

# The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 29, SEPTEMBER 2000

*"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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### Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

WYDE 850 AM

10:30 P.M. MON-FRI

10:30 A.M. &

2:30 P.M. SUNDAY

DALLAS, TEXAS

KSKY 660 AM

11:00 A.M. MON-FRI

6:30 P.M. SATURDAY

5:30 P.M. SUNDAY

Dear Life-study Listener,

We hope you are enjoying the rich programs on the experience of Christ from our current *Life-study of Philippians*. Next month we will finish up *Philippians* and go to the Old Testament book of *Leviticus*. We mention this now so that you can consider whether you would like to obtain the Holy Bible Recovery Version. Although the present edition of the Holy Bible Recovery Version does not include footnotes, it does include the subject and outline for every book, making it well worth the investment. We hope the edition with footnotes will be available in the next few years. For detailed information about the Holy Bible Recovery Version from Living Stream Ministry, please see the insert with this month's mailing, or call us at (888) 543-3788.

In response to our recent survey for *The Hearing of Faith*, we have discovered that many of you are enjoying the ministry therein as a regular supply of nourishment in your daily lives. The Lord has led us to make all the past issues of *The Hearing of Faith* newsletter available over the Internet. So if this is of interest to you, go to [www.lsm.org/radio](http://www.lsm.org/radio) to find all of the monthly articles we have published over the last two years. And remember, we always appreciate your comments.

Living Stream Ministry

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WORK OUT OUR OWN SALVATION?

Writing to the believers in Philippi, the apostle Paul said, "So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:12). This verse has been of much concern to believers throughout the years. The key to understanding this verse is the word "salvation" and what the apostle Paul meant by it.

We know from many verses in the New Testament that we are saved by grace through faith, not of works (Eph. 2:8-9) and that God chose us before the

*(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. Responses are subject to editing for the sake of space and clarity.

*I read and apply your newsletter articles to my study in my New Testament Recovery Version. Please continue with your wonderful revelations of the Word. I study all your material to get a greater knowledge of our Lord Jesus and God's economy. Thank you and God bless you and your staff for leading us, His sheep, to our Shepherd.*

Hollister, CA

*My devotional time with the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Word is solely from the New Testament Recovery Version, The Stream Magazine, and The Hearing of Faith radio newsletter. Only in eternity will your ministry know what you have done for me spiritually. I would only wish and hope for more of the teachings of your ministry. God bless your ministry and all who participate.*

Toronto, B.C., Canada

*I enjoy your program a lot. I always try to hear it on Sunday afternoon. There are very profound truths brought out, some of which I've never heard anywhere in my life, and I am fifty-nine years old. I was brought up in a Brethren chapel, so I have had lots of really good ministry and good teaching, from other sources also. But Witness Lee is something else. He is obviously taught very well by the Spirit of God, and I'm thrilled to hear him. It's good that everything he studied passes on so well. I'm very thankful for your program and would like to listen to it during the week.*

Brantford, Ontario, Canada

*Below is one of a number of hymns written by Witness Lee. Many have enjoyed this hymn and have been inspired and strengthened by it to live Christ and magnify Him according to God's desire in the book of Philippians.*

1 Oh, what a life! Oh, what a peace! The Christ who's all with-  
in me lives. With Him I have been cru - ci - fied; This glo - rious  
fact to me He gives. Now it's no long - er I that live, But  
Christ the Lord with - in me lives. Now it's no long - er  
I that live, But Christ the Lord with - in me lives.

Oh, what a joy! Oh, what a rest!  
Christ now is being formed in me.  
His very nature and life divine  
In my whole being inwrought shall be.  
All that I am came to an end,  
And all of Christ is all to me.

Oh, what a thought! Oh, what a boast!  
Christ shall in me be magnified.  
In nothing shall I be ashamed,  
For He in all shall be applied.  
In woe or blessing, death or life,  
Through me shall Christ be testified.

Oh, what a prize! Oh, what a gain!  
Christ is the goal toward which I press.  
Nothing I treasure, nor aught desire,  
But Christ of all-inclusiveness.  
My hope, my glory, and my crown  
Is Christ, the One of peerlessness.

(Hymns, #499)

## WORK OUT OUR OWN SALVATION

(continued from page 1)

foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-5) before we had done anything good or bad (Rom. 9:11, 15-16). It is clear that a person is justified before God by faith and not through the works of the flesh (Rom. 3:28). Then what could Paul have meant when he said that we must work out our own salvation? A key verse to help us understand this matter is Romans 5:10 where Paul says: “For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we *will be saved* in His life, having been reconciled” [emphasis added].

