

## Prayers.

Winifred and her family.

Trevor; Irene.

Eric and Family.

Margaret and John.

Roy and Beryl.

Joel's work in India

Joyce and her son  
Keith.

Blossom and her Family

Lynnette

Ruth

Bob And Sylvia

Shirley

Those have Fallen  
Away

To all our members who  
are not here for one  
reason or another.

That God may open  
people's hearts to the  
gospel and that God will  
add to our number.

### Study

ScripturesSay.com.

### Address:

Summer Lane Church  
of Christ, Geach  
street, Summer lane,  
Newtown, Birmingham. West Midlands.  
B19 2NN.

## Are you Spiritual, Religious, or Both?

There is in the popular mindset today, the idea that an individual can be spiritual without being religious.

I've seen this concept presented in some recently read articles. I've also heard such touted in some television programs on the subject. And, there are many people today who have bought into this idea that one can be spiritual without being religious. The mindset basically is this: everything that is associated with organized religion is "religious," whereas, everything that is associated with the individual person's heart is spiritual.

Hence, as long as I am taking care of my "inner self" by being "spiritual" then I don't need to be religious (by practicing some form of organized religion).

I want to ask two questions regarding these presuppositions.

**First**, is this a distinction that ought to be made?

**Second**, is God happy with such a distinction?

Perhaps we should begin looking at this subject by defining these two terms. The dictionary offers several definitions of the word "spiritual":

1. Of, relating to, consisting of, or having the nature of spirit; not tangible or material.
2. Of, concerned with, or affecting the soul.
3. Of, from, or relating to God; deific.
4. Of or belonging to a church

or religion; sacred.

5. Relating to or having the nature of spirits or a spirit; supernatural.

On the other hand, the word "religious" has the following definitions:

1. Having or showing belief in and reverence for God or a deity.

2. Of, concerned with, or teaching religion: a religious text.

3. Extremely scrupulous or conscientious: religious devotion to duty.

It should be noticed that there are similarities in both definitions.

Some things that are spiritual are religious and some things that are religious are also spiritual. However, those who set up such a contrast between the spiritual and the religious

have a special definition of each in mind. By "spiritual" they mean specifically, religious behaviour related to the mind (such as meditation, prayer, devotion, etc.).

By "religious" they mean behaviour that is associated with the activities of religion (such as the forms of worship, church attendance, participation in church activities, etc.). It's not that these individuals are opposed to what they consider to be "religious." It is just that they don't feel as if they need to engage in "religious" activities.

Is there a real distinction between the "spiritual" and the "religious?" There is a distinction inasmuch as there is a

difference between the inward person (spirit) and the activities of the outward person (body).

We see this in passages such as 2 Corinthians 4:16

"Wherefore we faint not; but though our outward man is decaying, yet our inward man is renewed day by day." And in our worship to God, there is such a distinction as well.

Jesus talked about worship being in spirit and worship being in truth in John 4:24.

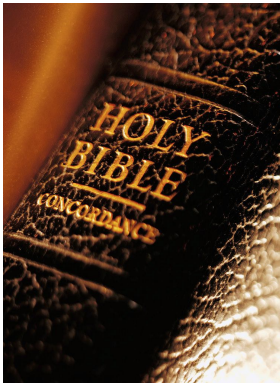
This would roughly correspond to that which is

"spiritual" (in spirit) versus that which is "religious" (in truth). So, yes, there is a distinction between the two words.

However, the Biblical distinction between these two concepts isn't nearly as great as what some are making it out to be. In fact, instead of promoting the idea that you can have one without the other, the Bible teaches that being religious is dependent upon spirituality and that being spiritual is dependent upon being religious as well.

Take for example what James writes in James 1:26, 27: "If any man thinketh himself to be religious, while he bridleth not his tongue but deceiveth his heart, this man's religion is vain. Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted ( **Con Inside** )

# Bible Studies for the Week of March 2nd 2008



AM Sermon .....	No Details Given ( <b>Trevor</b> )
Scripture Reading for Sermon.....	No Details Given
Adult Bible Study.....	The Church ( <b>Ricci</b> )
Scripture Reading for service .....	Daniel 7:1-14; Rev. 13
Sunday School Class .....	No Details Given
Thursday Bible Class .....	Daniel ( <b>Trevor</b> )
Ladies Bible Class.....	No Details Given
Men's Bible Class.....	<b>11 March 2008</b> A years Wages ( <b>Ricci</b> )

## Are you Spiritual, Religious, or Both?

*The problem today is that there are so many "religious" people who aren't spiritual, that this has driven many away from true religion*

from the world." One might think that controlling our speech would be a "spiritual" thing. But here, James speaks about it as being "religious." Visiting orphans and widows is also an activity that we would consider "spiritual." But again, we are told that this is "pure religion." The point here is that one cannot be religious without being spiritual.

The opposite is true as well. One cannot be spiritual without being religious.

Galatians 6:1 states:

"Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in any trespass, ye who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness; looking to thyself, lest thou also be tempted." Those who are "spiritual" are to be involved in "religious" activities, such as helping those who have gone astray to return to the church. Peter describes the church as a spiritual institution in 1 Peter 2:5. He says, "ye

also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." The worship that the church offers up to God is supposed to be "spiritual" in nature. Worshipping God entails that we involve ourselves in certain religious activities. Hence, one cannot be spiritual without being religious as well.

Returning to John 4:24, Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth." There is no doubt that God expects Christians to be spiritual. This is the basic idea of what it means to worship God "in spirit." However, Jesus didn't stop there.

