

The HEARING OF Faith

LIVING STREAM MINISTRY RADIO NEWSLETTER

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"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

T H I S
I S S U E

- 1 LETTER FROM LIVING STREAM MINISTRY
- 1 WHAT IS THE ETERNAL LIFE?
- 2 HIGHLIGHTS FROM *LIFE-STUDY OF FIRST CORINTHIANS*
- 2 RESPONSE FROM LISTENERS
- 4 THE PATH OF LIFE—CHRIST WITH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION BEING COMPLETE SALVATION

Dear Life-study Listener,

We are happy to announce that *Life-study of the Bible* can now be heard in our country's largest city—New York—on WWDJ, a long-established Christian station. This is an answer to our prayers, and we hope you will tell your friends or relatives in New York City about the broadcast. Details are at the bottom left corner of this page.

Recently we finished *Life-study of Ephesians*, where we discussed the church in rich detail. Now we are studying First Corinthians, which is an illustration of the practical and actual Christian life, church life, and Body life. In this epistle, the apostle Paul addressed many problems in Corinth, such as division, sin, and the abusing of gifts. Yet, amid so many difficulties, Christ and His cross are revealed as the unique solution for every problem. If you have heard the programs or read the printed messages, we think you will agree that *Life-study of First Corinthians* shares this unique focus on the crucified Christ. Thank Him, for "God is faithful, through whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9).

Living Stream Ministry

WHAT IS THE ETERNAL LIFE?

To properly understand God's economy, God's plan, we must be clear concerning the eternal life spoken of in the Bible. The Gospel of John begins by telling us that in the eternal Word, who was God, was life and this life was the light of men (John 1:4). Throughout the book of John, life, the imparting of life, and the multiplication of life are mentioned repeatedly. There are over forty references to life in the Gospel of John and another fourteen in First John. In almost all these references, John uses a particular word for *life*, the Greek word *zoe*, which means "divine, eternal and uncreated life." In Greek, the language of the New Testament, there are three different words translated into English as *life*: *bios*, referring to biological life, common to all living

(continued on page 3)

Life-Study of the Bible

W E L C O M E S

NEW YORK CITY, NY

WWDJ 970 AM
9:00 P.M. SUNDAY

THE ETERNAL LIFE

(continued from page 1)

organisms; *psuche*, referring to the life of the soul or the psychological life; and *zoe* referring to the divine, eternal, and uncreated life of God.

The word *zoe* and the entire context of John's Gospel speak of the eternal life, the divine life that can enter man to give him a second birth (John 3:6). In John 3:16, one of the most famous Bible verses, the Lord Jesus says that when we believe into God's Son, we have this eternal life. The key to understanding what the eternal life is here is to see that it does *not* mean we will live forever in our human life or enter into heaven. For us to have eternal life means we have the *zoe* life, the life of God, which we did not receive by our first birth (John 3:1-6) but which we obtain when we believe into the Lord Jesus Christ (1:12-13).

The Lord Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly" (John 10:10). Unfortunately, many believers mistake this verse to mean that when we receive the Lord Jesus as our Savior, we receive an enhanced or enriched human life so things on earth will be easier for us and "life" (as generally understood by people) will be better. This is not what the Lord Jesus meant, and this is not what the apostle Paul, a pattern to all believers, experienced (Phil. 3:17; 2 Thes. 3:9). In John 10:10, the Lord spoke of the divine, uncreated, divine life of God. For us to have this life, the Lord Jesus, in whom this divine life was embodied (1:4), fell into the ground and died (12:24), and in resurrection He became the life-giving Spirit (1 Cor. 15:45b). Now this eternal life can be

imparted into millions of people through regeneration (John 1:12-13; 3:1-6), and thus the eternal life of God can be multiplied in humanity (12:24). In this way, God can have many sons, not adopted sons but ones actually and literally born of His very divine life with His divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4). These sons express Him not by a kind of imitation but through His life living and growing in them (Gal. 2:20; Phil 1:19-21).

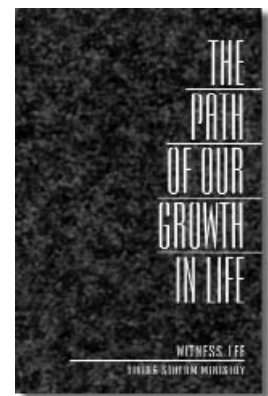
*Now this
eternal life
can be imparted
into millions of
people through
regeneration.*

This is the eternal life we receive when we believe in Jesus and that wants to grow in us (1 Cor. 3:6-9; Col 2:19). May we treasure this divine life within us and allow this life to grow and mature in us.

For further reading on this subject, please see *The Knowledge of Life* by Witness Lee, published by Living Stream Ministry.

FOR WE
ARE GOD'S
FELLOW
WORKERS;
YOU ARE GOD'S
CULTIVATED
LAND, GOD'S
BUILDING.

FIRST
CORINTHIANS 3:9



THE PATH OF OUR GROWTH IN LIFE

contains nine messages that lead believers along the path of the growth in life that they may enter into the identification with Christ's death and resurrection, see how human opinion is versus the resurrection power of God, and live and serve by revelation.

by Witness Lee

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