

w/b 9th August 2015 Study notes for small groups

A Tale of Two Trees (Eric Beaumont)

1. Read: **Romans 1v16-17**

Jesus died on the tree (of Knowledge?) to set us free from the power of fruit of the tree of knowledge . He set us free to live by faith again and enter into the riches of the fruit of the tree of tree of life.

...and...

2. Read: **Rev.22v2**

The flaming sword barred the way to the tree of life. The sword is the word of God. We come back to the tree of life through the WORD - Jesus, and the living word he speaks. We must die to life of the tree of knowledge to enter again the life of the tree of life.

- What exactly does it mean to die to the life of the tree of knowledge? How does the tree of knowledge destroy our relationship with God?
- Is that death the same for everyone or does it differ from person to person?
- Is intelligence a barrier to becoming a Christian? Why or why not?
- How does one go about gaining life from the tree of life? How does this process work?

3. Read: **Romans 4:13-16**

¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all.

We are heirs of the world by faith. The Lord is looking for those who will take him at his word.

- Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Discuss.

4. **Difficult questions**

- Hard decisions. How do we work out whether our choices regarding difficult decisions are from the tree of knowledge or the tree of life?
- Living by the Spirit or the flesh. If it is by faith that we live according to God's Spirit, how do I get the Lord's help to make it work?
- If I am an heir to the world, where is my area of authority and responsibility in the church and the world?
- How do we take hold of our inheritance?