

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
Wichita KS 67204  
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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)*

April 20, 2008

## Capturing thoughts

by David King

"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (2 Cor. 10:4-5).

The goal of true Christianity is to capture the hearts and minds ("every thought") of people. The power of the gospel is its ability to change people's behavior, not through coercion or trickery, but through changing how they **think** about life.

Look at how the epistles in the New Testament—especially Paul's—are structured. Most of these letters are divided into two parts: first, a theoretical section, dealing with concepts, ideas, historical background; followed by a practical section, describing how that theory impacts our daily lives. (John's epistles do not follow this neat division, but still consist of the two types of information—theory and practice—intermingled with each other.)

Those theoretical sections tend to be more abstract and difficult to comprehend, but they are critical to establishing the foundation for everything else. It is by grasping these underlying truths that we find the motivation to make real changes in our lives. Behavior always follows thinking, so if we want to change how we act, we have to change how we think about ourselves, about God and His plan for mankind, about death and the here-after. In short, we have to restructure our entire mental model of how the world works.

Consider the pagan religions of the first century, Christianity's first competitors. These religions had people convinced that the universe was populated with a pantheon of gods, acting in petty, selfish, and unpredictable ways to make life miserable for humanity. Armed with that worldview, people tended to act in ways that were . . . well, petty, selfish, and unpredictable. Christianity's message of a single God of perfect character, yet deep compassion, offered these pagans a refreshing alternative to the chaos of their current lives.

Today, atheism promotes a worldview that there is no God, no afterlife, and no "morality" other than what man constructs. Despite recent attempts to portray atheism as a moderate and beneficial philosophical system, history has shown the practical results of atheism to be destructive. People have a hard time acting unselfishly when there is no metaphysical reason to do so.

Even many faiths that call themselves "Christian" are tainted with erroneous ideas that undermine the practical intent of the religion of Christ. For example, some faiths teach their adherents that "the church" is the ultimate authority, which results in followers who blindly accept whatever The Institution feeds them, rather than what God has revealed in His Word. They have been trained not to think for themselves, so they behave accordingly.

"Capturing thoughts" is not brainwashing. It is articulating a philosophical system that rests on a firm foundation, and results in a life that is happy and fulfilled.