

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)*

May 6, 2007

"It is finished"

by David King

"So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit" (Jn. 19:30).

Thus ended the earthly career of Jesus of Nazareth. He was only 33 years old when He died, following a ministry that lasted barely three and a half years.

Considering what Jesus accomplished during those few years, think what He could have accomplished had He lived a long, full life.

He could have traveled beyond Judea and Galilee, taking His unique brand of preaching to the Gentiles.

He could have debated — and defeated — the leaders of every major religious system in His day, thoroughly exposing their weaknesses.

He could have personally trained many more than twelve apostles, leaving behind a much larger cadre of well-prepared disciples to carry on His work.

Of course, He never got a chance to do all those things. He died young, snatched away in the prime of His life. What a terrible loss!

Or was it?

When we consider the life and death of Jesus, we never think in terms of "what might have been," because we know that **Jesus accomplished everything He came to do.** His life was not "wasted" — it was completed, fulfilled, successful. His last words were not, "I'm finished!", but "It is finished!" — that is, the mission for which He had come to this earth was done. He completed His work in 33 years, so there was no need to stick around for more.

I reflect on this every time I hear of a young person who dies. Whether killed in an accident, taken by an illness, or a casualty of war, it is so painful to hear of one who dies so young. The usual response is to bewail the loss of "what might have been" had the young person lived a long life.

But is that the right question to ask? Perhaps we should be asking, what did this young person accomplish during his/her young life? How many other lives were touched by his/her example? When we recall all the good things that a young person has done in life, do we ever consider that maybe that was their purpose all along?

In the end, does it really matter how long we live? The measure of a life is not the number of our years, but the quality of what we do during those years, however few or many.

The real tragedy is not when a young person is cut down in their tender years; it is when an old person dies after many years of life, having never accomplished anything of any significance. No friends, no family, no legacy, and no hope. An entire lifetime wasted. And so much work left unfinished.

Instead of marking days off a calendar, we should be tracking the things that matter: the friends we've made, the good deeds we've performed, the encouragement and counsel we've shared with others, the integrity of a pure heart. So when the time comes that we, like Jesus, must give up our spirit, we can say with satisfaction, "It is finished!"

Even if we're only 33 years old.