

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

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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 27, 2007

## "I didn't know that I was a liberal!"

by Jerry Blount

"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:22-23).

I call this passage "a sneak peek at the final judgment." Note four things about this judgment.

1) You are not going to just stand there like a bump on a log before the throne of God. You will speak, present your case, and be judged largely on what you have done with the words of Jesus (v. 24).

2) What is today often described as "liberalism" would seem to be the direct cause of the condemnation of a vast majority of Christians in the day of judgment. That is, a good conscience is not a substitute for a scriptural foundation for their faith.

3) A religion based on hype rather than substance is a failure; that is, spirited, emotional worship is not enough (see Jn. 4:24).

4) These folks did not consider themselves "liberal." They would likely have called themselves "conservative." But their works were not the works of Jesus.

Look at this passage in context (v. 13-29). It becomes very clear that this is exactly what Jesus is warning us about. Let's look at it.

*Verses 13-14* – The warnings about the broad road and the narrow road. Today this has become a cliché. Everyone seems to quote it, but few think through its implications.

*Verses 15-20* – False teachers and their fruits. Jesus gives us a key to our text: "You will know them by their fruits" (v. 20).

*Verses 22-23* – Jesus condemns them for iniquity ("lawlessness," NASV). What they considered a "good work," Jesus considered an affront to His headship.

*Verses 24-27* – The wise man and foolish, building on the rock and the sand. "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man . . ."

Consider the definition of lawlessness (iniquity, KJV). Jesus defines it in v. 26: "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them"; that is, following the teaching or direction of men rather than Jesus, is what He condemns here.

Do you suppose any of them responded, "But look at the good we are doing?" Today, this is how we have wound up with churches charging admission (like the Pharisees in the temple), with practicing homosexuals, and/or women preaching from the pulpit, instrumental music diluting the sacrifice of our lips, and many more innovations of man.

Within the bounds of morality you can do anything you want in your own name, but when you are doing things in the name of Jesus—even if you define them as "many wonderful works"—you had better be sure Jesus also defines them as such.

"When Jesus had finished these words, the crowds were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes" (Matt. 7:28-29).