

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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AND TO ENLIGHTEN ALL THAT THEY MAY SEE WHAT *the economy of the mystery is*, WHICH THROUGHOUT THE AGES HAS BEEN HIDDEN IN GOD...

EPHESIANS 3:9

Dear Life-study Listener,

For those of you who have *heard* Witness Lee's speaking, but have never had the opportunity to *see* him speak, we now have an option for you. Selected spoken messages by Witness Lee are now available for on-line viewing through Living Stream Ministry's Webcast Subscription Service. For information concerning Witness Lee's messages and other current ministry, please go to www.lsmwebcast.com.

In the beginning of next month we will start broadcasting the *Life-study of Job*. The experience of suffering that Job went through was not only a mystery to him, but to many today who read the account. Job said, "But You have hidden these things in Your heart" (Job 10:13). The footnote from the Recovery Version reads, "This indicates that Job could not find the reason for God's treatment of him, but he believed that there had to be some reason hidden in God's heart. Job was right; something was hidden in God's heart—the mystery of the ages.... Not knowing God's intention, Job misunderstood God and thought that God was angry with him and was judging him and punishing him. God's intention was not to judge Job or to punish him but to tear him down and then rebuild him with Himself, to make Job a new man in God's new creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15). This is the answer to Job, to the book of Job, and to Job's vindication."

We encourage you to order your printed volume of the *Life-study of Job* today so you can follow along with us on the radio and see more of God's purpose through sufferings.

Living Stream Ministry

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*

(continued on page 3)

SELECTED
Spoken Messages
BY WITNESS LEE

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AND PROPHETS
IN SPIRIT

EPHESIANS 3:4-5

Highlights

FROM LIFE-STUDY OF JOB

*"But You have hidden these things in Your heart;
I know that this is with You"*

Job 10:13

Job complained that God, knowing that he was not wicked and not acquitting him of his iniquity, ill-treated him without cause on his side and attacked him again and again according to what was hidden in God's heart (10:1-17). Job said to God, "Make known to me why You contend with me" (v. 2b). In verse 13 he went on to say, "You have hidden these things in Your heart; I know that this is with You." This indicates that Job could not find the reason for God's treatment of him, but he believed that there had to be some reason hidden in God's heart. Job was right; something was hidden in God's heart. Ephesians 3:9 tells us of the mystery hidden in God. This is the mystery of the ages.

According to Job 38:7 the angels of God (the sons of God) shouted for joy when God laid the foundations of the earth. The angels might have wondered what God's purpose was in creating the earth and man.

God's intention was not to judge Job or punish him.

Adam himself did not know why God created him in His image after His likeness (Gen. 1:26). God kept His intention hidden throughout the ages, not telling Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Isaiah, or any of the prophets. The Creator did a lot in His creation, but before the New Testament time He did not unveil to anyone what His purpose was.

The hidden mystery is that God in His Divine Trinity desires to be dispensed and wrought into His creation, man, to make man His duplication, to make man His expression. Not knowing this, Job misunderstood God and thought that God was angry with him and was judging him and punishing him. God's intention was not to judge Job or to punish him but to tear him down and then rebuild him with Himself. God knew that after Job had passed through a time of suffering, he would be rebuilt and become another person—a new man in God's new creation. This is the answer to Job, to the book of Job, and to Job's vindication.

The Bible of sixty-six books is for only one thing: for God in Christ by the Spirit to dispense Himself into us to be our life, our nature, and our everything that we may live Christ and express Christ. This should be the principle that governs our life. In a practical way, it should be today's tree of life for our enjoyment.

Life-study of Job, pp. 50-51

GOD'S ECONOMY (continued from page 1)

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....

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

*In God's economy,
He dispenses Himself
into His people as life.*

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. 7-9,
by Witness Lee

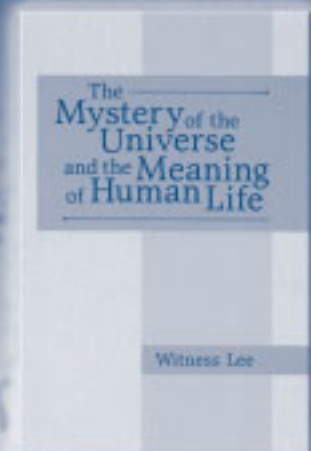
The Divine Trinity is for God's dispensing. The matter of dispensing is revealed in Ephesians 3:2 and Colossians 1:25-27. In these verses the word *stewardship* has the sense of dispensing. God's stewardship is the dispensing of the processed Triune God in Christ into His chosen, redeemed, and regenerated 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 MYSTERY OF THE UNIVERSE AND THE MEANING OF HUMAN LIFE



by Witness Lee
ISBN0-7363-2416-X

*But there is a spirit in man,
And the breath of the Almighty
gives them understanding
(Job 32:8)*

