

GETTING INTO THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Message One

Appreciating the Purpose and Value of the Life-study Messages

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 2:4; John 17:17b; Luke 24:32; Acts 8:26-31a; 1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:4; 4:6; Eph. 3:9

I. We need to see the value of the Life-study messages; the Life-studies and the Recovery Version of the Bible are our treasures in the Lord's recovery and a precious inheritance to all God's children—1 Tim. 2:4; John 17:17:

- A. Brother Lee daily prayed and studied the Bible for fifty years before he began to release the Life-study messages; he also read the great Bible commentaries; during the same period of time he was speaking for the Lord, preaching the gospel, expounding the truth, edifying the saints, and building up the churches.
- B. In 1974 he had a deep sense that we needed a life-study of the Bible in the Lord's recovery; for this purpose, he collected the best of the past teaching and incorporated his own experience, knowledge, and revelation; thus, the Life-studies can replace the many reference works Brother Lee used while producing them.
- C. The Life-studies are the best references to use in preaching the gospel and sharing the truth with fellow Christians; they are able to save us much time and labor.

II. We need to see the four purposes of publishing the Life-studies and the Recovery Version of the Bible—1 Cor. 2:13; 1 Tim. 1:4; 4:6; Eph. 3:9:

- A. The first aspect of the purpose is to provide the saints with a simple way to understand the truth in the Bible:
 - 1. Many of the expositions of the Bible in traditional Christianity may mislead their readers because they present the truth in a way that is difficult to understand.
 - 2. The Life-study messages and footnotes of the Recovery Version, however, help readers to enter into the knowledge of the truth in the Word through simple words so that every believer can understand them—cf. 1 Tim. 2:4; 2 Tim. 2:15.
 - 3. Instead of burying the truth in difficult language, these messages present the truth in clear words—cf. 1 Cor. 2:4, 13; 14:9.
- B. The second aspect of the purpose is to help solve the common and difficult problems in the Bible that hinder us from fully understanding the Bible—cf. 2 Pet. 3:16:
 - 1. In almost every book of the Bible there are a few points that are difficult to understand.
 - 2. In order to properly understand these points, Brother Lee spent much time consulting Greek dictionaries, lexicons, and concordances.
 - 3. Thus, the Life-study messages and the footnotes in the Recovery Version of the Bible provide a proper interpretation of many points in the Bible that are difficult to understand.
- C. The third aspect of the purpose is to minister the life supply to the readers—cf. John 10:10; Rom. 8:11; 1 Tim. 4:6:
 - 1. Regrettably, many books in traditional Christianity contain little life supply.

2. However, many saints in the churches can testify that by reading the Life-study messages even for a short amount of time, they receive a rich life supply.
- D. The fourth aspect of the purpose is to bring the children of God into His economy, which is His administration with His plan, His purpose, and His arrangement to attain His purpose for the fulfillment of the desire of His heart—Eph. 3:9; 1 Tim. 1:4.
- E. “I encourage the young ones among us to spend adequate time in the Life-study messages and the Recovery Version of the Bible so that they may receive a good foundation in the truth; if they do this, some of them may be able to develop the truth concerning God’s economy by standing on our shoulders, just as we stand on the shoulders of the great teachers of the Bible who have gone before us”—The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984, vol. 1, p. 64.

III. The truths conveyed in the footnotes of the New Testament Recovery Version and the Life-study messages are the cream of the saints’ understanding of the holy Word in the past twenty centuries—2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 2:4:

- A. The New Testament was completed during the apostolic age; however, for two thousand years man’s understanding of the New Testament has been incomplete; the Bible that is now in the hands of Christians has not been that open:
 1. Today there are many expositions of the Bible in Christianity; among these expositions there are also many interpretations of the truth; most of the interpretations, however, stop with the light and revelation of one hundred fifty years ago.
 2. The light and revelation in the Life-studies are up to date and also complete and rich.
- B. The style of writing used in composing the footnotes and the Life-studies is simple, yet the points presented are profound, and the contents are very rich, nourishing, and enlightening:
 1. After reading the footnotes and the messages on any particular book of the Bible, a person will surely begin to understand that book.
 2. Furthermore, the footnotes and the Life-studies were written with the purpose of solving many of the puzzling questions in the Bible in a brief and succinct way.
 3. These characteristics make the footnotes and the Life-studies very valuable.
- C. The Life-studies bring together the riches and essence of the Bible interpretations of the saints over the past two thousand years as well as Brother Lee’s own knowledge and experience of the Bible and contain answers to difficult questions, explanation of Bible passages, guidance, revelation, life, and light.
- D. One can say that the spiritual treasures throughout the ages have been gathered into one treasure box—the Life-studies—making it simple and easy to find the riches.

