

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 34, FEBRUARY 2001

"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 THIS ISSUE

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF GOD'S ECONOMY?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM *LIFE-STUDY OF COLOSSIANS*
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—THE DIVINE DISPENSING FOR THE DIVINE ECONOMY

Dear Life-study Listener,

We hope you are enjoying *Life-study of Colossians* on the radio. We understand, however, many of you can no longer hear the program in your area. Because of the lucrative demand for other types of radio audiences, Christian programming as a whole is suffering as Christian stations are being sold or converted to secular formats. Please pray for the reversal of this trend so that Christian stations around the country can stay strong and the Lord's ministry can continue to be available to His seekers and lovers.

This month's issue of *The Hearing of Faith* is a somewhat special one with a particular theme of the wonderful process our saving God went through to reach us sinners and fulfill His purpose. The diagram on page two summarizes the process and draws attention to His goal of making His home in our heart that "to Him be the glory in the church" (Eph. 3:17, 21). Because the thought of God going through a process is so foreign, maybe even offensive, to many of our ears, our "What Is" article also focuses on this subject to help explain this important matter. This article is an excerpt from an entire Leviticus radio program on the subject, which was broadcasted in December. A transcript of that program is available for your further study.

Thank you for standing with us in prayer as we also stand with you for your increased experience of our wonderful Christ!

Living Stream Ministry

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

KLFE 1590 AM
8:30 A.M. MON-FRI

TACOMA, WASHINGTON

KKMO 1360 AM
9:00 A.M. MON-FRI

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF GOD'S ECONOMY?

We must pay careful attention to an expression such as "the processed Triune God" to correctly understand what it means. This matter is in the depths of the divine revelation, based on the Word of God and not on philosophy, religious mysticism, nor a self-invented understanding. The Bible clearly reveals that there is one God who is immutable in His essence and attributes; He does not change (Isa. 45:5; 1 Cor. 8:4). He is eternally the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. All Three are God (1 Pet. 1:2; Heb. 1:8; Acts 5:3-4), eternal

(continued on page 3)

GOD'S ECONOMY

(continued from page 1)

(Isa. 9:6; Heb. 1:12; 9:14), and coexist, meaning They exist simultaneously (Matt. 3:16-17; John 14:16-17). All Three coinhere, meaning They dwell in one another (John 14:11, 17, 20; 17:21). This eternal, coexisting, coinhering Triune God is, always has been, and always will be, perfect. His perfection in His eternal Godhead is not subject to change.

The New Testament, however, clearly reveals that God became a man (John 1:14). In this man, the Lord Jesus, the fullness of the Godhead dwells (Col. 2:9). Consider the steps through which He passed. God was conceived by the Spirit within

dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16). How can we approach such a God? How can such a God approach us? Yet, when He became a man, He became the light of the world (John 8:12). Now as the Spirit, He lives in us (Rom. 8:9), and we are the light of the world (Matt. 5:14). In His Godhead, God dwells in unapproachable light. In His economy, God has become the indwelling light of life in us (John 8:12) to make us a city of light situated upon a mountain (Matt. 5:14).

As we reckon with the totality of the divine revelation and attempt to describe what the Bible reveals, we use words such as *processed*. In

In His essence and Godhead, God is eternally without change; yet, in His economy, God in Christ has passed through a process to become the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit to get into us.

the womb of a human virgin (Matt. 1:18). Then He was born, and as an infant He was worshipped by the magi (2:11). That little infant was God. Isaiah 9:6 says, "A child is born to us, . . . called. . . Mighty God." This wonderful God-man lived a human life, died an all-inclusive death, was resurrected, and ascended. Now the God-man Jesus Christ, with His humanity brought into divinity by resurrection, is on the throne in this universe (Heb. 1:8). Furthermore, for God's economy, Christ as the last Adam, who is God in the flesh, in resurrection became the life-giving Spirit to impart life, which is God Himself, into us (1 Cor. 15:45b).

Here, then, is a profound revelation in two aspects: in His essence and Godhead, God is eternally without change; yet, in His economy, God in Christ has passed through a process to become the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit to get into us. God

Himself, God is immutable, but in Christ, God has passed through a process to become the life-giving Spirit. Therefore, we say that God, who is perfect and immutable in His Godhead, has become the completed God, the processed God, in His economy. He is not only the perfect God but also the completed God who is being dispensed into us for our experience and enjoyment (2 Cor. 13:14) that we may live Him for His corporate expression unto His eternal glory and satisfaction.

We all must open to the full light in the Word. If we seek only God Himself, we will eventually see that the God we seek is eternally unchanging and yet processed in His economy for our experience and enjoyment of Him. Praise Him.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Crucial Points of the Major Items of the Lord's Recovery*, by Witness Lee, and footnote 1 of 2 Corinthians 13:14 in the New Testament Recovery Version, published by Living Stream Ministry.

The HEARING OF Faith

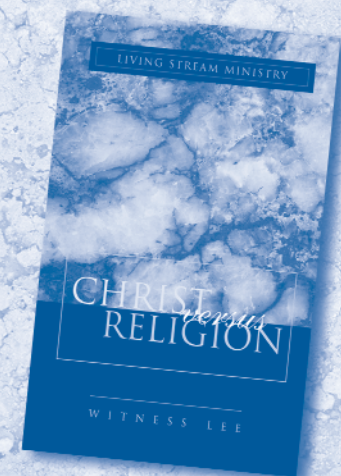
NEWSLETTER

Find all the
monthly articles
we have published
over the last 2 years
on the Internet

www.lsm.org

CHRIST *versus* RELIGION

Religion includes everything related to Christ or done on behalf of Christ that lacks the living presence of Christ Himself. Christ carried out His earthly ministry entirely outside of religion. The early followers of Christ also lived a vibrant Christian life apart from religion. The apostles charged the early churches to pursue Christ Himself rather than scriptural knowledge or outward observances. Even today Christ is calling His seekers away from doctrines, creeds, regulations, and all other forms of religion to a living and personal relationship with Him.



Christ versus Religion
ISBN 0-87083-010-4

Available at Christian Bookstores
through Anchor, Appalachian, Riverside,
and Spring Arbor Distributors.
Published by Living Stream Ministry
2431 W. La Palma Ave. • Anaheim, CA 92801
1-800-549-5164 • www.lsm.org