

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 8, DECEMBER 1998

"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

AUGUSTA, GA

WGAC 580 AM
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY

CHAMPLAIN, NY/
MONTREAL, P.Q.

WCHP 760 AM
11:15 A.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY

FERNDAL, WA/
VANCOUVER, B.C.

KCCF 1550 AM
6:30 A.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY
12:00 P.M. MON-FRI, SAT&SUN

SAN ANTONIO, TX

KSLR 630 AM
1:00 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY

Dear Listeners,

We hope you have been enjoying *Life-study of Isaiah*. We can see our wonderful Christ and His work throughout every book of the Bible, but in Isaiah we see Christ in a particular way. Not only do we see Christ from His incarnation to the new heaven and new earth in the New Testament, but we see this picture in Isaiah as well. Isaiah shows Christ as God incarnated in humanity to be the Savior of man, the restoration of the God-created, but fallen, universe, and the consummation of the new heaven and new earth for eternity. To develop further this thought of the consummation of the universe, we will dedicate next month's "What Is" article to the New Jerusalem.

As we go through the book of Isaiah, we see, on the one hand, God's chastisement in His love for His people, and on the other hand, His judgment on the nations for the fulfillment of His righteousness. God's chastisement of His people matures them and brings them onward to His ultimate goal of the New Jerusalem; God's judgment of the nations preserves His righteousness.

The message of the cross, the termination of the fallen creation, is prevalent in Isaiah's writing. We want to highlight this matter in this issue of *The Hearing of Faith* by discussing "What Is the Crucified Life?" Since the subject of Isaiah is Jehovah's salvation through the incarnated, crucified, resurrected, ascended, and coming Christ, we want to see how His salvation practically applies to us today. Thank you for being with us and considering this matter according to His Word and in His presence.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS THE CRUCIFIED LIFE?

"Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone wants to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." Matthew 16:24

"To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death." Philippians 3:10

To deny our self is to forfeit our soul-life, our natural life. The cross is not merely a suffering; it is also a killing. . . . Christ first bore the cross and then was crucified. We, His believers, first were crucified with Him and now bear the cross. To us, to bear the cross is to remain under the killing of the death of Christ for the terminating of our self, our natural life, and our old man. In so doing we deny our self that we may follow the Lord. (Footnotes 24¹ and 24³ of Matthew 16, New Testament Recovery Version)

(continued on page 2)

CRUCIFIED LIFE

(continued from page 1)

[To be conformed to Christ's death is] to take Christ's death as the mold of one's life. Paul lived a crucified life continually, a life under the cross, just as Christ did in His human living. Through such a life the resurrection power of Christ is experienced and expressed. The mold of Christ's death refers to Christ's experience of continually putting to death His human life that He might live by the life of God (John 6:57). Our life should be conformed to such a mold by our dying to our human life to live the divine life. Being conformed to the death of Christ is the condition for knowing and experiencing Him, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings. (Footnote 10⁴ of Philippians 3, New Testament Recovery Version)

In every situation related to our daily living, we need to ask ourselves whether we are living by the divine life or by our natural life. If we do this, quite often we will realize that we are living by our natural life, our self. At such times we need to go to the cross (Luke 9:23). To go to the cross is to be conformed to the death of Christ. Even while eating our meals we need to be conformed to the death of Christ. At times we may be tempted to complain about the kind or quantity of food that we are given to eat. However, to complain is to live by the self, not by God's life. . . . We are those who have been saved, regenerated, and separated to live not by our natural life but by the divine life. It is not a matter of whether we are doing something right or wrong; that is not the issue. The issue is, by what life are we doing it, by our natural life or by the divine life? To deny our natural life is a suffering to us. Every day and in every matter we struggle and fight with others to get what we desire. We like to do things by ourselves. To do something not by our life but by the life of another is a suffering. This is the Christian life. (*The Christian Life*, by Witness Lee, p. 173)

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Christian Life and The Triune God to Be Life to the Tripartite Man*, published by Living Stream Ministry.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF ISAIAH

"On that day the Shoot of Jehovah will be beauty and glory, and the Fruit of the earth, excellence and splendor, to those of Israel who have escaped." Isaiah 4:2

CHRIST AS THE SHOOT OF JEHOVAH

According to [Isaiah] 4:2, Christ is first the Shoot of Jehovah. The term *the Shoot of Jehovah*, which refers to Christ's deity, denotes the riches and the refreshing of life. A shoot out of any plant indicates that the life of that plant is vigorous, growing, and productive. The principle is the same with Christ as the Shoot of Jehovah. As such a Shoot, He embodies the riches, the refreshing, the vigor, the growth, and the productive power of the divine life.