IV. The Life-studies are the best help in understanding the Bible and receiving the nourishment and life supply from it—2 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 2:13:

- A. In addition to loving God's word in the Bible, we also need help to study the Bible; regrettably, most of the books in Christianity are not helpful; it is for this reason that Brother Lee began to carry out the life-study of the Bible.
- B. Brother Lee used the term life-study to indicate that he wanted to teach others the Bible not merely in doctrinal knowledge but by ministering life to them—2 Cor. 3:6.
- C. If a believer loves the Word of God and reads it, he will receive some supply, but it will be difficult for him to enter into and understand the Bible.
- D. It is worthwhile to spend time reading the Recovery Version with footnotes and Life-studies every day:
 - 1. If the young people will spend time every day reading these materials, within five years they will have completed the Life-studies on the New Testament and will be excellent students of the Bible.
 - 2. Brother Lee had the assurance that everyone who finishes such a study would be greatly revived and burning in spirit, would have a proper knowledge of the Bible, a rich supply of the nourishment of life, would be equipped with the truth, and would grow in life; in this way many will become very useful for the Lord's recovery.
 - 3. If for five years the young people daily spend time to enter into the Recovery Version, its footnotes, and the Life-studies, they will be filled with Christ, the Spirit, and the divine life; if many young people do this, the Lord will have a new start not by outward organization but by inward life and truth.

References and Further Reading:

- 1. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1985*, vol. 2, "Fellowship with Elders and Co-workers in Taipei"; "The Propagation of the Gospel and the Administration of the Church," ch. 4.
- 2. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1983*, vol. 2, "Endeavoring to Learn and Propagate the Divine Truth for the Advance of the Lord's Recovery," chs. 2, 5.
- 3. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 1, "Being Built Up in the Truth and Growing in Life," ch. 4; "A Word of Recommendation concerning the Life-study Messages."
- 4. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 5, "Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—the Four Great Pillars in the Lord's Recovery," ch. 2; "Fellowship concerning the Practice of the Church Life," ch. 2.

GETTING INTO THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Message Two

Reading the Bible with the Help of the Footnotes in the Recovery Version and the Life-study Messages (1)

Scripture Reading: Deut. 6:6-9; 17:18-20; 31:11; Josh. 1:8; 8:34; Neh. 8:1-3; Psa. 1:1-2; 119:11, 147; Job 23:12; Matt. 4:4; John 8:31b; Eph. 6:17-18; 1 Tim. 4:13; Rev. 1:3

I. We need to see the importance of reading the Bible—Deut. 6:6-9; 17:18-20; Josh. 1:8:

- A. God's speaking to man today is based upon what He has already spoken in the past; even though a person may be quite advanced in his spiritual walk, God's revelation to him will still be confined to the words that He has spoken in the Bible; God's speaking today is merely a repetition of His own word.
- B. If a person does not know what God has spoken in the past, it is difficult for him to receive His revelation in the present because he lacks the basis for God's speaking.
- C. This is why we need to let the Word of God dwell in us richly; by letting His Word dwell in us richly, we know His past ways and hear His present speaking; only then can God use us to speak to others—Col. 3:16.
- D. "I regard reading the Bible to be more important than anything else...We should not consider reading the Bible as a pastime or think that other things are more important; reading the Bible is indispensable and cannot be put aside"—The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1960, vol. 2, p. 92.

