

MINISTERING TO THE SAINTS

SERVICES	30 MARCH	6 APRIL
CHILDREN'S CLASSES	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin	Sui Lin, Priscilla, Josephine, Lillian & Ai Lin
USHERS	CHRIS & MARY YEOW	BENJAMIN & SALLY
BIBLE STUDY	<u>BARRY HATCHER</u>	<u>YEOW</u> Leadership Lessons from Bible Women
SERMON	Godly Families (Joshua 24:15)	YEOW : The Virtuous Wife, According To King Lamuel's Mother (Prov.31:10-31)
SONG LEADING	ENG KIM LENG	BENJAMIN
OPENING PRAYER	CHARLIE CHAN	ENG KIM LENG
SCRIPTURE READING	JOVIN	YONG ENG LIM
LORD'S SUPPER	TEE CHEE LIK & OOI CHONG HAI	OOI CHONG HAI & TEE CHEE LIK
COLLECTION	LIM YEW BOO	CHRIS LEOW
ANNOUNCER	YEOW CHIN KIONG	CHARLLIE CHAN
CLOSING PRAYER	EDWARD LOW	MAHIBAN
CHORES	BESSIE YEOW	BESSIE YEOW

PORTFOLIOS OF CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2008

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DAYBREAK



BENEVOLENCE**EDIFICATION**EVANGELISM

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A weekly handout for members of
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SUNDAYS:
9.30 AM
BIBLE STUDY
SUNDAY SCHOOL
10.30 AM
WORSHIP
2.30PM
MANDARIN WORSHIP

FRIDAYS:
8.00 PM
BIBLE STUDY

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that



CHALLENGING QUERY How is Ecclesiastes a guide to life? *Continued* Yeow Chin Kiong

There is a trick that Sunday School teachers use to help their charges memorize the number of Old Testament books along with the passage which most succinctly summarizes the Old Testament, indeed the passage which encapsulates the chief concern of the entire Bible. The passage is Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 (the numerics of which add to 39, the number of OT books) : "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all, for God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil".

The ultimate paradox of our present existence in the flesh is that while we have an intuitive consciousness of "eternity in our heart" (put into us by God, Eccles.3:11), our life-experience seems to be "vanity (Eccles.1:2 and 12:8), variously translated "meaningless" or "transitory". We are given a tantalizing glimpse of what God has in store for us, but by no means are we given the whole picture (Deut 29:29; I Cor.2:9-10)

Ecclesiastes' point is that there is nothing permanent about our material possessions, our conduct nor our experience which we can say constitutes the proper and worthwhile focus and purpose of our life, except in relation to our Creator. Scripture explains to us where human philosophy, unaided by Divine Revelation, fails, Divinely-inspired scripture explains that the whole of man is to "fear God and keep His commandments". If we are

STATISTICS FOR 23 MARCH 2008

CONTRIBUTION	RM2,
BIBLE STUDY	42
VISITORS CLASS	5
WORSHIP ASSEMBLY	60
FRI - BIBLE STUDY (21 MAR)	36
MANDARIN WORSHIP	13
MANDARIN CONTRIBUTION	RM350

And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

Joshua 24:15

at all to find satisfaction in life, it must be in pursuing this singular end. The "whole" of life, as far as we are concerned,- or should ever be concerned,- is not about what we can achieve, possess or experience, in and of themselves. Rather, it is about doing God's Will. If we are to talk of our achievements, possessions and experiences at all, it must be in the context of how they help towards our obeying God's Will.

Ecclesiastes tells us that God is our Creator (11:5; 12:1), Sovereign Ruler (6:2; 7:13,14; 9:1), and Judge (11:9; 12:14). It follows that all aspects of our lives must always relate to His Will. In simple terms, we are to fear Him and obey Him because someday He will judge all our doings!

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 is not complicated, but if elaboration is needed, we are to obey God because it is our duty (Luke 17:10). Some Bible versions add the word "duty" to Ecclesiastes 12:13, making it read, "this is the whole duty of man" The Hebrew does not have that word, but the message remains the same with it. A sense of duty towards God results from the interplay of our fear of Him and His authority and our love for the same.

