

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 14, JUNE 1999

“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

CHANGE OF TIME:

SAN ANTONIO, TX
KSLR 630 AM
7:30 A.M. SUNDAY

WASHINGTON, D.C.
WFAX 1220 AM
5:30 P.M. MON-FRI

CHANGE OF FREQUENCY:

DUBLIN, IRELAND
ABC RADIO 92.4 FM
7:30 PM MON-FRI

Dear Listeners,

As you probably have noticed by now, we began broadcasting *Life-study of Galatians* on May 24th on our daily stations. If you have been with us for the first few programs, no doubt you have been impressed, as we surely are, with the matter of how God's own life is dispensed into us, making the divine life the very source of our living (Gal 2:20). The picture of Christian life as that of a grafted life (Rom 11:16-17) is expounded and illuminated in such a clear way by Witness Lee in this life-study. We hope that you will continue to tune in and discover for yourself how this divine life operates within us. This vision of the grafted life has the potential to be one of the most rewarding truths we will ever discover in our Christian walk.

We concluded the first part of *Life-study of Exodus* with two messages on the preciousness of the blood of Christ. The blood of Christ gives us a clear fellowship with God and gives God a way to work out His dwelling place in men. From the many orders for the printed life-study volumes, we realize that you are appreciating this ministry on Exodus as much as we do. We encourage you to obtain these soft-bound volumes so you can get into the riches on your own.

Just a reminder that we will return to the second half of *Life-study of Exodus* toward the end of July. In the meantime, we trust that you will enjoy Galatians and how this book complements Exodus in our understanding of God's eternal economy.

Living Stream Ministry Radio

WHAT IS GOD'S FULL SALVATION?

“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.” Romans 5:10

As clearly seen in Romans 5:10, God's full salvation has two aspects—an aspect related to the law and an aspect related to life. Before we believed in Christ, we were sinners under God's condemnation and enemies of God. Through Christ's death on the cross, the righteous requirements of God according to His righteous law were fully satisfied, and we were redeemed by God (1 Pet. 1:18-19). All our problems with God were completely resolved by Christ's redemption. Through our faith in Christ we experienced the forgiveness and cleansing away of our sins (Eph. 1:7; 1 John 1:9) and were justified by God (Rom. 3:24), reconciled to God (Col. 1:21-22), and separated, sanctified, to God (Heb. 13:12). Redemption, including all of these items, is the first aspect of God's salvation, the aspect related to the law. It was required by God's righteousness and accomplished through Christ's death. However, redemption is only the beginning of our experience of God's complete salvation.

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GOD'S FULL SALVATION

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The second half of Romans 5:10 continues to say, "much more we will be saved in His life." The salvation in Christ's life is the second aspect of God's full salvation. It is also the goal and the purpose of God's salvation. God redeems us, forgives us, cleanses us, justifies us, reconciles us, and separates us to Himself so that Christ can enter into us to live in us (Gal. 2:20) and be our life (Col. 3:4). Christ's living in us accomplishes in us a further salvation, a salvation in life.

When we receive Christ by believing in Him, we are reborn, regenerated by the Spirit of God in our spirit (John 3:6), and we become children of God (John 1:12-13), having the very life of Christ (1 John 5:11-12). Our new birth is the first step in our experience of God's salvation in life. After being regenerated, we need to be nourished by the milk of God's word (1 Pet. 2:2) so that we can grow in Christ's life to experience the remaining steps of God's full salvation.

According to the New Testament, these steps include sanctification (to partake of God's holy nature and thus be made holy in our nature—2 Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:22; Eph. 1:4), renewing (to be made new, especially in our mind, by the Holy Spirit through the word of God—Titus 3:5; Rom. 12:2), transformation (to be changed metabolically in our inward being by the operation of Christ's life, from the image of Adam to the image of Christ—2 Cor. 3:18), building (to be built up in oneness with other believers to be God's corporate dwelling place—Eph. 2:22; 1 Pet. 2:5), conformation (to be conformed to the image of Christ, God's firstborn Son—Rom. 8:29), and glorification (to be brought into God's glory at the Lord's coming back and to have our bodies transfigured, redeemed, to be like the Lord's glorious body—Heb. 2:10; Rom. 8:23; Phil. 3:21). God's complete salvation, composed of God's redemption and God's salvation in life, makes us, the members of Christ's Body, the same as Christ, the Head of the Body, in life, nature, and appearance so that He and we together can express God corporately for eternity. This is our hope (1 John 3:2-3).

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Organic Aspect of God's Salvation and To Be Saved in the Life of Christ as Revealed in Romans*, published by *Living Stream Ministry*.

Highlights

FROM THE LIFE-STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 2:20 is a familiar verse in the Bible, but what does it really mean? Below is a portion from Life-study of Galatians on one of the basic items of God's New Testament economy: no longer I, but Christ living in me.

A REVELATION OF GOD'S ECONOMY

The Galatians had turned from God's economy and had gone back to the law, which they were trying to keep by the efforts of the flesh. But when we endeavor to keep the law in this way, we are far off from God. God's economy is not that we try to keep the law in the strength of our flesh. His economy is to work Himself into us. The Triune God has become the processed God. Through incarnation, Christ came in the flesh to fulfill the law and then to set it aside. Through His resurrection, Christ has become the life-giving Spirit, ready to enter into us. God's New Testament economy is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into us to become our life and our very being. If we see this, we shall be able to proclaim that we have been crucified with Christ and that we live no longer. Nevertheless Christ lives in us, and we live by the faith that is in Him and of Him. Our old person has been crucified, but the new person, the new "I," still lives. Now we live by faith in the Son of God and of the Son of God, a faith that produces an organic union in which we and Christ are one. There is no comparison between keeping the law and such an organic union.

Galatians 2:20 is a revelation of God's economy. In His economy God's intention is for the processed Triune God to be wrought into our being to make us a new person, a new "I." The old person, the old "I," the "I" without God, is over; but the new person, the new "I," the "I" with the Triune God in it, still lives. We live with Christ and by Christ. Furthermore, we live by faith, which is the means to bring us into oneness with Him. In this organic union we are one with the Lord, for we have one life and one living with Him. When we live, He lives. He lives in us, and we live with Him.

THE VISION OF CHRIST LIVING IN US

I believe that now we can understand what it means to say that Christ lives in us and that the life which we now live, we live by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave Himself for us. The experience portrayed in this verse implies that God in His Trinity has been processed. After Christ was incarnated, He lived on earth and then was crucified, buried, and resurrected. In resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit. After His ascension, Christ was crowned, enthroned, and made the Lord of all. On the day of Pentecost, He descended as the Spirit upon His Body. From that time until now, He has been working and moving on earth, seeking those who will appreciate Him and call on His name. Whenever we call on the Lord Jesus out of our appreciation of Him, He comes into us and becomes the living faith which operates in us and brings us into an organic union with Him. In this union we can truly say, "I have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me." This is God's New Testament economy. I hope that this vision will be infused into all the saints.

"I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."

— Gal. 2:20

Life-study of Galatians, Msg. 10, pp. 93-94