

Letter 07
Witness Lee
2011-08-02

Dear Dan,

Towards the end of the “Summer of 73”, I went on an adventure. It was during the Labor Day weekend of that year that I had an opportunity to take a trip with some fellow christians that had visited the small home “Jesus People” Church that I went to with my mom and brothers.

These visiting christians had come to one of our meetings to explain something about a gifted and dynamic new leader in the church, and described how he was bringing correction to the church by establishing a new denomination called “The Local Church”.

They invited as many as would come to hear him speak at a Local Church in Spokane over Labor Day weekend.

So, me being 14 and ready to start my Freshman Year in High School, I thought it would be cool to get a free round trip to Spokane. I really didn’t care too much about the evangelist, as I had heard my share over the years already. I just wanted to go.

Below is a copy of something I recently posted about the subject on a Bible Study forum that I frequent, (www.theos.org).

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Greetings Gentlemen,

Please allow me to recount my own experience with Witness Lee. I saw and heard him teach in person at a particular meeting in the living room of someone's house in Spokane, WA in early September 1973.

This was a small intimate gathering of about 30-40 young people, as many as would fit in the large living/dining room of a turn of the century house. I was sitting on the floor along with the rest, which formed a sort of circle in which Lee preached. At times I was within arms reach of Lee.

What I distinctly remember to this day is the way in which Lee tried to influence the crowd to follow him (Lee, not Jesus) and join his "Local Church" movement.

After saying a few things based in Scripture, he would say the word "Ho!", and the phrase "O Lord Jesus" (and like a cheer leader he would encourage the group to follow suit. After a while there was a sort of cadence that developed. Lee would say a few words, then the people would say or repeat after him LOUDLY - "Ho" or "O Lord Jesus"). I didn't know it

then but he was using these phrases as a mantra, a chant to highlight and implant whatever doctrine he was trying to convey into the minds of the people.

I remember just after the meeting sitting in a car being badgered by one of the elders of the house into believing in the Local Church movement, since it was the "only true church". I kept telling the guy that it was wrong and I didn't want to.

Then the following day, all the way home to the Seattle area where I live, the driver of the car kept going on how "they" (the Lee-ites and the Local Church) were going to take over the whole world with their belief system, and something about "spreading the fire". And of course interspersed with lots of "Ho!" and "O Lord Jesus!".

I was very happy when I finally got out of that car.

I don't know anything about the current status of the Local Church. I have heard that Witness Lee has since passed on. I do know that today (2011-04-03) if I were to run into a preacher with the same message, I would declare them to be a "wolf in sheep's clothing" and have nothing further to do with them, and warn others likewise.

Now, I see Lee's movement for what it was at that time as falling into one of two Scriptural categories:

Luke 21:8 And He said: "Take heed that you not be deceived. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am He,' and, 'The time has drawn near.' Therefore do not go after them.

OR

Rev 2:6,15 6) But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 15) So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

(<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lex...>

3531&t=KJV. Nicolaitans = "destruction of people" 1) a sect mentioned in Rev. 2:6,15, who were charged with holding the error of Balaam, casting a stumbling block before the church of God by upholding the liberty of eating things sacrificed to idols as well as committing fornication)

I was there. I saw and heard these things and remember clearly to this day what it was like.

For The King, (RT)

P. S. I have one regret about going to the meeting. While waiting to be picked up to go over to Spokane, I went to a grocery store and bought two or three Hershey's chocolate bars and a package of Colby cheese. Upon arrival at the host's house I asked if I could put my bag of stuff into the fridge. Over the next two days I took a few bites of the cheese and chocolate

bars but leaving the unused portions in the reefer to stay cold. But I forgot to take the bag when we left. To this day I want to go back and get it.

Oh well...

*"I shall try to correct errors when shown to be errors;
and I shall adopt new views so fast as they shall appear to be true views..."*

Abraham Lincoln.

Excerpt from a letter to Horace Greeley. 22 August 1862

=== Be Blessed. We Are Loved...

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Romanus Theophilus