

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)*

December 6, 2009

Destroyed for lack of knowledge

by David King

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hos. 4:6).

"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God" (Rom. 10:1-3).

These two passages describe a problem that plagued the Jews in both the Old and New Testament eras: ignorance of God's word. In both settings, God's people lacked an understanding of God's will for their lives, which led to behaviors that placed them in rebellion against God. In both cases, the end result was catastrophic for the nation.

So the lesson here is quite simple, right? We need to be diligent students of God's word, so we won't make that same mistake.

That's true, but it misses a much bigger lesson that we need to learn. For all the similarities between these two generations, there was a critical distinction that we should notice. The ignorance of the OT Jews was indeed based on a simple lack of knowledge of God's word. They had no idea what God's word said, because they never read it, never heard it preached, never studied it. Consequently, their disobedience was of the most outrageous kind:

gross immorality, idolatry, sacrificing their children to pagan gods, and so forth.

The ignorance of the NT Jews, however, was of an entirely different nature. Unlike their predecessors, they were well-versed in the content of God's law. They had open contempt for the crowd "that does not know the Law" (Jn. 7:49). Even Jesus acknowledged that these people "search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life" (Jn. 5:39). And you will find not a hint of the earlier immorality, idolatry, and paganism among this group. To the contrary, they were quite proud of their knowledge of and allegiance to God.

Yet Paul charged that their zeal for God was "not according to knowledge." How so?

The NT Jews were destroyed, not by intellectual **deficiency**, but intellectual **arrogance**. Their very knowledge of God's word became a stumbling block to understanding the real meaning of God's revelation in Jesus Christ. They knew the words alright, but they missed the message. Once their minds became locked on the wrong interpretation of their Scriptures, they refused to consider any other. So when their Messiah finally arrived, they rejected Him as an imposter, and no amount of reasoning could knock them loose from their position. Their prejudice proved to be just as fatal as their ancestors' ignorance.

Knowledge of God's word is important, but it must be tempered with humility. "Knowledge puffs up" (1 Cor. 8:1), and can easily blind us to truth that is right under our nose. The result can be just as bad as knowing nothing at all.