

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 56, DECEMBER 2002

"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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Dear Life-study Listener,

Thank you for your response to our recent book offer. We are happy so many of you let us know you are reading our newsletter each month and listening to *Life-study of the Bible* each day. Your accompanying comments of appreciation are especially encouraging to us.

Recently we concluded *Life-study of Second Corinthians*, and the final verse of Paul's Epistle gives us the opportunity this month to address the question, "What is the dispensing of the Triune God?" We use our regular "What Is" column in the *Hearing of Faith* to address terminology that may be new to our listeners or readers. This month we chose part of a long footnote on Second Corinthians 13:14 from the New Testament Recovery Version to give you Witness Lee's comments on the dispensing of the Triune God. We hope you find this helpful, and if you would like to seek out more on this subject, as usual, we have listed further reading suggestions at the end of the article for your study.

The believer's experience of Christ depends upon the Triune God's dispensing, so this matter of dispensing is great. Witness Lee wrote many hymns, and the Triune God's dispensing was often the theme. The hymn we selected on page two is an example, and we hope it will help bring you into further enjoyment of our wonderful Triune God who has been dispensed into us, the tripartite man!

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE DISPENSING OF THE TRIUNE GOD?

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

2 Corinthians 13:14

This verse is strong proof that the trinity of the Godhead is not for the doctrinal understanding of systematic theology but for the dispensing of God Himself in His trinity into His chosen and redeemed people. In the Bible the Trinity is never

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

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THE DISPENSING OF THE TRIUNE GOD

(continued from page 1)

revealed merely as a doctrine. It is always revealed or mentioned in regard to the relationship of God with His creatures, especially with man, who was created by Him, and more particularly with His chosen and redeemed people. The first divine title used in the divine revelation, *Elohim* in Hebrew, a title used in relation to God's creation, is plural in number (Gen. 1:1), implying that God, as the Creator of the heavens and the earth for man, is triune. Concerning His creation of man in His own image, after His own likeness, He used the plural pronouns *Us* and *Our*, referring to His trinity (Gen. 1:26) and implying that He would be one with man and express Himself through man in His trinity. Later, in Genesis 3:22 and 11:7 and Isaiah 6:8, He referred to Himself again and again as *Us* in regard to His relationship with man and with His chosen people.

The trinity of the Godhead is not for the doctrinal understanding of systematic theology but for the dispensing of God Himself in His trinity into His chosen and redeemed people.

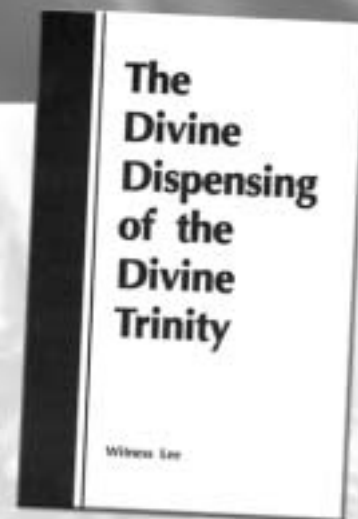
In order to redeem fallen man that He might again have the position to be one with man, He became incarnated (John 1:1, 14) in the Son and through the Spirit (Luke 1:31-35) to be a man, and lived a human life on the earth, also in the Son (Luke 2:49) and by the Spirit (Luke 4:1; Matt. 12:28). At the beginning of His ministry on the earth, the Father anointed the Son with the Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17; Luke 4:18) in order that He might reach men and bring them back to Him. Just before He was crucified in

the flesh and resurrected to become the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45), He unveiled His mysterious trinity to His disciples in plain words (John 14-17), stating that the Son is in the Father and the Father is in the Son (John 14:9-11), that the Spirit is the transfiguration of the Son (John 14:16-20), that the three, coexisting and coinhering simultaneously, are abiding with the believers for their enjoyment (John 14:23; 17:21-23), and that all that the Father has is the Son's and all that the Son possesses is received by the Spirit to be declared to the believers (John 16:13-15). Such a Trinity is altogether related to the dispensing of the processed God into His believers (John 14:17, 20; 15:4-5) that they may be one in and with the Triune God (John 17:21-23).

After His resurrection He charged His disciples to disciple the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19); that is, He charged the disciples to bring the believing ones into the Triune God, into an organic union with the processed God, who had passed through incarnation, human living, and crucifixion and had entered into resurrection. Based on such an organic union, the apostle, at the conclusion of this divine Epistle to the Corinthians, blessed them with the blessed Divine Trinity in the participation in the Son's grace with the Father's love through the Spirit's fellowship. In this Divine Trinity, God the Father operates all things in all the members in the church, which is the Body of Christ, through the ministries of the Lord, God the Son, by the gifts of God the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4-6).

The above is an excerpt from footnote 1 of 2 Corinthians 13:14 in the New Testament Recovery Version. For further reading on this subject, please see the complete footnote in the Recovery Version; *The Economy and Dispensing of God*; and *The Divine Dispensing of the Divine Trinity*, published by Living Stream Ministry

The DIVINE DISPENSING of the DIVINE TRINITY



IF WE LOOK INTO THE ENTIRE BIBLE from Genesis to Revelation, we could see God's works and also the goal of God's works. We can realize that God has been going on toward a goal. Some may say that this goal is simply God's full salvation. But what then is the goal of God's salvation? Not many Christians have seen the definite goal of God's salvation.

by Witness Lee
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