

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 45, JANUARY 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

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GOD'S CENTER IS FIXED ON THE CHURCH in every locality, and everything else should be joined to this center. Therefore, our aim today is not merely to pay attention to overcoming experiences, victory over sin, preaching the gospel to sinners, and having prayers answered. Rather, we should go a step further and ask what we should do in order to be fitly framed together with other brothers and sisters.

Watchman Nee
The Assembly Life, pp. 11-12

Dear Life-study Listener,

Recently *Life-study of the Bible* conducted a seminar in London, England for radio listeners. We were very encouraged by the response from many of the Premier Christian Radio audience there. *Life-study of the Bible with Witness Lee* has been heard in London for two years now on Premier Radio, which is the only licensed Christian radio station in London.

During our recent trip to London for this seminar we met again with the precious Premier staff that the Lord raised up to carry out this important work in London. We were alarmed to discover the spiritual battle that is taking place for the Lord's interests over the British airwaves. Premier's broadcasting license from the British government is up for renewal soon, and there is a possibility it may not be renewed. God's enemy would love to stop the shining forth of God's truth from this beacon of light in England. So we encourage those whom the Lord would burden to pray for the favorable renewal from the British government. For further information regarding this struggle, go to Premier's Web site, www.premier.org.uk/licence/infosheet.html.

If you are a U.K. citizen, you can also help by writing a letter to the Radio Authority (care of Premier) expressing your support for Premier's application to renew its license. EVERY LETTER COUNTS!!! Please help us secure *Life-study of the Bible* for another eight years on the air. Write a letter of support as soon as you can, mentioning *Life-study of the Bible* and Premier Radio in the UK, and send it to Premier at: Letter of support, Premier Christian Radio, FREEPOST SE7009, London, SW1E 5YY, U.K.

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE BODY OF CHRIST?

According to the New Testament revelation, the Body of Christ is not an allegory or symbol. Rather, as the practical expression of Christ on the earth today, it is a reality. We need a spirit of wisdom and revelation to see this reality (Eph. 1:17).

(continued on page 3)

THE BODY OF CHRIST

(continued from page 1)

Of all the New Testament writers, only Paul speaks of the Body of Christ. Before Paul's conversion, he persecuted the believers. But the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Paul in a particular way. One day, as Paul journeyed to Damascus "breathing threatening and murder against the disciples of the Lord" (Acts 9:1), a light from heaven flashed around him. The Lord Jesus said to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?" When Paul asked who the Lord was, the Lord answered, "I am Jesus, whom you persecute" (vv. 2-5). Paul thought he was persecuting Christians on earth. Yet the Lord Jesus told Paul that he was in fact persecuting Him. The Lord Jesus considered His believers to be a part of Himself. To mistreat them was to mistreat Him. The revelation Paul received that day, and which permeated his ministry afterwards, was that these Christians were intrinsically joined to the resurrected Christ. Paul saw the union in the divine life between Christ and His believers. He realized that Christ, the Head, and Christ's believers, His Body, comprised one living entity in this universe.

Paul said that God gave Christ "to be Head over all things to the church, which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all" (Eph. 1:22-23). If the church is only the assembly of the believers who have no intrinsic life relationship with one another, it may be like a club or organization. The church, however, is not merely the assembly of God's called-out ones. It is the Body of Christ—not a lifeless

organization but a living organism whose members possess and share the divine life with the Head, Christ, and one another. The members, all of the believers in Christ, are many yet one Body (1 Cor. 12:12). This one Body is joined to Christ in the divine life and expresses the Head, Christ.

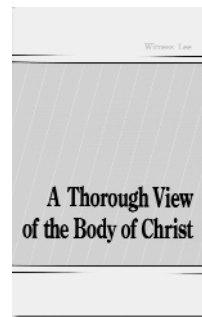
In 1 Corinthians Paul says, "In one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body" (12:13), showing that

This one Body is joined to Christ in the divine life and expresses the Head, Christ.

baptism is the unique way for us to enter into the Body of Christ. We, the believers of Christ, are baptized into the Body to be His members. Now we must grow in the life of Christ in all things so the Body may grow and be built up (Eph. 4:15-16). As His Body, we must arrive at the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (v. 13) so our Head, Christ, may be fully expressed in this universe.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Body of Christ* and *The Conclusion of the New Testament*, messages 210-212, by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST IS CENTRAL TO LIVING STREAM MINISTRY.



Witness Lee published many books on this topic. The following is a selection of some of them:

A Thorough View of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-512-2

The Building Up of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-400-2

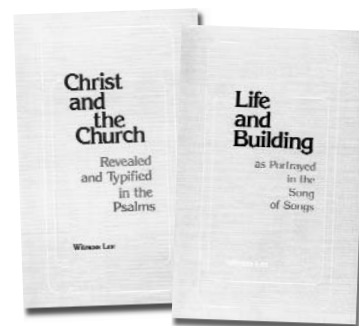
The Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-395-2

The Ten Great Critical "Ones" for the Building Up of the Body of Christ, ISBN 0-87083-937-3



Christ and the Church Revealed and Typified in the Psalms, ISBN 0-87083-021-X

Life and Building As Portrayed in the Song of Songs, ISBN 0-87083-024-4



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