From the teaching of the Bible we can see that when we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior by calling on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13), we are “born anew” (John 3:7) and receive salvation by being regenerated in our spirit (John 3:6). We

Although we have received God’s forgiveness, justification, reconciliation, and regeneration as a free gift, we still need to “grow” in Christ (Eph. 4:15), to “mature” in Christ (Col. 1:28, Heb. 6:1) and to allow Christ to “make home in our hearts” (Eph. 3:17). These are all biblical words or phrases that describe the ongoing process of being “saved in His life.” For this growth and maturity to take place in our hearts, we need to cooperate with the Lord within us. As we cooperate with Him, the life of Christ actually spreads, grows, and moves out into our soul (our mind, emotion and will—our personality) and Christ is formed in us (Gal. 4:19). For this to happen, God needs our cooperation with His grace, thus we need to “work out our own salvation.” We do this by reading the Bible, praying, loving

### *A key verse to help us understand this matter is Romans 5:10*

receive the eternal life of God which is the free “gift of God” (Rom. 6:23) simply through faith in Jesus Christ. Through faith we also obtain our eternal status as God’s children (John 1:12; Rom. 8:16). This is our initial salvation, which is once for all and which we can never lose. We often speak of this as being “saved,” and this is correct, at least in its initial stage. However, when Paul said that we must work out our own salvation (Phil. 2:12) and that having been “reconciled” (past tense) we “will be saved” (future tense) in His life, no doubt he was speaking of something more than salvation in its initial sense.

the Lord, following the Lord’s speaking within us, giving Christ the first place in our lives, denying our self, and fellowshiping with other believers. We should not be confused by the word “salvation” but realize that this one word actually has at least several different connotations and uses in the Scriptures.

*For further reading on this subject, please see The Organic Aspect of God’s Salvation; Life-study of Philippians, messages 12, 43, 47-49; and the footnotes to Philippians 2:12 and Romans 5:10 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.*

### *Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee*

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Christ, we will share in the consummation of God’s salvation in the New Jerusalem, which is a sign of the mutual abiding and enjoyment of God and man for eternity.

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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.*

## FILLED, WASHED, ARMED, AND EMPOWERED

By the Word with the Spirit we are also filled in our spirit. Ephesians 5:18-20 speaks of being filled in spirit, speaking, singing, psalming, and giving thanks. If we compare this passage with Colossians 3:16 and 17, we see that the Spirit fills us through the Word. Hence, to be filled with the Word is actually to be filled with the Spirit.

By the Word coming into our being and filling it, we are also washed; we

*When we come to the Word and take it into us by pray-reading, singing, or musing, we eventually sense that we are armed, equipped, and empowered.*

are cleansed by the washing of water in the Word (Eph. 5:26). According to the New Testament, this water, the water in the Word, is the living Spirit. When we receive the Word into us, the water in the Word will wash away our inward filthiness.

According to Ephesians 6:17 and 18, if we receive the Word into our being by means of prayer and petition, we shall put on the armor of God and be empowered. Apart from the Word, there is no way for us to have the armor of God. To put on the armor of God is to receive the Word by means of all prayer and petition. Our experience confirms this. When we come to the Word and take it into us by pray-reading, singing, or musing, we eventually sense that we are armed, equipped, and empowered. We have the confidence that should Satan attack us we would have the power and the armor to defeat him. We can even say, "Satan, don't you see that I have put on the armor of God and that I have been empowered to

defeat you and to put you to shame?" We are thus able to fight the spiritual warfare and defeat the evil powers of darkness in the air.

### ENJOYING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH

By the Word with the Spirit producing faith we experience Christ and the church life. According to your experience, when do you have the highest enjoyment of Christ and the church? Is it not when you take the

Word into your being through the Spirit by praying in spirit? When we pray-read the Word, we receive

the Word not merely into our mind, but also into our spirit. Then in our experience Christ becomes available, present, and real, and we rejoice to be in the church life.

Ephesians 6 speaks of taking the Word by praying at every time in spirit. In order to do this in a practical way, it is good to carry a pocket version of the New Testament with you. Should you be delayed in heavy traffic on the way home from work, you can open this pocket version and pray-read a verse. Even in the midst of a traffic jam you can enjoy pray-reading a verse like Philippians 2:9: "God highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name."

If a brother pray-reads the Word on the way home from work, he will be happy with his wife. How different this is from coming home exhausted and finding his wife worn out from the day's labor! When a brother and his wife are exhausted and not

enjoying the Word, neither is likely to be happy in the Lord. At such a time, it seems that Christ has disappeared, and there is no incentive or desire for the church life.

The secret of experiencing Christ and the church is in the Word. When we take the Word in a proper way, we experience Christ and enjoy the church life. We may even feel like singing, "Unto Him be glory in the church." Whenever we enjoy Christ and the church in this way, Satan, the Devil, is under our feet.

*The Secret of Experiencing Christ*, pp. 105-107, by Witness Lee

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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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