

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
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www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

August 19, 2007

## Making history

by David King

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you build the tombs of the prophets and adorn the monuments of the righteous, and say, 'If we had lived in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.' Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of your fathers' guilt" (Matt. 23:29-32).

This passage illustrates a curious feature of human nature. Like the scribes and Pharisees, we usually have no problem recognizing the mistakes of history; yet we struggle to see the very same mistakes in ourselves.

People use different lenses when viewing the present and viewing the past. When looking at history, we are usually dealing with broad, sweeping patterns of events. But the present is consumed with our personal affairs, all the little daily issues that make life so personal. It never occurs to us that history is, in fact, the sum total of all the "little" personal histories of all those who have lived before us.

Consequently, we don't see the connection between our personal lives and history. We view history as something that happens to other people. It never occurs to us that WE are making history ourselves. We can make the same mistakes as past generations and not recognize what we're doing, because "that's different." So just as we look back on the scribes and Pharisees and say, "How foolish!", future generations might look back on us and say, "what were they thinking?!"

Clearly, we need to do a better job of seeing our role as participants in history.

In a way, it is good that we are not conscious of our role in writing tomorrow's history books. Those who deliberately set out to build a legacy for themselves usually end up being manipulative and vain.

Nevertheless, we do need to maintain an awareness of our place in history, if only to recognize the impact that our actions will have on future generations, for good or evil. What can we do to assure that our own place in history is an honorable one?

First, we should be students of history. We should read history, not as a museum of stale facts and dates, but as the stories of men and women just like ourselves, people who were too busy coping with their daily lives to recognize their own place in history. Although historical accounts tend to focus on those in positions of power, try to catch a glimpse of what ordinary people were doing. This exercise will help us discern the connections between what individuals do in their personal lives, and how those decisions influence the course of history.

The second task is an outcome of the first: we should remember that history will judge us not for our homes, our recreation, or our jobs, but for our character. How do we treat our fellow man? What values motivate our behavior? What is really important to us? Doesn't it make sense, then, that these are the issues that should dominate our lives in the present?

In the end, the best way to assure our place in history, is to live for eternity.