“WHEN WE LOOK AT HEAVEN, EARTH, AND OURSELVES, WE CANNOT EXPLAIN THEM. After all, what is heaven, what is earth, and what are human beings? Many astronomers and geologists, and some anthropologists as well, have spent much time on these questions yet have not been able to find the answers. We have to come back to the Bible to look at these questions” (p. 10).

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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.

KNOWING THE HUMAN SPIRIT

The Mind, the Flesh, and the Spirit

Romans 8:6 says, "For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the spirit is life and peace."...The mind represents the self, the body is the flesh, and our spirit contains the Spirit (Rom. 8:16). In our spirit is the Triune God (Eph. 4:6; Gal. 2:20; John 14:17) as the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17; 2 Tim. 4:22; 1 Cor. 6:17). Within us there are three parties: Satan as sin is in our flesh (Rom. 7:17, 18, 20), God is in our spirit, and the self is in our soul represented by our mind. To set the mind on the flesh means to take sides with the flesh, to cooperate with the flesh, to stand with the flesh.

To set the mind on the flesh is death. To set the mind on the spirit means to take sides with the spirit, to cooperate with the spirit, to stand with the spirit. To set the mind on the spirit is life and peace.

Discernment by Sensing

The way to know life and peace is by sensing life and peace. When you take sides with the spirit, cooperate with the spirit, walk in the spirit, and do things by the spirit, you sense life and peace.

An example may help to illustrate what the sense of life is. When I was a young boy, I attended a feast. On the table there were two kinds of white, fine powder: refined sugar and refined salt. I put a lot of salt on a certain food, thinking that I was using sugar. When I put the food into my mouth, I suffered. I sensed that the powder I used was not sugar, but salt. Though my eyes could not discern the difference between the sugar and salt, my taste could. This is the way to discern the spirit—by sensing.

The Sense of Life

The first item of the sense of life is satisfaction. How do you know there

is life within? There is satisfaction. You are satisfied and you sense the satisfaction. Then following satisfaction you have the sense of strengthening. When you are taking sides with the spirit, you also have the sense of refreshment. The sense of being watered is another sense of life. A person who is setting his mind on the spirit also senses enlightenment and the anointing (1 John 2:20, 27). The sense of life is the sense of satisfaction, strengthening, refreshing, watering, enlightenment, and anointing. When you sense all these items deep within, that is the sense of life, and this sense proves you are walking according to spirit.

The Sense of Peace

To set the mind on the spirit is not only life but peace. The peace mentioned in Romans 8:6 is not the peace in our outward circumstances, but the peace within us. The sense of peace is firstly the sense of ease or comfort. Then following this there is harmony. There is no struggle or strife within. Rest, joy, and liberty are also included in the sense of peace. When you sense peace, you sense comfort, harmony, rest, joy, and liberty. These are the different aspects of the sense of peace. If we sense these things within us, this proves we are walking in the spirit.

The Sense of Death

Whenever you take sides with the flesh the result is death. You know death because you can sense it. You have the feeling, the consciousness of death. When you do things according to the flesh or according to your self you sense dissatisfaction and emptiness. Something within is also weakening you. This proves you are not in the spirit, but in the flesh or the soul. Oldness, dryness, darkness, and depression are other aspects of the sense of death versus the sense of life. Strife, discord, discomfort,

restlessness, pain, bondage, and grief are aspects of the sense of death versus the sense of peace. When you have all these kinds of feelings, then you know where you are—you are in death. Don't argue or reason. Even if what you are doing is good and "holy," you must check with your inner feeling. Do you have the ease, harmony, rest, comfort, joy, or liberty?

The Christian Life According to Spirit

If you have these positive inward registrations and feelings, this proves you are in the spirit. If you don't have these kinds of feelings, regardless of how holy, how good, and how scriptural you consider a course of action to be, you are not in the spirit, but in the self, in the flesh. The Christian life is a life absolutely according to the spirit.

Our Human Spirit, pp. 66-68, by Witness Lee

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) 236-6020
Fax: (714) 236-6024
E-mail: radio@lsm.org
Web site: www.lsmradio.org

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