

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 46, FEBRUARY 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,

Internet listenership of *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* is growing. If you have a friend or relative that you would like to introduce to the inspiration and enlightenment you have received from our broadcasts, please tell them that they can hear all our past programs at www.lifestudy.com. More people are seeking the truth these days and are looking for serious Bible studies to help them. These past radio programs are an excellent aid for believers to come to the full knowledge of the truth (1 Tim. 2:4).

Recently a couple visited us here at Living Stream Ministry in Anaheim, California and toured the broadcast section where we produce our radio program. The husband made a comment that we would like to pass on to you for your encouragement. He said that our radio broadcast is similar to Philip in Acts 8:26-39 who brought the interpreted Word to the Ethiopian eunuch sitting in his chariot on the road. This was his own recent experience while he was driving his modern day chariot. He was going through radio channels when he found *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee*, which opened the Word of God for him, just as Philip did for the eunuch. May the "Philip" radio program find many more seekers of the Lord!

Everyone is invited to tour the Living Stream Ministry broadcast section. Call us at (714) 236-6020 to schedule a time.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE BRIDE OF CHRIST?

Christ with the church, as the bride of Christ, is a mystery, and the apostle Paul said that this mystery is great (Eph. 5:32). Adam and Eve as the most excellent picture in the entire Bible typify this great mystery. The Bible not only begins with this picture of a husband and wife but also consummates with the New Jerusalem prepared as a bride adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2).

After God created Adam, Adam named all the animals, but none of them matched him as his counterpart with his life and nature (Gen. 2:20). God

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

BRYAN, TX

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THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

(continued from page 1)

then put Adam to sleep and took a rib out of his side to build the woman Eve (v. 21). God used only what came out of Adam to make Eve. When Adam first saw Eve he said, "This time this is bone of my bones" (v. 23), recognizing her as part of himself, even his increase.

As Eve was built physically from the rib out of Adam's side, the bride of Christ is formed spiritually by the blood and water that came out of Christ's side on the cross (John 19:34) and is His increase (3:29-30). The Lord's precious blood cleanses us of our sins, redeeming us to become part of the church, His bride. The water out of His side refers to the flowing life of God (Exo. 17:6; 1 Cor. 10:4; John 7:38-39; Rev. 21:6; 22:1, 17). This water of life cleanses us from our natural life and saturates us with His life, making us Christ's spotless bride (Eph. 5:26-27).

Today many things in the church are not purely from Christ and therefore cannot be part of the beautified bride presented to Him. Ephesians 5:25-27 say that Christ gave Himself up for the church "that He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word, that He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish." This washing water is the cleansing by the life-giving Spirit through His instant speaking to us from the Word of God.

Christ gains His bride by redeeming us through His blood and by beautifying us through His ongoing

salvation in His divine life, indicated by the water. Every day we need to be washed not only in His blood but also in the water of His word to be sanctified until we are holy and without blemish. Then we can be presented to Christ as a glorious bride. Romans 5:10 corresponds to these two aspects of the bride's preparation, saying, "For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved

Christ will gain a pure bride who is one with Him.

in His life, having been reconciled." Through this preparation process, one day the bride will be ready (Rev. 19:7), so the angel eagerly said to John, "Come here; I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb" (21:9).

The entire Bible is a romance between God and man. Christ will gain a pure bride who is one with Him as John declares in Revelation, "The Spirit and the bride say, Come" (22:17). May we love our bridegroom Christ supremely and be daily washed in the water of His word to be prepared as His glorious bride, matching Him in His life and nature.

For further reading on this subject, see *The Glorious Church*, by Watchman Nee and *Life-study of Romans*, message 1, by Witness Lee, both published by Living Stream Ministry.

Life-Study of the Bible with Witness Lee

THE RADIO PROGRAM OF LIVING STREAM MINISTRY

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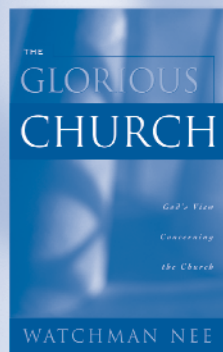
www.lsm.org/radio

THE GLORIOUS CHURCH

BY WATCHMAN NEE

GOD VIEWS THE CHURCH,
THE REDEEMED BELIEVERS,
FROM A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE.

Far from seeing her as defeated by the power of sin and sins, God views the church as the triumphant and glorious counterpart of Christ, who fully expresses the One who fills all in all. In *The Glorious Church* Watchman Nee discusses four significant representations of the church in the Bible: Eve in Genesis 2, the wife in Ephesians 5, the woman in Revelation 12, and the Bride in Revelation 21 and 22. In each instance, he presents the church's high calling to fulfill God's eternal purpose. Recently discovered handwritten notes supplement this new and fresh translation of



The Glorious Church, making it the most complete record of the messages given by Watchman Nee from the fall of 1939 to the fall of 1942.

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