

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)*

March 4, 2007

God under attack

by David King

"The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God'" (Psa. 14:1).

Within the past few months, a number of significant books have been published which directly attack the idea of God. These include **The God Delusion** (Richard Dawkins), **Letter to a Christian Nation** (Sam Harris), and **God: The Failed Hypothesis** (Victor Stenger).

These books have remained high on the best-seller lists, indicating a growing interest in atheism as a viable alternative to religion. One reviewer boasted that atheists are finally "coming out of the closet."

The days are long gone when we could approach the society around us with the assumption that most everyone believed in God, and our job was merely to convince them of what God had revealed in His word. Today, there is a decent chance that those with whom we come in contact do not believe in God. Or if they do, He (or "it") is some kind of weird, impersonal "force" rather than a personal deity of the Judeo-Christian variety. We must deal with the fact that our nation is rapidly turning into a post-Christian society.

These latest attacks on religion and belief are merely repackaging the same arguments that skeptics have been hurling at believers for centuries: If there is a God, why is there so much evil in the world? Religion (belief in God) causes far more suffering than it relieves. The advances of scientific knowledge have removed the need for God. So forth and so on. Mixed with a hearty dose of humor, ridicule, and scientific prose, the latest presentations of these

arguments tap into the current widespread dissatisfaction with contemporary Christianity, and introduce a new generation to the possibility of another viewpoint.

But the new face on these old arguments cannot hide the deficiencies that have always doomed them. Even the New York Times reviewer who reviewed Dawkins' book, Jim Holt, acknowledged that "Darwinian processes can take you from simple to complex, but they can't take you from Nothing to Something." In other words, after all the rhetorical twisting and posturing, atheists cannot explain where this universe and everything in it came from. To the believer, it's a no-brainer. To the atheist, it remains the ultimate mystery.

Despite the ferocity of this latest assault on God, the battle is not lost. On the contrary, this development provides us with an opportunity to do what true Christianity does best, that is, display a viable alternative to people of a solution to their spiritual needs. Despite the claims of the academic elites who write these popular tomes, human beings are spiritual creatures, and if God is taken from them, they will find or create something to replace Him. Genuine Christianity will always be in the game. It is our job to make sure that people see and appreciate the distinct advantages of true faith.

He is a fool who argues that there is no God. But he is a wise man who proves, by his life and conduct, that there is a God. Philosophical arguments for God have a role in this debate, but the best argument is a life that reflects His goodness.