

life study of the bible by witness lee

Life Study of the Bible by Witness Lee is a profound exploration of the Scriptures that combines theological insight with practical application. Witness Lee, a prominent Christian leader and co-worker with Watchman Nee, dedicated much of his life to the study and interpretation of the Bible. His teachings emphasize the importance of experiencing and enjoying the life of God through the Scriptures. This article will delve into the key aspects of the Life Study of the Bible, its methodology, themes, and its impact on believers.

Introduction to Life Study

The Life Study of the Bible is not just a mere commentary; it represents a comprehensive and spiritual approach to understanding the Scriptures. Witness Lee's goal was to lead believers into a deeper, experiential knowledge of God through the Bible. He believed that the Bible is not merely a book of doctrines but a living testimony of God's life and His eternal purpose.

Historical Context

- Witness Lee's Background: Born in 1905 in China, Witness Lee became a prominent figure in the recovery of the church and the teaching of the Bible.
- Influence of Watchman Nee: Lee was closely associated with Watchman Nee, another key figure in the Christian movement in China. Nee's teachings greatly influenced Lee's approach to biblical interpretation.
- Establishment of the Local Church Movement: After moving to Taiwan in 1949, Lee began to establish local churches and promote the study of the Bible as a means of spiritual growth and church life.

Core Principles of Life Study

The Life Study of the Bible is grounded in several core principles that shape its methodology and interpretation of Scripture.

1. Christ-Centered Approach

- Focus on Christ: Lee emphasized that the central theme of the Bible is Christ. Every book, chapter, and verse points to Him as the ultimate revelation of God.
- Experiencing Christ: The Life Study encourages believers to experience Christ in their daily lives, recognizing that He is not only the subject of study but also the source of life.

2. The Divine Revelation

- God's Purpose: Lee taught that the Bible reveals God's eternal purpose, which is to dispense Himself into humanity and create a Body, the Church.
- Progressive Revelation: The Life Study emphasizes that the revelation of God unfolds progressively throughout the Scriptures, culminating in the New Testament.

3. The Experience of Life

- Transformation: The Life Study reveals that the Scriptures are meant to transform the believer's life, moving them from death to life and from self-centeredness to God-centeredness.
- Daily Living: Lee encouraged readers to apply the teachings of the Bible to their everyday lives, making the Word a living reality.

Methodology of Life Study

The methodology of the Life Study is distinct and aims to facilitate a deeper understanding of the Scriptures.

1. Verse-by-Verse Analysis

- Detailed Exegesis: Each book of the Bible is examined verse by verse, providing insights into the original languages, context, and meaning.
- Spiritual Application: Alongside the academic analysis, practical applications are drawn from the text, helping believers to connect the Word with their lives.

2. Use of Outlines

- Structured Teaching: Lee's teachings often include outlines that summarize key points, making it easier for readers to grasp complex theological concepts.
- Memory Aids: The outlines serve as memory aids, helping believers to retain and meditate on the truths found in Scripture.

3. Emphasis on Prayer and Fellowship

- Spiritual Preparation: Lee encouraged believers to pray before studying the Scriptures, seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance for revelation and understanding.
- Fellowship Groups: The Life Study promotes group studies, allowing believers to share insights and experiences, fostering community and growth.

Thematic Exploration in Life Study

The Life Study of the Bible covers a variety of themes that are essential for spiritual growth.

1. The Life of God

- Divine Life: Lee taught that believers possess the divine life of God, which is essential for spiritual growth and transformation.
- Living in the Spirit: The Life Study emphasizes living according to the Spirit, allowing God's life to flow through believers.

2. The Church as the Body of Christ

- Mystical Body: Lee's teachings highlight the Church as the mystical Body of Christ, where each member has a unique function and purpose.
- Corporate Life: The Life Study stresses the importance of corporate life and fellowship within the church community.

3. The Fulfillment of God's Promise

- Covenantal Themes: The study explores the covenants God made with humanity and how they culminate in the New Covenant through Christ.
- Eschatological Hope: Lee addresses the hope of believers in the second coming of Christ and the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises.

Impact of Life Study of the Bible

The Life Study of the Bible has made a significant impact on both individual believers and the broader Christian community.

1. Spiritual Formation

- Deepened Faith: Many believers report a deepened faith and understanding of God through the teachings of the Life Study.
- Transformation: The emphasis on experiencing God's life has led to transformative experiences in the lives of many.

2. Establishment of Local Churches

- Local Church Movement: The principles of the Life Study have contributed to the growth of local church communities worldwide, emphasizing the importance of corporate life and mutual edification.
- Global Reach: The teachings have transcended cultural boundaries, reaching believers in various nations and contexts.

3. Resources and Publications

- Books and Literature: Witness Lee's teachings have been compiled into numerous books and publications, making the Life Study accessible to a wider audience.
- Training Programs: Various training programs and seminars have been established to equip believers with the knowledge and experience of the Life Study.

Conclusion

The Life Study of the Bible by Witness Lee offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered approach to understanding the Scriptures. Through its unique methodology and thematic exploration, it provides believers with the tools necessary for spiritual growth and transformation. The impact of this study is evident in the lives of countless individuals and the establishment of local church communities worldwide. By embracing the principles of the Life Study, believers are invited to experience the richness of God's life and purpose as revealed in His Word.

Frequently Asked Questions

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

The main focus of Witness Lee's 'Life Study of the Bible' is to provide an in-depth commentary on the scriptures, emphasizing the life and experience of Christ and how believers can live in accordance with God's purpose.

How does Witness Lee interpret the concept of 'life' in his studies?

Witness Lee interprets 'life' as a central theme in the Bible, highlighting that true life comes from a relationship with God through Christ, and emphasizes the importance of experiencing this life daily.

What unique approach does Witness Lee take in his biblical

exegesis?

Witness Lee employs a unique approach by combining scriptural interpretation with practical application, aiming to connect theological concepts with the believer's daily life and spiritual growth.

In what ways has 'Life Study of the Bible' influenced contemporary Christian thought?

'Life Study of the Bible' has influenced contemporary Christian thought by promoting a deeper understanding of spiritual life, encouraging believers to pursue a more experiential faith and a communal expression of their beliefs.

What are some key themes explored in the 'Life Study of the Bible' series?

Key themes in the 'Life Study of the Bible' series include the nature of God, the significance of Christ's life and work, the role of the Holy Spirit, and the believer's experience of salvation and spiritual growth.

How can individuals access the teachings of the 'Life Study of the Bible'?

Individuals can access the teachings of the 'Life Study of the Bible' through various formats, including printed volumes, online resources, audio recordings, and community study groups organized by the Local Church movement.

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