

life study of the bible by witness lee

life study of the bible by witness lee is a comprehensive and profound series of biblical teachings that delve deeply into the spiritual meanings and practical applications of the Scriptures. This extensive work aims to help believers understand the Bible in a life-transforming way, emphasizing the experience of Christ as life and the practical outworking of the divine truths revealed in the Scriptures. Witness Lee, a prominent Christian teacher and co-worker with Watchman Nee, developed this study to guide readers into a deeper appreciation of the divine economy and the church life. The life study of the bible by witness lee addresses crucial theological themes such as the nature of God, Christ's person and work, the Holy Spirit, the church, and the believer's experience in the Christian life. This article will explore the background and significance of this study, its core teachings, and how it has influenced contemporary Christian living and teaching. Below is the table of contents outlining the main sections of this article.

- Background and Origin of the Life Study of the Bible by Witness Lee
- Core Themes in the Life Study of the Bible
- Methodology and Approach in the Life Study of the Bible
- Impact and Influence on Christian Living and Teaching
- Practical Applications of the Life Study Teachings

Background and Origin of the Life Study of the Bible by Witness Lee

The life study of the bible by witness lee originated from the extensive ministry of Witness Lee, who was a close co-worker of Watchman Nee. Lee's ministry spanned decades during which he focused on expounding the Scriptures to bring believers into a living experience of Christ. This study emerged as a systematic compilation of Lee's messages and teachings, aiming to unfold the Bible's spiritual riches in a clear and practical manner.

Witness Lee's background in the Chinese church movement and his later work in the United States shaped the format and content of the life study. His emphasis on the church as the organic body of Christ and the practical outworking of the gospel in daily life became foundational themes. The life study series was designed to be accessible for regular believers while maintaining deep theological insights.

The Historical Context

The life study developed during a period of significant growth in the local church movement, particularly from the mid-20th century onward. It reflects the historical intersection between the Chinese house church experience and global evangelicalism. Witness Lee's teachings helped bridge cultural and theological gaps, making biblical truths relevant across diverse Christian contexts.

Compilation and Publication

After years of speaking and teaching, the messages were compiled into a multi-volume series known as the life study of the bible by witness lee. This series covers nearly all books of the Bible, providing verse-by-verse interpretation combined with spiritual application. The publication process aimed to preserve the original spoken messages while enhancing clarity and readability for study purposes.

Core Themes in the Life Study of the Bible

The life study of the bible by witness lee emphasizes several core themes that are essential for understanding the Christian life and the nature of God's work. These themes provide a framework for believers to deepen their relationship with Christ and live out their faith effectively.

The Divine Economy

One of the most prominent themes is the divine economy, which refers to God's eternal plan to dispense Himself into His chosen people to produce the church as His organic Body. This theme highlights God's purpose to make Himself life to His believers and build His church as a corporate expression of Christ.

The Life and Person of Christ

The study presents Christ not only as Savior but as the very life source that believers must experience. It explores Christ's incarnation, death, resurrection, and ascension as essential to receiving and living out the divine life. The person of Christ is central to all teachings, emphasizing His deity, humanity, and ongoing ministry.

The Holy Spirit's Role

The Holy Spirit is portrayed as the Spirit of life who brings the Word of God to life within the believer. The life study of the bible by witness lee explains how the Spirit applies Christ's redemption, enables transformation, and leads believers into deeper fellowship with God.

The Church as the Body of Christ

Another vital theme is the nature of the church as the organic Body of Christ. The study stresses the importance of oneness, mutual care, and growth in life among believers. The church is not merely an institution but the living expression of Christ in the earth.

The Believer's Experience and Growth

The life study focuses on the practical experience of the believer in daily living. It teaches how to walk by the Spirit, overcome the flesh, and grow in life through prayer, the Word, and the local church environment. Spiritual growth is presented as a process of becoming conformed to Christ's image.

Methodology and Approach in the Life Study of the Bible

The methodology of the life study of the bible by witness lee combines expository teaching with spiritual application. This approach allows readers to grasp both the biblical text's meaning and its practical significance for Christian living.

Verse-by-Verse Exposition

The study adopts a verse-by-verse approach to Scripture, ensuring thorough coverage and detailed understanding. This method helps avoid superficial reading and encourages deep engagement with the biblical text.

Practical Application

Each teaching point is connected to practical Christian experience, focusing on how believers can live out the truths revealed. This practical orientation distinguishes the life study from purely academic commentaries.

Integration of Theology and Experience

The life study carefully integrates sound theology with experiential reality. It does not separate doctrinal truths from the believer's daily walk but presents them as interconnected aspects of the Christian life.

Use of Scriptural Cross-References

Witness Lee's teaching often cross-references other biblical passages to build a comprehensive understanding. This intertextual approach enriches the study and reveals the unity of Scripture.

Impact and Influence on Christian Living and Teaching

The life study of the bible by witness lee has had a significant impact on many local churches and individual believers worldwide. Its influence extends beyond mere knowledge to practical transformation and church life renewal.

Influence on the Local Church Movement

The teachings have been instrumental in shaping the doctrine and practice of many local churches that emphasize the organic Body of Christ and the practical outworking of the gospel. The life study encourages a corporate experience of Christ and mutual edification.

Spiritual Growth and Maturity

Many believers attest to the life study's role in facilitating spiritual growth, helping them move from intellectual understanding to living experience. Its emphasis on Christ as life encourages continual growth and sanctification.

Educational Resource for Bible Study

Churches and Christian groups utilize the life study series as a foundational resource in Bible study and discipleship programs. The depth and clarity offered make it a valuable tool for teaching and training.

