

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 11, 2007

Why we forget God

by David King

"They soon forgot His works; they did not wait for His counsel, but lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tested God in the desert. . . . They forgot God their Savior, who had done great things in Egypt" (Psa. 106:13,14, 21).

"So the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord. They forgot the Lord their God, and served the Baals and Asherahs" (Judg. 3:7).

"A voice was heard on the desolate heights, weeping and supplications of the children of Israel. For they have perverted their way; they have forgotten the Lord their God" (Jer. 3:21).

These are only a few of the many passages in the Old Testament that describe a problem that repeatedly got Israel in trouble: **forgetting God**. In most cases their rebellion against God was not a conscious decision based upon a reasoned examination of the evidence. Rather, it was a careless drifting away from God, a long term failure to keep Him foremost in their minds and lives. That forgetfulness, of course, led to disobedience, and eventually destruction.

Human nature hasn't changed since then, and the same problem that led to Israel's downfall still plagues us today. Like Israel of old, we tend to forget God, both in our individual lives and as a culture. And like Israel, that forgetfulness leads us to marginalize God and His word. Sooner or later, we pay a heavy price for our neglect.

Why do we forget God? How can people who once had such deep reverence for God

develop such a cavalier attitude toward Him? The Bible pinpoints two root causes for this phenomenon.

The first cause is **complacency**, or a failure to grow. Peter encourages us to "be diligent" to grow in qualities such as faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. Then he warns, "he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins" (2 Pet. 1:5-9). In other words, we either pursue improvement, or we forget why we're in the game. Christianity is not a label we wear; it is an active commitment to a program of personal growth and development. It requires hard work, sacrifice, study. The result of that diligence is a notable improvement in our quality of life, and a deeper appreciation for the God who made it possible.

But conquering the first source of forgetfulness only sets us up for the second, that is, **prosperity**. "When they had pasture, they were filled; they were filled and their heart was exalted; therefore they forgot Me" (Hos. 13:6). One of the great ironies of life is that by honoring God's will, we usually end up being blessed for it; then we become so comfortable with the blessings that we lose sight of how and why it happened. That sequence of events is not inevitable. If we are careful to thank God, often and fervently, for what He has done for us, we are less likely to forget Him.

How can we not forget God? It's really quite simple—by choosing to remember Him.