

Pleasant Valley
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon
Wichita KS 67204
(316) 838-4195
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)*

January 11, 2009

When we come together

by David King

"How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification" (1 Cor. 14:26).

The New Testament says very little about our corporate worship, i.e., what we do when we assemble as a church. Some have interpreted that sparsity of information to mean that our worship is not important or even irrelevant. While it is true that we do not find a codified checklist of worship activities, there is enough information available to determine that our "come together" activities are a significant part of our religion.

There are numerous references in the book of Acts to the early Christians meeting on a regular basis. The first disciples in Jerusalem "continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers" (Ac. 2:42). They "continued daily with one accord in the temple" (2:46; 5:12), until persecution drove them away.

As churches sprang up across the Roman Empire, their founders made sure that regular assemblies were part of their identity. At Antioch of Syria, Paul and Barnabas "assembled with the church and taught a great many people" (11:26). Following their first missionary journey, Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, where they "gathered the church together" and reported on their work (14:27). Disciples met regularly at Ephesus (19:9-10) and Troas (20:7). The letters that Paul wrote to these churches were read in their assemblies

(Col. 4:16). Indeed, their coming together was considered a crucial ingredient in the preservation of their faith (Heb. 10:24-25).

The most detailed description of what these churches did when they came together is found in the epistle of First Corinthians. If you examine all the "come together" passages in this letter, you'll notice that Paul addresses several specific activities that were done by these brethren as a group: 1) the administering of discipline to a wayward brother (5:4-5), 2) the Lord's Supper (11:17-34), and 3) teaching, singing, and praying (ch. 14). All of these "come together" passages, with their larger contexts, provide a good summary of what an assembly of Christians should look like. (While we're in First Corinthians, notice that Paul's mention of a collection "on the first day of every week" [NASV] even pinpoints the timing of their assemblies. See also Ac. 20:7.)

This is a quick overview of the relevant passages, but it is sufficient to establish two important points: First, God wants His people to assemble together on a regular basis as a means of building their faith; and second, these assemblies involve simple activities that directly address the edification of the individual worshippers.

"Going to church" is not a spectator sport. It is a participatory exercise designed to build the faith of each disciple and strengthen the bond of affection among brothers and sisters. Like all of God's instructions, we should take seriously our obligation to "come together," and respect what He has revealed on the subject.