

Wings



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

April 19, 2009

Schedule of Services

Sunday

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

Wednesday

Classes 7:30 pm

Peace to your house

by David King

"And thus you shall say to him who lives in prosperity: 'Peace be to you, peace to your house, and peace to all that you have!'"
(1 Sam. 25:6).

"But whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house'" (Lk. 10:5).

These two greetings, separated by a thousand years, illustrate an ancient belief that no blessing is more welcome to a human soul than a peaceful home environment. Money, fame, and power have their place, but in the absence of a happy home, those achievements don't count for much.

The need for peace in our homes is just as great today as it was then. But the prevalence of divorce, domestic violence, runaway children, and drug abuse indicate that many American families do not enjoy this peace. Everybody wants peace in their homes, but few find it. Why?

There are a number of factors that contribute to this loss of domestic tranquility. If families really want peace in their home, they need to take a hard look at how they are handling these key elements of family dynamics, and make whatever adjustments are necessary.

First, consider the impact of our high-pressure lifestyles. Americans are addicted to activity. Whether in work or in play, we must constantly be doing something, usually outside the home. This *go! hurry! rush!* pace leaves little time for the quiet hours together in which family peace thrives. This is especially true if individual family members all have their own separate interests and agendas. The different

schedules end up competing against each other, and conflict is the inevitable result. The mad scramble for profit or pleasure isn't worth it if we must sacrifice a peaceful home environment in the process. If families really want peace, they must set boundaries for their individual pursuits, and learn how to spend more time together.

A lack of self-control is another factor that destroys domestic harmony. A "me first" attitude that cannot tolerate frustration will destroy peace in any human relationship, but especially in a family. Displays of anger, infidelity, drunkenness, financial chaos — all of these are products of selfish egos that insist on having their own way. Families who have learned the virtues of self-discipline, patience, and unselfishness are far more likely to enjoy the fruit of peacefulness.

Finally, a lack of spirituality in the home is a strong predictor of domestic conflict. The home should be a haven of security on a journey to a better abode, a little taste of heaven to whet our appetite for the real thing. A family that talks freely about God, the Bible, heaven, the church, ethics, and so forth, is bound together by a dedication to a common goal that transcends any earthly bond. In the absence of such a spiritual foundation, the family drifts apart, and peace becomes more elusive.

"Peace to your house" is desired by all of us, but merely repeating the greeting won't make it happen. It belongs only to those families who are willing to work for it.

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.