

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 18, 2008

Destroyed for lack of knowledge

by David King

"There is no truth or mercy or knowledge of God in the land. . . . My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children" (Hos. 4:4, 6).

In 1983, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was awarded the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion. In his acceptance speech, the great Russian historian and dissident reduced all the horrors that had befallen the Russian people — indeed, all the horrors of the twentieth century — down to one simple explanation: "Men have forgotten God." From the official atheism of the communist state, to the weak and ineffectual spirituality that infected much of European religion, the lack of knowledge of God and the Bible had a devastating effect on the population of Europe. Two world wars, the Holocaust, the Russian Revolution, innumerable civil wars and ethnic cleansings — humanity has paid a steep price for its ignorance of God.

America has long been an exception to this pattern. Despite the many disagreements among us over the details, Americans have historically believed in God and the Bible as His word. Our culture, our language, our institutions have all been deeply influenced by a shared knowledge of the Bible.

But that picture is changing. Open hostility to God and the Bible among Americans is growing. Even among those who still claim to be religious, their spirituality more and more tends to be based not on the Bible, but on a

hodge-podge of random beliefs without a firm biblical basis. Numerous surveys in recent years have revealed a growing number of believers, especially among the young, who have little or no knowledge of the most basic facts of biblical history or theology. Instead of serving as instruments of education and enlightenment, churches have become peddlers of a watered-down religion based more on feelings than facts. The result is a population that still "loves God," but has no idea what that means in their personal lives.

This growing ignorance of the sacred story bodes ill for the future of our society. What can we do about it?

First, we need to ensure that our own faith rests on solid ground. As a church, our preaching and teaching must emphasize the biblical story of God's plan for humanity, both in its broad sweep and in its details. We must thoroughly indoctrinate our people, especially our children, in the history, the theology, and the practical relevance of the Bible.

Second, we need to adapt our message to the world in a way that this generation can understand it. We can no longer assume that those we are trying to reach have some background of Bible knowledge. In most cases, they do not. We have to assume that people know absolutely nothing about the Bible, and start teaching them from that point.

Can we overcome this dearth of biblical knowledge in our society? History is not encouraging. Regardless, our job is to teach the Word, and let God deal with the results.