

# 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 law or out of the hearing of faith?" Galatians 3:5*

## In THIS ISSUE

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS IT TO TAKE CHRIST AS THE SIN OFFERING?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—ACTIVE IN HEART

*Dear Life-study Listener,*

MP3 distribution of our radio program over the Internet has exceeded our expectations to reach listeners all over the world. We continually get reports and notes of appreciation for this new way of delivering the ministry. The Apostle Paul encouraged the believers to "let the word of Christ dwell in you richly" (Col. 3:16), and we have found that this new technology is a great help to do just that. For those ready to take this technology one step further we have created a podcast of today's broadcast. If this is the first time you have heard about the availability of Life-Study of the Bible as MP3 files over the Internet and podcasting, then we encourage you to check it out at [www.lsmradio.com](http://www.lsmradio.com).

This year we will finish the entire life-study of the Bible after ten years of production. As of now the remaining books to cover are Ezekiel, the Minor Prophets, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. When we are all done there will be nearly two thousand life-giving programs. In addition to the MP3 archive of the programs on the Internet, we also have cassette and CD versions available if those formats are more convenient for you.

Lastly, we truly enjoy meeting you face-to-face whenever we get the opportunity. This year Living Stream Ministry will conduct the Memorial Day conference in Phoenix, Arizona and the Thanksgiving conference in Washington, D.C. If you are able to attend either conference, please let us know and we will try to make arrangements to meet you.

*Living Stream Ministry*

### **Life-Study of the Bible**

W E L C O M E S

FRESNO, CA

KIRV

11:30 A.M.

1510 AM

MON-FRI

## WHAT IS IT TO TAKE CHRIST AS THE SIN OFFERING?

Living in the Lord's presence will make us conscious of the fact that we are sinful, even that we are sin itself. If we do not have this feeling when in the Lord's presence, there must be something wrong. Of course, there cannot be anything wrong with the Lord. Whatever is wrong must be on our side. But if

*(continued on page 3)*

**LIFE-STUDY OF  
THE BIBLE**  
*with Witness Lee*

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*Highlights*

**FROM LIFE-STUDY OF EXODUS**

Fifty-five years ago I began to realize that my nature is sinful. Today, however, I have a much deeper realization regarding this. After many years of experience, I know fully that I was born sinful, that I was born a sinner with a sinful nature. In fact, I was born sin. This sinful nature has not changed during the years I have been with the Lord. The more I realize this, the more I take Christ as my sin offering. On the one hand, realizing that I have a sinful nature and taking Christ as my sin offering causes me to be judged and subdued. On the other hand, it preserves me, for it causes me not to have any confidence in myself. I am reminded again and again that in my flesh I am nothing but sin.

Sometimes believers wonder how any brother who is spiritual and experienced could fall into serious sin. We should realize that we are capable of such sin. Consider David as an example. David, of course, was an Old Testament saint. He truly was saintly and wrote many spiritual songs. But was David's sinful nature eradicated? Certainly not. For the sake of his lust he had a certain man murdered, and then he took that man's wife. Even someone as saintly as David was capable of such sin. David did not become saintly after committing that sin; he was saintly beforehand. Nevertheless, he still fell into sin.

*We  
should learn  
from [David's]  
experience not to  
have the slightest  
confidence in  
ourselves.*

Suppose when David was tempted to commit that sin, he remembered that he was sinful and offered a sin offering to God. If that had been the case, I do believe that he would not have committed that sin. It might have been that David committed sin because he temporarily ceased to remember how sinful he was. He lost the realization that his nature was sinful. We should learn from his experience not to have the slightest confidence in ourselves.

...Every day we need Christ as our sin offering. After rising up in the morning, we need to recall and realize once again that we are sinful in nature, that we were born sinners, and that we need Christ as our sin offering. Yes, we have been regenerated, but our sinful nature remains with us. We have the Holy Spirit in our spirit, but our nature is still sinful...

This word concerning the sin offering should not be a mere doctrine to us. We all need to have more experience of Christ as our sin offering. Let us all be encouraged to experience Christ in this way more and more.

*Life-study of Exodus, pp. 1478-1480, by Witness Lee*

## CHRIST AS THE SIN OFFERING (continued from page 1)

the situation is proper, probably the first thing we shall do is to say something like this: “O Lord, I am still in the old creation, still in myself, my old nature, and in the flesh. Lord, I confess that I am sinful. Thank You, Lord, that You died for me on the cross as my sin offering. Lord, now in Your presence, I lay

### *A spontaneous prayer in which we apply Christ as our sin offering is a true praise to the Lord.*

my hand on You and apply You as my present sin offering.” This is to take Christ as the sin offering in a spontaneous manner, not in the way of legality.

A spontaneous prayer in which we apply Christ as our sin offering is a true praise to the Lord. When we pray like this, we render Him the best appreciation. This kind of prayer is different from common prayer according to religious tradition or habit. The following is an example of a rather common prayer, a prayer that may be offered according to habit: “Lord, I am sinful. I thank You for Your precious blood that I can now apply to me.” This kind of prayer certainly is good, but the expression indicates that, at least

to some extent, the one who prays in this way is still under the influence of tradition. However, if we apply Christ as the sin offering in the way illustrated above, that will be a sign that we are not under tradition but that we are under the Lord’s enlightenment.