The duty of obedience is taught everywhere in scripture (Luke 6:46-49; 17:10 Rom.1:5; 6:16; Hebrews 5:9; I Pet.1:2, 14, 22; II Cor.2:9; 7:15; II Thess.1:8-10; 3:14). However, many today are uncomfortable with the notion that commitment to Christian duty should be motivated by **fear** of God.

In this context, fear,- however defined,- is a good thing for it propels and compels us to keep faithful to the only purpose of our earthly existence,- which is to keep His commandments. Fear of God is the beginning of all wisdom (Proverbs 1:7; 9:10, Psalm 111:10). God does everything that helps us fear Him (Eccles.3:14; 7:18) for our own good for as long as we live (Eccles.8:12). Fear would include our creaturely awe and reverence at our Creator's attributes and actions, as well as fear of incurring His wrath (Romans 1:18-20; Hebrews 10:26-27, 31). Indeed, a consciousness of impending judgment in His hands should compel us to "fear God and give Him glory" (Revelation 14:7). Fearing God had been a duty imposed upon humankind from the days of the Patriarchs and the Law of Moses: *"Now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require from you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul (Deut.10:12).*

Nor is Ecclesiastes the only book in God's Word which tells us of the value of fearing God. According to the scriptures, godly fear leads us to hate evil, sin, pride, and arrogance (Exodus 20:20; Prov. 8:13), to be humble (Prov. 8:13; 15:33); to be a special object of God's protection (Psalm 31:19-20); to be confident and courageous (Psalm 112:6-8; Prov.14:26; Job 4:6); to experience true godly contentment (Psalm 112:5, 6, 8, 9; Psalm 34:9); to be free from the fear of men (Isaiah 41:10; Matt. 10:28; Deut.1:17) and, most important, to be

ready to receive and respond to the message of salvation in Jesus Christ (Acts 13:16-41).

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 is undoubtedly hard and harsh instruction but it is true and, after all, the words of the wise are like painful but helpful cattle-prods and nail-studded sticks with which shepherds drive their sheep (Eccles.12:11). And we are all like sheep who have gone astray (Isaiah 53:6). Of course, as much as out of fear, obedience is also called for out of our love for Him and His Son (John 14:15; 15:10-14) and as proof that we know God and abide in Him (I John 2:3-6).

JOIN US FOR A STUDY OF *ECCLESIASTES* IN RELATION TO THE 1941 MOVIE, *CITIZEN KANE*, ON FRIDAY 4 & 18 APRIL @ 8 PM

SJ NEWS UPDATE

OUR GUESTS LAST WEEK

Fri - Seow Leng & Angie Ng (Bessie's guests)

Sun - Gopi, Soon Hong & Stephanie Khoo (SJ's guests) * Ekeh Josiah (Yau Kong's guest)* Pui Yee (Daniel's wife) * William (Sui Lin's husband)

OUR VISITORS LAST WEEK

Fri - Allan & Family (Malacca) * Rajendran (KL)

Sun - Allan & family (Malacca) * Stuart Danial and Philip & Helen George (KL) * Karen Lee (JB) * Mandarin - Soo, Ee Ren * Ee Gene (Klang) * Sis Chang (Jurong) * Candy (Kuantan)

PRAYER REQUESTS : For the health of: Doris Chan (KL), Francis, Katherine, Frank Pierce, Mahiban, Gary, Mr Chiah Tee Sang (Sis Tee's brother-in-law), Ah Ngen (Han's brother), Steven How (*Daybreak* printer) * Santhi and family * Yik Min's grandmother * DiPalmas' work in India * Charlie DiPalma's eyesight*

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR LEELA & FAMILY: As she rests at home after chemotherapy

OUR APPRECIATION TO: Barry Hatcher for his lessons on *Godly Families* last Friday and this morning. We are indeed edified..

AWAY FROM US THIS MORNING: Richard in Ipoh

HAPPENINGS THIS WEEK:

- Eng's home fellowship at 8pm, Tuesday, 1 April 2008
- Chans' home fellowship at 8pm, Wednesday, 2 April 2008

CHURCH LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP TODAY: We thank all who brought food to share, Sis Audrey for coordinating and those who will be doing the washing-up.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. Health talk on allergy by Dr See on 12 April organized by Ladies Fellowship
2. Evangelism Seminar 1 May 2008
3. Ladies Fellowship - Kuantan trip on 10 May co-ordinated by Bessie