

Living Stream Ministry

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AN OPEN LETTER CONCERNING THE WIDESPREAD VIOLATION OF LSM COPYRIGHTS

July 8, 2020

To the believers in Christ throughout the earth,

It has been brought to our attention that there are many sources on the Internet where one can obtain unauthorized and illegal copies of Living Stream Ministry (LSM) publications. These sources, whether a website, social media, email, or a messaging service, are causing much confusion and have become a great troubling factor to those believers who exercise themselves to always have a conscience without offense toward God and men. Some of these sources are quite deceitful, feigning to represent LSM and exhorting people to honor LSM's copyrights, yet at the same time, they are republishing LSM copyrighted materials and making them available for all to download.

To republish copyrighted material in any form, be it printed text, electronic text, video, or audio ministry, is a violation of International Copyright Law. Therefore, to republish and distribute LSM-copyrighted materials in any form without written permission from LSM is illegal, unrighteous, and therefore sinful. We ask the believers not to download these illegal publications and thus avoid participating in this lawlessness. We also ask those of you who are spiritual to shepherd your fellow believers by dissuading them participating in others' sins by receiving these illicit materials.

The danger in allowing the unrestricted republishing of our publications is that others are able to twist, distort, or otherwise adulterate a pure ministry by adding their own concept and flavor. This has happened often in our history; others were quite active in translating Brother Nee's ministry, yet they deleted or changed the content so that a different meaning would be conveyed in order to support their own opinion or doctrine. Such behavior is not only unreasonable; it is also unethical and unfaithful.

There are some legitimate online sources where a limited selection of LSM publications is available for free download; these are limited to Rhema Literature Distributors, Bibles for America, Bibles for Europe, and numerous other "Bibles for ____" entities in various countries, all of which are authorized by LSM. Numerous publications are also available through LSM's own sites, such as tracts, radio programs, etc. However, the downloading of material from www.ministrybooks.org is expressly prohibited. Furthermore, there is a link to LSM's Copyright Policy at the bottom of every page of our websites—www.lsm.org, www.livingstream.com, and so forth.

In principle, any LSM publication (electronic text, video, or audio file) that can be downloaded for free from a non-LSM website is an illegal publication and is in violation of International Copyright Law. Some attempt to justify their actions, saying that they are making the ministry available to the whole world. The same justification is used by those of whom the Lord Jesus says,

Not everyone who says to Me, Lord, Lord, will enter into the kingdom of the heavens, but he who does the will of My Father who is in the heavens. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, was it not in Your name that we prophesied, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name did many works of power? And then I will declare to them: I never knew you. Depart from Me, you workers of lawlessness. (Matt. 7:21-23)

Regardless of the motive, to republish and distribute LSM-copyrighted materials in any form without written permission from LSM is lawlessness. We ask those who are republishing LSM-copyrighted materials online to immediately remove them, and we ask those who are more mature to shepherd such ones in a spirit of meekness. We again implore the believers not to participate in this sin by downloading these illegal publications.

Grace to all those who endeavor to “live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age” (Titus 2:12).

In Christ,

The brothers who oversee Living Stream Ministry

P.S. This Open Letter may be freely reproduced and distributed.