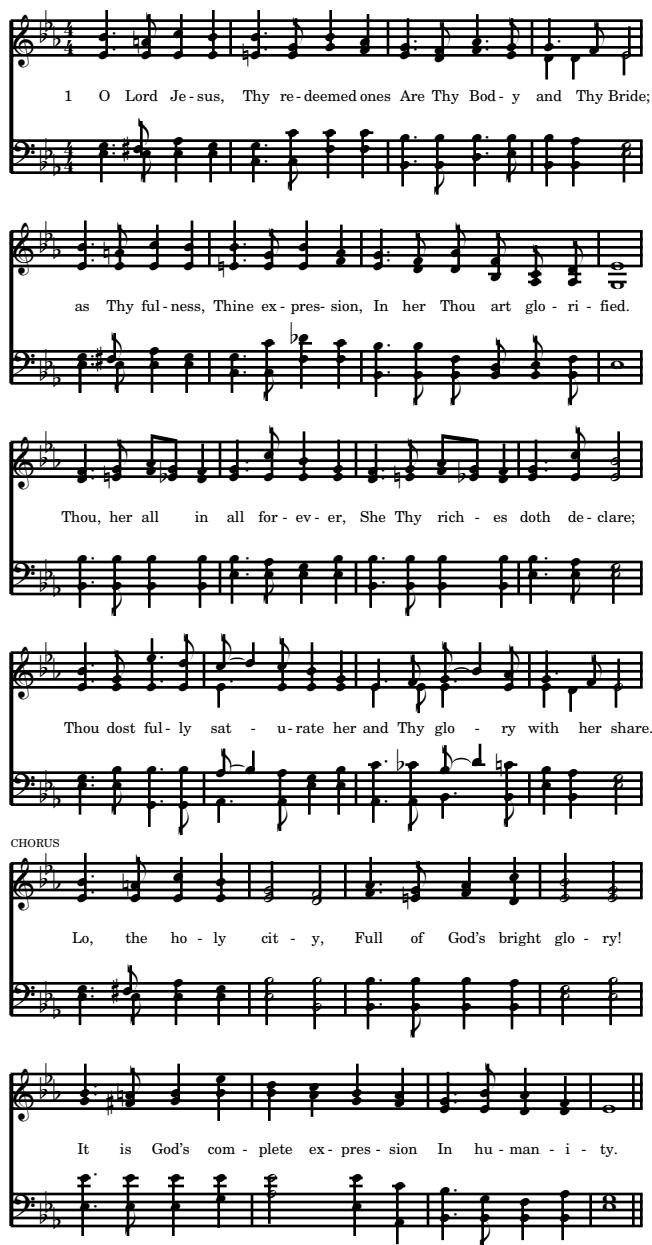
For more than nineteen centuries the Lord has been building up the church as the Body of Christ, which is God's spiritual house. When this spiritual house is fully built up through the believers' growth and transformation in the divine life, the built-up Body of Christ will become Christ's bride. When the bride is prepared, Christ the Bridegroom will return. This bride will be the wife of the Lamb, the New Jerusalem. Revelation 21:2 says that the New Jerusalem is "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband," and verse 9 says that this holy city is "the bride, the wife of the Lamb." The New Jerusalem is not a literal city, but a great figure, signifying the totality of all God's chosen and redeemed people throughout the ages who have been transformed and built up in the divine life to be His wife for eternity.

For further reading on this subject, please see *Life-study of John*; *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, Messages 254-264; and *The Vision of God's Building*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The following is one of several hymns written by Witness Lee. The enlightening and inspiring words of this hymn contain much truth concerning the New Jerusalem.

(Hymns #976, published by Living Stream Ministry)

8. 7. 8. 7. D. with chorus.



God with man completely blended,  
Mystery of godliness,  
God in glory, full, resplendent,  
Man, His dwelling, doth express.  
'Tis a vessel universal  
All God's fulness to express;  
All His beauty manifesting,  
Mingled with His holiness.

'Tis a living composition  
Of the saints He hath transformed;  
As the pearls and stones most precious,  
To His image they're conformed.  
From the throne of God, its center,  
Flows the living water free;  
Christ the tree of life doth flourish,  
Bearing fruit abundantly.

'Tis th' eternal golden lampstand,  
Holding Christ, the lamp of light;  
God in Christ the light of glory  
In the Spirit shineth bright!  
'Tis the ultimate expression—  
Man in God and God in man;  
'Tis their mutual habitation,  
Goal of God's eternal plan.

# LETTERS *from* LISTENERS

The following are responses from listeners of our broadcast *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.