II. To spend time in the Word is a necessity of life—John 6:35, 51, 57, 63, 68:

- A. On one hand, our busy schedules may make it difficult to spend time in the Word daily; on the other hand, however, it is actually not difficult to spend time in the Word if we have the proper realization:
 - 1. Even the busiest people still keep one practice—eating every day; everyone finds time to eat because he realizes that eating is a necessity of life.
 - 2. In a sense, we are threatened to eat, for we know that if we do not eat, we will die; in like manner, finding time to spend time in the Word depends on our realization of its importance—Job 23:12.
 - 3. Many saints today are spiritually sick and dying because they do not spend adequate time in the Word each day to contact the Lord; if we realize that touching the Word of God is a necessity of life, our concept will be changed.
 - 4. We all need to spend at least ten minutes in the Word every morning; we all can do this, regardless of how busy or tired we are; this will make a great difference in our spiritual life.
 - 5. If possible, we should set aside another five minutes to pray, to mingle what we have read in the Word with prayer.
 - 6. Spending time in the Word is to honor the Lord and brings us blessing.
- B. Spending time in the Word may be likened to meeting our physical needs:

1. Spending time in the Word may be likened to breathing, since it is to enter into God's breathing; whether or not we fully understand the words of the Bible, as long as we read them with a sincere heart and an open spirit, we will enjoy God's breathing—2 Tim. 3:16; cf. John 6:63.
 2. Spending time in the Word may be likened to washing; if we do not come to the Word of God for a period of time, our thinking, our will, and our emotion will be very dirty spiritually; however, if we read the Bible day by day, the Word will spontaneously pass through our mind, our emotion, and our will to cleanse our inward parts; even if we cannot retain every verse in our memory, we receive a great benefit from being cleansed by the water in the Word—Eph. 5:26, and note 2; cf. Exo. 30:17-21, and note 181 and 191.
 3. Spending time in the Word may be likened to eating; physically speaking, if we eat properly, we will be healthy; the principle is exactly the same with the spiritual life; we should build up a habit of spending time in the Word at least three times a day, just as we eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner—Jer. 15:16; Ezek. 3:1, 3; Rev. 10:9-10; Psa. 119:103; Matt. 4:4; Heb. 5:12-14; 1 Pet. 2:2-3.
- C. We need to redeem the time to read the Bible—Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5b:
1. Spending time in the Word of God is always profitable; it is an excellent habit; this habit keeps us in the Lord's presence and saves us from wasting our time.
 2. If we redeem the time by reading the Bible, we will grow and be healthy in the spiritual life.
- D. We need to take care of the principles of life rather than being superstitious:
1. If we do not eat, drink, breathe, sleep, or exercise, yet we believe that the Lord will have mercy on us to cause us to be healthy and live a long life, we are being superstitious; likewise, if we think we can neglect to spend time in the Word and simply depend on the mercy of the Lord for the church to be healthy, rich, and living, we are being superstitious, because we are not fulfilling the principles of life.
 2. We should trust in the Lord, yet we need to fulfill the principles that He has ordained for life; reading the Word, praying to the Lord, and contacting the Lord to deal with Him are divinely ordained principles that we need to observe; if we do not, we can never be healthy in the spiritual life.
 3. We need to take time to read and pray-read the Word every day; if we are faithful to practice this, we will grow spiritually and be fully and thoroughly revived; if all the saints do this, the whole church will be revived, and the meetings will be enriched and enriching; this is not a way of excitement or stirring up; it is the way of life.
 4. We should make a vow to the Lord to daily contact Him through His Word; if we build up such a habit, it will be a real glory to the Lord.
 5. "To live we have to keep some legalities; we must be legal about four things: eating, drinking, breathing, and sleeping; do you think it is too legal to eat three meals every day? Without such a legality you will soon be ready for a funeral! In order to live in a healthy way, you must eat, drink, breathe, and sleep...I encourage you to build up a habit of reading the Word daily, preferably in the

morning; make this a legality”—The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1978, vol. 2, p. 185.

III. The best way to read the Bible is to read it daily—Neh. 8:1-3; Psa. 119:147-148; Matt. 4:4; cf. Job 23:12:

- A. Since the Bible is food for our spiritual life, we must receive spiritual nourishment from it daily; just as we need to eat physical food every day, we need to read the Bible every day; we are healthy when we eat food every day, and we are healthy when we read the Bible every day—Matt. 4:4; cf. Job 23:12.
- B. We should not eat food one day and then fast for three days; likewise, we should not read the Bible in fits and starts:
 - 1. Just as our food should be apportioned to us throughout the day, our Bible reading should be apportioned in a measured and daily way.
 - 2. We should not receive too much or too little, reading too much one day and very little the next.
- C. Eating at specific times is the most healthy way to eat; similarly, we should set aside specific times to read the Bible every day; it is best for our spirit to read a specific amount of the Bible at specific times every day.

