

Prayers.

Winifred and her family.

Agnes

Trevor; Irene.

Margaret and John.

Roy and Beryl.

Norman.

Joel's work in India

Joel's Father.

Joyce and her son
Keith.

Hazel

Yemi and family

Val, Daryl and Family

Blossom and her Family

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

Summerlanecoc.com
ScripturesSay.com.

Address:

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

Heaven's Advice on Farming

If you've read the Bible much at all, you've noticed that there are many images taken from what we might call the "country" way of life. That was familiar imagery to most people in Israel. Farming was the occupation of many. Those who didn't farm likely lived near those who did. God used farming terms to give needed advice in Jeremiah 4:3: "For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: 'Break up your fallow ground, and do not sow among thorns.'" That's it; only eleven words in the New King James Version.

But how needed is the advice in our time! "Fallow ground" is land that has not yet been tilled. Thus God advised his people to plough up portions of their land that had been neglected.

His warning against planting among the thorns made sense, for that would result in additional labour with fewer results. Farm-

ers today would look at this simple statement and agree that it continues to be good advice.

But farming was not God's point. He was addressing sinful people who had forgotten the covenant they made with him. To break up one's fallow ground would mean to give attention to areas of life that have formerly been ignored – righteousness, justice, mercy, etc. On the other hand, attempts to bring forth good out of wicked practices (thorns) will only result in futility. God was trying to turn his people's attention to things that would truly produce good. Another statement found later in the chapter throws additional light on the point: "They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge" (Jeremiah 4:22).

Why did they not know how to do good? Because that part of their lives had been left untilled. With evil they were more familiar;

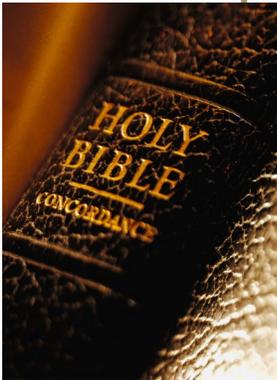
they had spent years sowing among the thorns.

Do these words apply to my life? As I consider the plot of life God has allotted me, must I confess that I've neglected large tracts which could have produced much good? Has most of my energy been spent among the thorns? Let's not forget how Jesus used these figures of speech: "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22).

This is God's field we're tending. One day we'll give an account of how we've used his resources.

It only makes sense that we should heed his advice on how to produce the fruit he desires from us.

Bible Studies for the Week of July 22nd, 2007



AM Sermon..... No Details Given (Trevor)
 Scripture Reading for Sermon No Details Given
 Adult Bible Study No Class Today
 Scripture Reading for service..... Genesis 19:12-29; Luke 17:20-37.
 Sunday School Class..... No Details Given
 Thursday Bible Class..... Galatians (Trevor)
 Ladies Bible Class No Details Given
 Men's Bible Class

Man Chose Satan's Way

“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1)



It never was the Father's will, That man should go astray. But Satan had an evil plan, And man chose Satan's way. Eve knew what God's commands were But she was lead astray; And Adam listened to his wife, So Satan had his way. God drove them from the garden; A life of pain began; And death was passed to everyone, Because of one man's sin. They lost their fellowship with God, Which never was God's plan. And so the world was changed that day, By the sin of just one man. But a way God has provided. Man can be reconciled. Through the precious blood of Jesus, We can become God's child. We must obey what Jesus says, If a child of God we'd be. We'll then receive His promise, Of life, eternally.

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus

Christ.) Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:17-21).

Personal Thoughts and Actions for the Week

“A person might have to suffer even when he has done nothing wrong. But if he thinks of God and bears the pain, this pleases God. If you are punished for doing wrong, there is no reason to praise you for bearing punishment. But if you suffer for doing good, and are patient, then that pleases God. That is what you were called to do. Christ suffered for you. He gave you an example to follow. So you should do as He did

(1Peter 2:19-21)”. Do I think of God, and patiently bear the pain of false accusations and punishment as Christ did?

It is never too late to start...

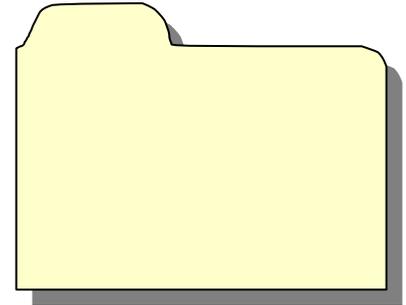
Brethren in my Sunday adult studies I have been talking on “Fundamentals”. The first topic discussed was “*Biblical Faith*”. We now come onto the topic, “*The Existence of God*”. Can I encourage you to attend these studies every week. **On time**, as I believe some of you are missing the message. Coming in late or even coming every other week means you miss the teaching and you raise points which we have already been debated. This is unfair for those who attend weekly.