He also said that we must worship God "in truth." We must have both the right attitude and the right actions, the right internals and the right externals. God wants us to be both

"spiritual" AND "religious."

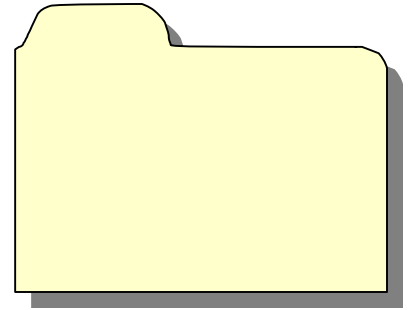
Really, when one starts examining the truth on this subject, one finds out very quickly the codependent nature of these two things. The bottom line is that a person cannot be spiritual without being religious and a person can't be religious without being spiritual. The problem today is that there are so many "religious" people who aren't spiritual, that this has driven many away from true religion. They have been turned off by the extravagant measures to which modern day "churches" go in order to attract the masses and have given up on practicing religion altogether.

But let's not throw the baby out with the bathwater. We can be both spiritual and religious. In fact, we must be if we are going to please God!

Let's resolve to be both spiritual and religious in the way that God would have it by following His word, the Bible. Here is the true standard for that which is both spiritual and religious.

# For The Files: Week Beginning February 24th 2008

Sunday Bible Class .....	8
Sunday AM Worship .....	27
Sunday School .....	1
Sunday Night Study - Once in the Month .....	
Thursday Evening Study .....	10
Contribution .....	£???
Budget .....	£100.00.



## Ricci's Corner. ( Special Collections)

### Special Collection Sundays

Brethren we decided last year that we would hold Two special collection Sundays each year. We all agreed instead of asking for a contribution randomly it would be best to have Two special days where we could give, and set that money aside to be used accordingly. Well the first Special Collection Sunday will be on **MARCH 30th 2008**, with the second being on **AUGUST 31st 2008**. These collections will be taken separately to the main giving of our worship.

### Home Churches.

Brethren as we are fast approaching the summer, and as such I thought it may be a good idea to set some home church studies up. Dates/times yet to be decided, but I thought that one Saturday in the month you could come to our house where the study will be on **a variety of topics**, and another Saturday we could go to **Joe Daly's** who has also volunteered.

Joes studies would be on different topics to the one that would be studied at our home.

We will keep you posted on the month/dates and times.

We thought we would run this through the summer months.

### Worship Upstairs

Brethren its great news that today is the first of many where we can worship our Lord in then upper room as such. As you will notice the stair lift has been fitted on the red stair case, so for those of you who find it a struggle to stair climb, use it! (Next Sunday)

### Sunday Adult Studies.

Brethren today we will have finished the last of many lesson in relation to the Lord and his church. I pray that you have blessed indeed by his words. Next week we will begin our study on the book of **"Ecclesiastes"**. This book asks three fundamental questions.

1. ***"Why am I here?"***
2. ***"What is the meaning of life?"***
3. ***"How can I be happy?"***

We will dig deeper to answer these questions.

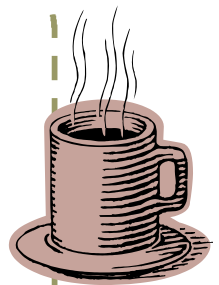
### Door Knocking.

Brethren for sometime now I have been thinking about other ways of spreading the gospel. As we are still in the first part of 2008 let us make a special effort in reaching out to lost souls! So with this in mind I have decided to do some door knocking around the Summer Lane area. Joe has also expressed an interest in helping in this outreach work.

I believe many years ago Summer used do this every year. ( 1985 for instance)

I give an open invitation to any of the brethren who would like to join us in this work, to let me know and we can all arrange the times and dates to suit. With the Lords help we will be able to set up studies with people who are searching for the truth of Gods word.

We are spiritual farmers looking for the harvest!  
Ricci



***John 4:24, Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth."***

## IMPORTANT INFO

We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!

**Phone:**  
0121 603 0296

0121 4433 145

**E-mail:**  
ricci.gambino@blueyonder.co.uk  
trevor.ralph@sky.com

Men's Class: Now: 11.03.08

7.30pm-9.00pm

Ladies Class: 05.03.08.

1.00pm- 2.30 pm

Praise Afternoon. 22/03/08.

12.30-4pm.

Special Collection: 30.03.08

Birthday: Rueben

Ask A Bible Question, Log onto:

**ScripturesSay.com**

## God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

# Welcome!

Visit our web site: [www.SummerLanecoc.com](http://www.SummerLanecoc.com)

## Times for Worship and Study.

Sunday Morning Worship .....	11:00 AM
Sunday Morning Bible Study.....	10:00 AM
Sunday School.....	10:00 AM
Ladies Bible Class .....	Every Second Monday 12:30 PM
Thursday Evening Bible Class.....	7:30 PM
Men's Bible Study Class .....	First Tuesday in the Month 7:30 PM

## Serving Each Other

*March 2nd 2008*

*March 9th 2008*

### Sunday Morning

**President**

Ricci

Eric

**Preaching:**

Trevor

Trevor

**Opening Prayer:**

**Scripture Reading:**

Ricci

Trevor

Eric

Richard

**Lord's Table**

Roy

Norman

Edwin

Philip

**Closing Prayer**

### Sunday Evening.

**Flowers**

Val

Margaret

**Tea**

Val

Margaret

**Building clean for March:  
08**

**All Please**

**ALL Please**