

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

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## 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)*

November 25, 2007

## A home for the lonely

by David King

"God sets the solitary in families; He brings out those who are bound into prosperity; but the rebellious dwell in a dry land" (Psa. 68:6).

The NASV renders the first line of this verse, "God makes a home for the lonely." The context is describing God's compassion for the weak. For those who are lonely, His special gift is the **family**, a home where fears and masks are set aside, and unconditional love is bestowed on everyone.

The truth of this Psalm was demonstrated literally in the Garden of Eden, when God saw that "it is not good that man should be alone." So He gave Adam a special companion with whom he could spend the rest of his life (Gen. 2:18). Elsewhere in the Bible, this special relationship between a husband and wife is held up as the purest source of human companionship (Prov. 5:18-19; Prov. 31:10f; Eccl. 9:9). The children who bless this arrangement are described as a source of happiness (Psa. 127:3-5; Psa. 128:2-4). In a sin-cursed world, nothing is perfect, and every family must deal with its share of bumps and bruises. But history has shown that there is no substitute for the family as a source of emotional strength.

Of course, this is the ideal, and life sometimes falls short of the ideal. Spouses and parents die young, or poor decisions are made that tear families apart and leave the innocent alone and hurting. But even then, other families can step in to make up for some of the loss. Part of Job's righteousness was his willingness to share his home with those whose families were broken (Job 31:17-18).

In the New Testament, when the Lord chose language to describe the special relationship among those who would embrace the new religion of Christ, He used the family as the model. So they are called "brothers" in "the family of God" (1 Pet. 3:8; Eph. 2:19). Even if someone is denied the joy of a biological family, they can enjoy the love and affection of a whole group of fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters (1 Tim. 5:1-2).

There are three simple but powerful lessons that we can learn from this study.

First, we must work hard to make our homes the best possible examples of what God intended they be: little beacons of happiness that show the world God's solution to loneliness. This is especially critical for the sake of our children, who will be entrusted with carrying on the tradition to later generations.

Second, we must share this happiness with those who do not experience it. We must open our homes to others, and let them experience the emotional healing that comes from being part of a family.

Finally, we must defend this arrangement against the attacks of those who seek to destroy it. The traditional family is being vilified as outmoded, even dangerous, and sinister forces are at work to replace it with alternative definitions of "family." Their efforts will eventually fail, but they will do a lot of damage to society in the meantime.

God has made a home for the lonely, in families. We can find companionship there, if we will honor the arrangement as He intended.