Sunday Servers/Teachers

Please can you let us know if you intend **not** to be there on a Sunday to teach/serve please. Letting us know on the day is not the best, as children/men have already arrived only to be faced with no teacher or duties. So please if you are not coming **LET US** know before the day out of respect for others.

For The Files: Week Beginning July 15th 2007

Sunday Bible Class.....	8
Sunday AM Worship.....	29
Sunday School.....	1
Sunday Prayer Time.....	9
Tuesday Night Study - Once in the Month.....	
Thursday Evening Study	Printed Before Day Due To Holiday.
Contribution.....	£87.00
Budget	£100.00.



Ricci's Corner. (Does Truth Depend on the Situation?)

How do we make moral and ethical decisions? In order to follow the path to heaven, we must be very adept at making proper decisions. In Ephesians 4:14, we read, "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness by which they lie in wait to deceive" (NKJV; cf. 1 Peter 5:8). Satan has been fabulously successful with his weapons of denial and rationalization. He leads us to believe that there are no moral absolutes but that all truth is situational. Shrewdly, he convinces us that there are "no rules" and "the end justifies the means." Situation ethics says, "I know it is wrong, but everyone is doing it!" ; "Sex outside of marriage is wrong, unless we really love each other"; "This movie only has a few bad scenes in it"; "Stealing from your employer is wrong, unless your boss refuses to give you the pay rise you deserve"; "How can something that feels so good be sinful?" Modesty is one area where

situation ethics is often applied. People say, "It's summertime and it's hot"; "This is the fashion right now"; "All my friends are dressed this way"; "Men aren't supposed to be staring at me anyway." With situation ethics, we are holding ourselves to the wrong standard. We are comparing ourselves to friends, family, or society, rather than God. In 2 Corinthians 10:12, Paul chastises those who compare themselves to themselves and says "they are not wise." Biblical doctrine has not been immune to situation ethics. Christians will take a doctrine clearly taught in Scripture and say, "Times have changed. We live in a different culture"; "We all can't understand the Bible alike anyway"; "I know other Christians who believe this." This is a very dangerous doctrine that can destroy our souls because it places the situation as our sole arbitrator of truth, rather than the word of God. God believes resolutely in absolute standards. God decided what would be right and wrong before time began. Psalm

119:89, "Forever, O Lord, Your word was settled in heaven." Before situations, friends, family, fashion designers, magazines, and Hollywood starlets existed, absolute truth was settled. Situation ethics is unwise because it is "not in man to direct his own steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). Solomon wrote, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end is the way of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Situation ethics finds a way to satisfy our selfish desires. We will do anything to be at peace with ourselves. We will take something we want to do and rationalize until we can safely justify it in our minds. Then, if it goes wrong, we blame it on God so we do not have to bear the consequences of our sin. We must never forget that people will believe whatever gets them through the night. Leon Morris said, "The new morality is an excuse for doing the things deep down men know are wrong. Men have tired of following God's laws of absolutes, and are now looking for a 'way out.' Situationism is that 'way out.'" At the judgment, the unalterable truth of Scripture will be our judge (John 12:48; Revelation 20:11-15). Situation ethics will not bring salvation, but howls of laughter from Satan, the father of lies (John 8:44).



"We are away for a week, be back on the 29th"

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!

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Ladies Class; 23.07.07; 12.30
-2.00pm.

Sunday Night Study
29.07.07.

Ladies Day Out; 08.08.07;
See Irene For Details.

See Notices in the coffee
Lounge.

Birthday: Jonathon.

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

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

July 22nd 2007

July 29th 2007

Sunday Morning

President

Roy

Norman

Preaching:

Trevor

Gareth

Opening Prayer:

Scripture Reading:

Trevor

Norman

Lord's Table

Philip

Gareth

Norman

Roy

Eric

Ricci

Closing Prayer

Duties

Flowers

To Be Arranged

Miranda

Tea

Margaret

Khomoso

Building clean for July:07

ALL PLEASE

ALL PLEASE