References and Further Reading:

- 1. *The Collected Works of Watchman Nee*, vol. 48, “Messages for Building Up New Believers (1),” ch. 9.
- 2. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1959*, vol. 3, “Lessons for New Believers,” ch. 6.
- 3. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1932-1949*, vol. 3, “Crucial Truths in the Holy Scriptures, Volume 3,” ch. 31.
- 4. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1978*, vol. 3, “Crucial Principles for the Proper Church Life,” ch. 1.
- 5. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1978*, vol. 2, “Life Messages,” ch. 2.

GETTING INTO THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Message Three

Reading the Bible with the Help of the Footnotes in the Recovery Version and the Life-study Messages (2)

Scripture Reading: Isa. 11:9b; 1 Tim. 2:4; 4:6; Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:2, 15; Eph. 1:17; 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:16

I. Reading the Recovery Version is a very helpful and reliable way for people to know the Bible, understand the Bible, and expound the Bible—Eph. 1:17; 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2:15; Jer. 15:16; Psa. 119:148:

- A. Throughout the centuries, translations of the Bible have steadily improved; in general, each new translation inherits from previous ones and opens the way for later ones; while a new translation derives help from its predecessors, it should go further:
 - 1. The Recovery Version of the Bible, following the precedent set by the major authoritative English versions and taking these versions as reference, not only incorporates lessons learned from an examination of others' practices but also attempts to avoid biases and inaccurate judgment.
 - 2. This version, frequently guided by other versions, attempts to provide the best utterance for the revelation in the divine Word, that it may be expressed in the English language with the greatest accuracy.
- B. Translating the Bible depends not only on an adequate comprehension of the original language but also on a proper understanding of the divine revelation in the holy Word:
 - 1. Throughout the centuries the understanding of the divine revelation possessed by the saints has always been based upon the light they received, and this understanding has progressed steadily.
 - 2. The consummation of this understanding forms the basis of this translation, the Recovery Version, and its footnotes; hence, this translation and the accompanying footnotes could be called the "crystallization" of the understanding of the divine revelation which the saints everywhere have attained to in the past two thousand years.
 - 3. Any proper interpretation or explanation of the Bible must be governed by the principles of biblical interpretation; Bible scholars throughout the ages have established the principles of biblical interpretation through more than nineteen hundred years of study.
- C. We need to see the features of the Recovery Version:
 - 1. The Recovery Version embodies extensive research into the meaning of the original text and attempts to express this meaning with English that is to the point, easy to understand, and readable.
 - 2. The subject provided at the beginning of each book and the outline of each book take the historical facts as their base and express the spiritual meaning in each book.

3. The footnotes stress the revelation of the truth, the spiritual light, and the supply of life more than history, geography, and persons.
4. The cross-references lead not only to other verses with the same expressions and facts but also to other matters related to the spiritual revelations in the divine Word.
- D. Today, as long as people open the Recovery Version, turn to any book, read the footnotes therein, and then read the corresponding Life-study messages, they will receive all the riches in that book.
- E. The Recovery Version and the Life-study messages are not only suitable for study but also easy to understand; hence, they enable us to know the New Testament in a full and detailed way.

II. We need to see the purpose of the Recovery Version with the footnotes—Acts 20:20; Phil. 2:16;1 John 5:16:

- A. The first purpose of the footnotes of the Recovery version is to present the truth, to bring you into the truth.
- B. The second purpose is to minister to you the life supply, to give you much nourishment.
- C. The third purpose of the footnotes is to solve the common and hard problems in the Bible, to remove all the obstacles on your “driveway” so that you may have a clear route and highway for a drive in your Bible study.
- D. The fourth purpose of the Recovery Version with the footnotes is to open up the books of the Bible, to “open up the mine” in the Bible, to expose the treasures so it is easy for you to dig out the treasures:
 1. In mining, the hardest thing is to open the mine; once the mine has been opened and the treasure is exposed, it is easy for someone to dig out the treasures.
 2. The intention and the goal of publishing the life-study messages is to open up the mine for you to go in and dig; this one matter of further digging has been left to us.