*I don't get to hear you too often, but when I do, I'm always blessed. Thank you! I'd like to know more of your ministry.*

B.H., Three Rivers, TX

*Thank you for the newsletter you send to my wife and me. It's truly a blessing. May God's riches and best be yours.*

W.L., Jackson, MS

*I enjoy the ministry of Witness Lee and Watchman Nee immensely. Their sharing is deep, rich, and clear. Continue to proclaim the infallible Word of the Triune God.*

E.S., Cleveland, OH

*I just read the June 1998 issue of your newsletter containing an excerpt from Message One of Life-study of Hebrews. This study of Hebrews would be a wonderful way to build confidence and trust in our Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, and strengthen my faith in His ways. Please send me information on how to purchase Life-study of Hebrews. If this one excerpt could be so informa-*

*tive and enlightening, the entire study must be magnificent! Thank you and God bless you!*

J.G., El Dorado, AR

*Arkansas. The teachings have been so instrumental in my life and walk with Jesus.*

*I write concerning a book by Witness Lee, Consecration. I seek a deep and continued walk of consecration with the Lord.*

A brother in Christ, Grady, AR

*I love the ministry. Please send me Abraham—Called by God.*

L.S., Washington, D.C.

*I write from the confinements of prison. I listen to your program on station KAAV 1090, Little Rock,*

*New mercies and blessings each life-study program I hear!*

B.R., Abbotsford, B.C., Canada

## CAMPAIGN 99

### TELL A FRIEND!

During Campaign '99 from January 18-31, Living Stream Ministry Radio will offer a free book, *The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man*, to all listeners who call in for the first time. This is a marvelous book by Witness Lee which normally sells for \$5.75. We encourage you to tell your friends to listen to the Life-study radio program and call us for their free copy at 1-888-543-3788.

# 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.*

## PRAY-READING THE WORD PART 1

When a baby is born, his most immediate need is to take some milk for nourishment. Without nourishment the new babe will not only fail to grow properly, but will soon become very weak and eventually even die. After we are saved and born again, our most immediate need also is that we learn how to take in the Lord as our spiritual milk and nourishment. Without this spiritual nourishment, we also have no way to grow properly and will in a short time be spiritually dead. . . .

### THE WORD OF GOD BEING FOOD TO US

In 1 Peter 2:2-3 we have a most important passage. "As newborn babes, long for the guileless milk of the word in order that by it you may grow unto salvation, if you have tasted that the Lord is good." These verses are important to us because they tell us clearly how to taste the Lord: drink "the guileless [pure] milk of the Word." If we would taste Christ, we must take into us the milk of the word. Then we will be nourished for spiritual growth. Praise the Lord, the Bible says "tasted"! It does not say that we *know* this aspect or that aspect about the Lord, but that we *taste* the Lord. When we drink the milk of the Word, we are actually tasting the Lord. Therefore, the way for us to taste the Lord is simply by drinking the milk of the Word. The Word is not only for us to study or learn, but even more for us to taste. The way the Lord nourishes His Body is by His Word. If we desire to enjoy the Lord and be nourished by the Lord, we must come to the Word to taste the Lord.

However, the concept which most of us have of the Bible is that it is a kind of teaching, a book full of doctrines. Thus, we come to the Word with the intention of understanding and knowing something. In all of our Christian life, how much of the Word have we taken in as food to our spirit? We must answer honestly that most of us have taken in very little. We must not come to the Bible only to learn and to understand. The Bible is not the tree of knowledge; it is the tree of life! If we take the Word of God as the tree of knowledge, we misuse the Bible, because 2 Corinthians 3:6 tells us that the letter kills. We must never take the Bible as a book of letters, but as a book of life.

All Christians know that the function of the Word of God is to reveal God to us. Although this is true, this is not its main function. The main function of the Bible is to *impart God into us as life* and as the nourishment of life. It is not only to give us knowledge about God and His love, but to impart God Himself into us. Whenever we read the Bible, we should not merely try to know or understand it, but take something of God's essence into us just as we take our food. Then, like food, this substance will be assimilated into our very being.

First Timothy 4:6 says that we are "nourished with the words of the faith." No doubt we have read this verse many times, but have we noticed the word *nourished*? Praise the Lord! The concept of the apostle Paul was that God's Word is food to nourish God's children. We too must have the same realization regarding the Word of God. We should not consider it only as knowledge, but as food to nourish and supply us all the time. . . .

Jeremiah said, "Your word became to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart" (Jer. 15:16b). This is a kind of enjoyment. The Word, after being eaten, became a joy and also a rejoicing. God's Word is an enjoyment; after it is taken into us and assimilated into our very being, it becomes joy within us and rejoicing without. David said, "How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth" (Psa. 119:103). The Word is indeed an enjoyment; it is even sweeter and more pleasant than honey to our taste.

From these verses we realize that the Word of God is not only for us to learn, but even more for us to taste, to eat, to enjoy, and to digest. The Lord Jesus even speaks of God's Word as spiritual food: "It is written, Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out through the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). Every word which proceeds out of the mouth of God is spiritual food to nourish us. This is the food by which we must live.

*Pray-reading the Word*, by Witness Lee, pp. 1-7

### 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.

Living Stream Ministry  
P.O. Box 2121  
Anaheim, CA 92814  
Phone: (714) 518-3366  
Fax: (714) 518-3377  
Email: [radio@lsm.org](mailto:radio@lsm.org)  
Web site: [www.lsm.org/radio](http://www.lsm.org/radio)

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.

©1998 Living Stream Ministry. All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means - graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval system - without written permission from the publisher.