When we and the Lord, as living persons, are together in fellowship, something will operate within us and cause us to realize that the Lord is new and that we are old. Then we may say, “O Lord, You are so holy and new, but I am old. I live in the old creation, and I am still in my flesh and in my old nature. I am sinful—I am even sin. Even though I have been saved and regenerated, I am still sin.” This is a realization that comes spontaneously when we have genuine, intimate contact with the Lord. It is not a common, traditional prayer offered in a legal way. On the contrary, it is an intimate way of speaking to the Lord. Then, we may go on to say, “Lord, I thank You that You were made sin for me. When You died on the cross, You condemned sin. Lord, I thank You for condemning my flesh.” This kind of prayer is not according to tradition; it is a loving, intimate word spoken to the Lord under His enlightenment. This kind of expression is according to the sentiment deep within us...

Have you noticed that in the Gospels the disciples did not pray to the Lord Jesus in a way that was religious, formal, or traditional? Rather, the disciples prayed by talking to the Lord intimately and lovingly. We should learn from this example to cease from our old way of praying and live a life according to what is pictured in Exodus 29.

*Life-study of Exodus*, pp. 1582-1583, by Witness Lee

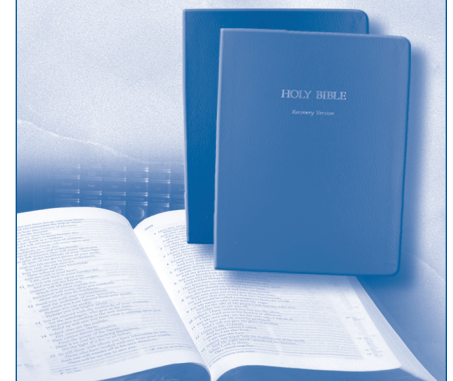
## VERSE *and* FOOTNOTE

FROM THE HOLY BIBLE  
RECOVERY VERSION

MATTHEW 3:3

**Matthew 3:3—For this is he who was spoken of through Isaiah the prophet saying, “A voice of one crying in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight His paths.”**

<sup>2</sup>The way, similar to a street, and the paths, similar to lanes, are a portrait of man’s heart with all its parts. To repent unto the Lord with our whole being and with our whole heart and to let the Lord come in is to prepare the way of the Lord. To allow the Lord to further occupy every part of our heart, including the mind, the emotion, and the will, is to make straight the paths of the Lord. Hence, to prepare the way of the Lord and make His paths straight is to change our mind, to turn our mind toward the Lord and make our heart right, that through repentance every part and avenue of our heart may be straightened by the Lord for the kingdom of the heavens (Luke 1:16-17).





# 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.*

## ACTIVE IN HEART

We all have two hearts: a physical heart and a psychological heart. We know where our physical heart is located, but we do not know the location of our psychological heart.

*We all need to ask ourselves if we are spiritually healthy.*

The actions or activities of our physical body depend on the beating of our physical heart. According to medical doctors, the death of the physical body takes place when the heart stops beating. A person who does not have any pulse is dead, for his heart has stopped beating. The point of this illustration is that the death of the body takes place when the heart stops beating. This is also true of the psychological heart.

Both our physical heart and our psychological heart have arteries. The main arteries of the psychological heart are the mind, emotion, and will. Heart attacks are often due to the blockage of the arteries. Recently I read that doctors who examined the bodies of young men who died in the Vietnam War discovered that in many cases their arteries were blocked even though they were quite young. Realizing the danger of blocked arteries, many watch their diet and are careful to exercise in order to cleanse their blood vessels. The problem of the physical heart is an illustration of

the problem of the psychological heart. Today there are millions of Christians. But how many of these Christians are truly living? Most of them are not living. The reason they are not living is that the arteries of their psychological heart have been blocked. This blockage has caused them to die spiritually.

We all need to ask ourselves if we are spiritually healthy.

*All spiritual diseases are of the psychological heart.*

To be healthy physically we need a strong heart. We also need a strong heart if we are to be spiritually healthy. All spiritual diseases are of the psychological

heart. Our psychological heart may be wrong in different ways. We may be wrong in our thinking, in our loving or hating, or in the way we use our will.

If our psychological heart is healthy, it will be very active in thinking, loving, hating, and deciding. Our heart is our acting agent. This means that if we are active, our heart will be active in mind, emotion, and will. However, if a person is not active in his heart, we may wonder if he is spiritually alive. If he is alive, why is there no activity in his heart? Why does his heart not function in a

normal way, since it is his acting agent?

I can testify that, even though I am elderly, I am very active in my heart. I am full of thought, feeling, and intention. My entire being—spirit, soul, and body—is active. However, the agent of this activity is not the spirit, the soul, or the body; the acting agent is the heart with the three main arteries of mind, emotion, and will.

*Life-study of First Thessalonians*, pp. 191-193, 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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