III. In order to get the benefit of these four purposes in full you must dive into the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-study messages—Eph. 6:17-18; 2 Tim. 2:2, 15:

- A. In order to be constituted with the truth, we need to pray-read and then study; pray-reading verses such as John 1:1 and 14 lays a good foundation.
- B. In our study of the Recovery Version there are three subsidiary items to the text itself: the outlines, the footnotes and the cross references:
 1. First, in reading the Recovery Version you must learn the outline; the outline is the first crucial item; some of the outlines are more crucial than the footnotes.
 2. The footnotes are very crucial; to be built up in the truth, we must study the text and every footnote.
 3. The cross references are not crucial, only helpful; if possible, it is helpful to take care of the cross-references.
- C. Then you need to study the Life-study messages:

1. You need to consider the text of the Recovery Version with the footnotes and the Life-study messages as a textbook; you must study them as a textbook.
 2. If you merely read them in a light way you cannot get into them; you will receive only a temporary nourishment.
 3. When what you receive becomes a truth in your being, this nourishment remains forever; if the truth gets into your memory, it becomes a constant and long-term nourishment.
- IV. Never forget the race between the hare and the tortoise; the tortoise wins the race; if we keep going slowly, we will win the race; we need to eat regularly, continuously, and slowly; do not go too fast, but go slowly; you will then reach the goal—John 6:56-58.**
- V. By reading the Bible with the help of the footnotes of the Recovery Version and the Life-study messages, the saints will touch the source of the divine life; therefore, we should exhort them to daily read and speak these words; if the saints do this daily, they will receive spiritual nourishment and a rich supply of life—v. 53; 2 Tim. 3:16.**

References and Further Reading:

1. *New Testament Recovery Version*, “A Brief Explanation.”
2. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1988*, vol. 3, “The Apostles’ Relationship with the Churches and Their Perfecting of the Saints,” ch. 3.
3. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 2, “Elders’ Training, Book 3: The Way to Carry Out the Vision,” chs. 1, 9-10, 13.
4. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 5, “Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—the Four Great Pillars in the Lord’s Recovery,” chs. 1, 5.
5. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 1, “Miscellaneous Messages Given in Irving,” ch. 3.
6. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1988*, vol. 2, “The Supply of Life and the Building Up of Three Habits.”

GETTING INTO THE LIFE-STUDY OF THE BIBLE

Message Four

Promoting the Life-studies in Order to Uplift the Standard of the Church and Bring in a Genuine Revival

Scripture Reading: 1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 1:13; 2:2, 15; 3:10, 14-17; Eph. 3:8-11; Acts 6:4; 17:11; 1 Tim. 3:2

I. We need to be nourished with the riches of Christ by reading the Life-study messages so that we can uphold the high standard of the church life—Eph. 3:8-11:

- A. If we are not nourished with the riches of Christ by reading the Life-study messages, the standard of the church life will remain low; it is by receiving spiritual nourishment in the messages that we can uphold the high standard of the church life—1 Tim. 4:6.
- B. In recent years many churches have experienced a revival by obtaining spiritual nourishment in the Life-study messages; the saints in these churches not only enjoy the riches of Christ by reading the messages but also enliven and supply the church meetings by sharing these riches with one another in the meetings—cf. Eph. 4:15-16.
- C. In order to raise the standard of the church life and hasten the progress of the Lord's move among us, we need to partake of the riches of Christ in the Life-study messages—3:8-11.

II. We need to promote the study of the life-studies to bring in a genuine revival in the Lord's recovery—Acts 6:4; 17:11:

- A. Now that all the Life-studies of the New Testament have been published, we hope that all the churches would take this set of books as the basis for their study and greatly promote the learning of the truth.
- B. In every church we have to help all the saints to study the Recovery Version of the New Testament, especially the footnotes, in a careful and thorough way.
- C. Now the way has been clearly presented to us, and everything depends on whether or not we are willing to pay the price; if we are willing to pay the price, in a relatively short period of time the church will make great progress in learning the truth.
- D. We should help the saints to build up a practice or a habit that every day they would spend at least thirty minutes in the Word—Acts 6:4; 17:11:
 - 1. This can be done by taking ten minutes in the morning, ten minutes in the evening, and another ten minutes before going to bed.
 - 2. We all need to build up such a practice to spend at least thirty minutes a day to get into God's Word.
 - 3. The best way is to charge the saints to study a book of the New Testament according to their choice; they should get into this book continually and every day.