CHRIST AS THE FRUIT OF THE EARTH

The term *the Fruit of the earth*, which refers to Christ's humanity and indicates that He grew up out of the earth, denotes the produce brought forth, carried out, and expressed in Christ's humanity. Of course, in order for this reproduction to take place, there must be the divine life. However, humanity is also needed. Suppose our Lord did not become a man through incarnation but remained simply in His divinity. What could have been produced out of Him as a fruit? The answer is that there could not have been any fruit. I would emphasize the fact that all of Christ's different kinds of fruits come out of the divine life, which is signified by the Shoot of Jehovah. But without Christ's humanity, it would have been impossible for the divine life to be productive in bringing forth fruit. The four Gospels show us that all the fruit born by Christ came out of the divine life, but it was produced in Christ's humanity. Therefore, the Shoot of Jehovah denotes the divine life in its riches, and the Fruit of the earth denotes the fruit produced by this life in humanity.

GOD AND MAN LIVING TOGETHER

For Christ to be both the Shoot of Jehovah and the Fruit of the earth indicates that He is the God-man. In Him God and man live together as one. The New Testament is a revelation of this very thing: it shows us God and man living together, with God as the life inwardly and man as the fruit outwardly.

As believers in Christ today, we need both the divine life and the human life. If we do not have the divine life, we do not have life. But if we do not have the proper human life to match the divine life, we will have no fruit. The New Testament reveals that, as those chosen and predestinated by God, we need to have the divine life expressed in our human living. If we have this, then in our experience we will have Christ both as the Shoot of Jehovah and as the Fruit of the earth.

Life-study of Isaiah, by Witness Lee, Msg. 5, pp. 32-33

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.

I would like the Life-study of Acts. . . I want to thank you, and we pray that God will keep blessing your ministry. We surely enjoy the radio program very much. We also enjoy reading the books by Witness Lee. He has put things into such a clear understanding that if anyone reads them and can't understand, they really need to pray first. For me, it is prayer first that opens my mind and eyes to see the clear understanding that Brother Lee put everything into. We went to the Spanish-speaking conference here in Fresno. [Note: The Spanish section of Living Stream Ministry Radio held a one-day conference on September 12, 1998, in Fresno, California.] We met so many nice people, and we had such a good time. We enjoyed the speakers. The thing I enjoyed best was the love each one had for the other. I enjoyed it so much I did not want to leave when it was over. Our main language is English, although we speak Spanish. I enjoyed the fellowship

so much that I'm praying we will have another conference. Once again, God bless you and our prayer is with you.

R. and R. Garcia, Fresno, CA

I have truly enjoyed Life-study of the Bible. The book of Hebrews was opened to


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MINISTRY. IT REALLY TOUCHES MY
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me in a wonderful way. May God richly bless you all as you continue to dispense and express our wonderful Christ.

B.S., Odessa, TX

Thank you for your radio ministry. It really touches my heart, deepens my love to the Lord, and encourages me to come to the Lord more often to receive His life.

Do you have audio cassette tapes for sale of hymns, either for children or adults? Instead of listening to worldly

songs I would like to listen to some spiritual songs.

D.C., Vancouver, Canada

I love your radio broadcast and your newsletters. I love you for sharing and bringing Christ to me. I love your New Testament [translation], the truth, and the life of Christ in me. He is the way. Amen.

H.B., Beaverton, OR

Thank you for your broadcasts and publications. We have been greatly benefited by them!

B.P., Memphis, TN

This ministry truly ministers to my heart. I truly am grateful for the teaching and for the expanded consciousness as one of its fruits. Thank you.

