

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

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Wings



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

December 14, 2008

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.

Being transformed

by David King

"But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (2 Cor. 3:18).

This verse is the climax of a contrast Paul is making between the old covenant of Moses and the new covenant of Christ. Those who seek God under the old covenant are blinded to the real means of finding Him: "even to this day, when Moses is read, a veil lies on their heart" (v. 15). But under the new covenant, that veil is lifted, and people have access to God through His Son; not through reading of a body of regulations, but through following a perfect example of humanity: "beholding . . . the glory of the Lord" (v. 18).

Notice Paul's description of the process by which this new approach works. Being a follower of Christ is an ongoing exercise that is still underway: we "are being transformed" — **present** tense. It is not a one-time decision that we can circle on a calendar ("have been transformed" — **past** tense). In other words, the life of the Christian is a journey toward a goal, not an achievement in our past. It is a commitment to a lifetime of growth and improvement that never really ends.

Once we grasp this fundamental truth about the nature of our discipleship, we learn some important lessons about ourselves and our service to God.

First, it means that I still have a lot to learn about God and life. Whatever my level of Bible knowledge, there remains much that I

need to learn, not only about God's will, but about myself and others. Discerning good and evil is not the result of a merely academic knowledge of the Bible. It is also a function of the "use" (practice, exercise) of that knowledge (Heb. 5:14). Just like riding a bicycle or practicing dentistry, real skill in being a disciple is developed by **doing** it, not just **studying** it. I will spend my entire lifetime polishing my skills as a follower of Christ; so it's folly to pretend that I already know it all.

Second, it naturally follows that we must learn humility in our dealings with others. If I am still in the process of being transformed or changed, that means I still have some imperfections that need to be worked on. I can't use myself as a standard to judge others by. So before I fault others for their shortcomings, I need to remind myself of my own room for growth. There is a place for criticizing others, but it must be rendered with gentleness and meekness (Gal. 6:1; 2 Tim. 2:24-25).

Finally, the life of the Christian involves a perpetual sense of excitement about the future. We are "beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord," but that image is not yet in sharp focus. It's still fuzzy, but we can see enough to catch a glimpse of what the perfect picture must be like. It's that anticipation of eventually discovering something bigger, brighter, and infinitely better that motivates us to keep on searching.

Take a close look at your life as a Christian. Are you "being transformed"? Or are you still blind to what this is all about?