4. We should charge them to pray-read two or three verses of this book every day; then they have to study the accompanying message—Jer. 15:16; 1 Tim. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15.
 5. They also need the help of the footnotes and the Life-study messages to enter into the truth; the saints need to take this way every day to get into the truth.
 6. After one year of studying the Bible in this way, there will be a solid change in the saints' home life, private life, and church life.
 7. It is not a matter of quantity but a matter of endurance; you must endure this kind of Bible study.
 8. We need to remind the saints week after week, and sometimes the elders need to give them some direction, some encouragement, and some incentive—cf. Rom. 15:15; 2 Tim. 1:6; 2 Pet. 1:12-13; 3:1.
- E. Try your best in your locality to stir up an atmosphere and to create a hunger and thirst in the saints for the Lord's truth; tell them that the truth is in the unique holy Word and that the best help to usher them into the Word is the Recovery Version with the footnotes and all the Life-studies—John 17:17; Eph. 3:3-4; Hymns, #806.
- F. If the saints do love the Lord's recovery, they must get themselves fed all the time with the healthy food so that they may be strong; as a result of eating a proper, regular diet, the saints will be strong, and the Lord will have a strong testimony—1 Tim. 6:3; 2 Tim. 1:13; Titus 1:9; 2:1.
- G. Today the reason that the gospel of the Lord cannot be spread is that we do not know the truth; the truth is the gospel—Eph. 1:13; Col. 1:5:
1. If we speak the truth in every place, we are in fact preaching the gospel in every place—Acts 8:4, 30-35.
 2. The entire Bible is the gospel of God, but it seems that we do not understand this.
 3. Now we have to turn this situation around so that all the saints among us will know how to speak the truth and preach the gospel; this will provide the Lord a broad way to fulfill His desire—Eph. 4:25.
- H. If the saints have Life-study messages everywhere in their homes, their spiritual condition will be greatly revived—cf. Deut. 11:18-21:
1. If they have the Lord's word, it will be impossible for them not to be revived.
 2. As long as we are willing to take the lead to encourage the whole church to read and to absorb what they have read, revival will definitely come.
 3. If we all rise up to study the truth and to know and pursue the Lord, this will bring in a big, long-lasting, and genuine revival of the church.
- I. We should have a burden to promote the Life-studies continent by continent until every household has the Life-studies, and every saint has the Life-studies both inwardly and outwardly:
1. The Life-studies are for teaching and helping people to read the Bible.
 2. When you read the Bible, your mind may not be enlightened even after reading it a hundred times—cf. Acts 8:30-31.

3. However, when you open the Recovery Version of the New Testament, there are footnotes that open the truth to you in the places you cannot understand—vv. 32-35; Eph. 3:3-4.
4. Once the word of the truth is opened, you will receive the revelation; then when you read the Life-studies, you will be enlightened even more; after you have read the Life-studies, the few verses that you have studied will be fully opened to you—Psa. 119:130.

III. We need to pursue the truth to bring in the revival; from now on, there should not be any more idle talk in the saints' homes; even when they converse, they should also study the truth—cf. Eph. 4:29; Col. 3:16:

- A. When we meet each other, instead of exchanging pleasantries, we should fellowship about the truth through mutual asking and answering; then the saints will make progress in the truth.
- B. We have to change the atmosphere and encourage the brothers and sisters to read the Life-studies:
 1. Even when we are facing matters related to national affairs, such as an election, we should not talk about them; let those who belong to Caesar be occupied with Caesar's business.
 2. As those who belong to God, we ought to be occupied with God's business—Luke 20:25.
- C. May the Lord be gracious to us by stirring up the churches all over the world to rise up and pursue the truth; if we endeavor for three to five years, the saints will be revived by studying the Word; this will bring in a big revival on the earth.

References and Further Reading:

1. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1977*, vol. 1, "Various Meetings in Anaheim," ch. 1.
2. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 5, "Truth, Life, the Church, and the Gospel—The Four Pillars in the Lord's Recovery," chs. 8-9.
3. *The Collected Works of Witness Lee, 1984*, vol. 2, "Elders' Training, Book 3," ch. 10.