- Enhances biblical knowledge with practical application
- Equips believers for proper church life participation
- Encourages consistent spiritual practice and fellowship
- Provides a systematic study covering the entire Bible

Practical Applications of the Life Study Teachings

The life study of the bible by witness lee provides numerous practical applications for believers seeking to live out their faith effectively in everyday contexts.

Daily Spiritual Practice

The study encourages believers to establish daily habits of prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship. These disciplines are essential for experiencing the divine life and growing in grace.

Living by the Spirit

Believers are taught to rely on the Holy Spirit to overcome the flesh and to walk in the newness of life. This reliance transforms routine Christian duty into a vibrant spiritual experience.

Participation in the Local Church

Active involvement in the local church is emphasized as a practical outworking of the life study's teachings. The church is the organic context where believers grow, serve, and express Christ corporately.

Practical Outworking of Divine Life

The teachings encourage manifesting Christ's life in character, relationships, and service. This includes love, humility, patience, and other virtues that reflect Christ's nature in the believer's conduct.

1. Commit to consistent personal Bible study using the life study materials.
2. Engage regularly with a local church community for mutual encouragement.
3. Practice prayer and meditation on Christ's person and works daily.
4. Apply teachings on the Holy Spirit's guidance in daily decisions and challenges.
5. Focus on spiritual growth as a continuous journey rather than a one-time event.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main focus of 'Life Study of the Bible' by Witness Lee?

The main focus of 'Life Study of the Bible' by Witness Lee is to provide a practical and spiritual exposition of the Bible that helps believers experience Christ as their life and build up the church as the Body of Christ.

How does Witness Lee's 'Life Study of the Bible' differ from traditional Bible commentaries?

Unlike traditional Bible commentaries that mainly provide historical and theological explanations, Witness Lee's 'Life Study of the Bible' emphasizes the experiential aspect of the Scriptures, aiming to impart the life of Christ to the readers and to encourage spiritual growth.

Is 'Life Study of the Bible' suitable for new believers?

Yes, 'Life Study of the Bible' is suitable for new believers as it breaks down complex biblical teachings into practical and relatable lessons, helping them to understand and apply the Bible in their daily Christian walk.

What topics are covered in Witness Lee's 'Life Study of the Bible'?

Witness Lee's 'Life Study of the Bible' covers a wide range of topics including salvation, sanctification, the church life, the Body of Christ, spiritual growth, and the interpretation of key biblical books and passages.

How can 'Life Study of the Bible' help in personal spiritual growth?

'Life Study of the Bible' helps in personal spiritual growth by guiding readers to not only understand biblical truths intellectually but also to experience Christ internally, fostering a deeper relationship with God and enabling practical living according to biblical principles.

Where can one access the 'Life Study of the Bible' by Witness Lee?

The 'Life Study of the Bible' by Witness Lee can be accessed through various sources including official websites like Living Stream Ministry, Christian bookstores, and online platforms that offer digital or printed versions of the study materials.

Additional Resources

1. *The Normal Christian Life*

This book by Witness Lee explores the foundational truths of the Christian faith, focusing on what it means to live a normal Christian life through the divine life of Christ. It emphasizes the importance of being filled with the Spirit and living a victorious Christian walk. The teachings help believers understand how to experience Christ daily and grow in their spiritual life.

2. *The Economy of God*

In "The Economy of God," Witness Lee presents an in-depth study of God's eternal plan to dispense Himself into His chosen people. The book outlines the divine economy as God's purpose to bring believers into oneness with Him. It covers key biblical concepts such as life, the church, and the kingdom, helping readers grasp the full scope of God's administration.

3. *The Glorious Church*

This book focuses on the nature and building of the church as the Body of Christ. Witness Lee explains the church as the organic expression of Christ on earth, emphasizing the importance of local churches and the practice of the church life. Readers learn about the church's calling to manifest Christ and to be a testimony of God's eternal purpose.

4. *Life-Study of the Bible (Complete Set)*

A comprehensive series of messages by Witness Lee covering the entire Bible. Each book in the set provides verse-by-verse exposition with practical application for Christian living. The Life-Study series is highly regarded for deepening believers' understanding of Scripture and strengthening their spiritual life.

5. *The All-Inclusive Christ*

This book delves into the person and work of Christ, focusing on His all-inclusive nature as life, life-giving Spirit, and everything believers need. Witness Lee reveals how Christ embodies all the riches of God and how Christians can enjoy Him fully. It encourages readers to experience Christ as their everything in daily living.

6. *Living a Life of Praise*

Witness Lee presents the significance of praise in the Christian life, showing how praising God aligns believers with His will and strengthens their spiritual vitality. The book offers practical guidance on cultivating a lifestyle of praise amid various circumstances. It highlights the transformative power of praise in the believer's heart.

7. *The Practical Expression of the Church*

This title emphasizes the practical aspects of church life and corporate living among believers. Witness Lee discusses the need for oneness, mutual care, and proper functioning within the local church. The book helps readers understand how to participate actively in building up the Body of Christ.

8. *The Spirit of the Lord*

In this work, Witness Lee examines the role of the Spirit of the Lord in the believer's life. The book explains how the Holy Spirit operates to regenerate, sanctify, and empower Christians for service. It encourages readers to walk according to the Spirit and experience His fullness daily.

9. How to Enjoy the Bible

This book guides readers on how to read and enjoy the Bible effectively to gain life and spiritual nourishment. Witness Lee provides practical tips on prayerful study, meditation, and application of Scripture. It aims to help believers develop a deeper personal relationship with God through His Word.

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