C.P., Sierra Madre, CA

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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.

A SIMPLE WAY TO TOUCH THE LORD PART 2

TRUE WORSHIP

"But an hour is coming, and it is now, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truthfulness, for the Father also seeks such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness" (John 4:23-24). To every Christian this true worship of fellowship is intended to be constant and life-giving. The true worship in these verses is not participating in and keeping certain rules, forms, rituals, and regulations, but rather calling upon the Lord from deep within, contacting and fellowshiping with Jesus Christ, the truth and the reality. The desire of the Father for us is that we may enjoy and participate in this true worship of touching and fellowshiping with His Son all day, every day. Whether on the job, in the classroom, driving a car, talking to a friend, or in meetings with other Christians, His desire is that we contact and fellowship with our Lord.

Again we have to praise and thank the Lord that He has not only told us that we must call upon Him, worshipping Him in spirit and in truthfulness, but He has also given us a very practical and simple way to touch Him in this true worship. The Bible gives us clear examples to show that we can touch and experience the Lord in worship by simply calling upon His name. In Matthew 8:2 we read, "And behold, a leper, coming near, worshipped Him, saying, Lord. . . ." Then in Matthew 15:25 we read, "But she came and worshipped Him saying, Lord, . . ."

These verses help us to see that we can participate in true worship at any place, at any time, and in any situation. Whatever our immediate circumstance may be, we can worship Him simply by praying, "O Lord, O Lord." Many Christians are discovering that simply to breathe His name, "O Lord," when they are tempted or distressed or just "out of it" brings them into a real touch and fellowship with the Lord and into full deliverance from self, sin, and the world. When

we cry in this way to the Lord from deep within, we have a deep inner sense of Christ and His life flowing and moving within us. In the Psalms we find that as the psalmists prayed to the Lord they cried "O Lord," over one hundred eighty times. On one occasion a psalmist said, "I cried with my whole heart; hear me, O Lord" (Psa. 119:145). On another occasion one said, "Then called I upon the name of the Lord; O Lord" (Psa. 116:4). Truly it is not a light thing to call upon the Lord, yet it is so simple and practical. In this way we can daily, moment by moment, touch and experience Christ as our inward satisfaction and joy.

The Bible gives another example of true worship in Revelation 19:4: "And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshipped God, who sits upon the throne, saying, Amen, Hallelujah!" Second Corinthians 1:20 says, "For as many promises of God as there are, in Him is the Yes; therefore also through Him is the Amen to God, for glory through us to God." And in Revelation 3:14 we find that "Amen" is another name given to Christ. When we cry "Amen" from deep within, we sense that we have touched Christ just as when we called, "O Lord, O Lord," because as His name is Lord, so also is His name Amen. . . . For us to cry "Amen" from deep within is to call on the Lord and to touch Him.

Hallelujah means "praise ye the Lord," that is, "praise ye Jehovah," and over and over again the psalmist used *hallelujah* in his worship and praise to God. The last five Psalms begin and end with this heavenly word of worship. We also find this word offered in worship to God in Revelation 19:1, 3, 4, 6. Today it is still the same. We can worship and fellowship with our Lord in the same simple way. All day we can cry, "O Lord! Amen! Hallelujah!" from deep within.

In summary, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came to this earth, lived a human life, was crucified for our sins, was buried, rose again, and became the life-giving Spirit. When we believed into Him, He as the Spirit came into our spirit, the deepest part of our being, to be our life and everything to us. Today, He as the Spirit is like the air to us—so fresh and so available. When we cry "O Lord!" or "Amen!" or "Hallelujah!" we take Him into us as the life-giving breath, supplying us with all the riches of Himself. Today we need to breathe these four words as our prayer and praise to God. From deep within just breathe, "O Lord," "Amen," "Hallelujah," and you will taste the sweetness and reality of Christ Himself. You will begin to realize more and more that His life is truly a saving life. 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 moment by moment, "O Lord! Amen! Hallelujah!"

A Simple Way to Touch the Lord, by Witness Lee, pp. 7-11

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.

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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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