

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)*

July 6, 2008

Three little words

by David King

Have you ever noticed that many of life's great truths can be summed up in sayings that consist of just three words?

For example, people are encouraged to do their best with the expression, "Break a leg!"

"Hold the fort!" and "Stay the course" are motivations not to give up under pressure.

You can provide your own definitions of other sayings such as:

"Haste makes waste."

"Practice makes perfect."

"Rise and shine!"

These little proverbs cram a lot of wisdom into small packages. By condensing truth into these simple, easy-to-remember sayings, we are provided with reliable guideposts to help us navigate the complexities of life.

The same principle holds true for biblical truth. Many of the Bible's basic messages can be summarized in simple three-word sayings.

For example, our parents taught us at a young age two indispensable truths that are essential to survival: "Life's not fair" and its corollary, "Deal with it." While those exact words are not found in the Bible, the basic message overwhelms the reader. The Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament is preoccupied with how to find meaning in a world of injustice (Job, Psalms 73, Ecclesiastes). The story of the Israelites in the wilderness is the archetype of how **not** to deal with the inequities of life (Psalms 95; 1 Cor. 10; Heb. 3). The Bible fairly screams this message to a modern generation that needs to hear it: "Life's not fair: Deal with it!"

Happy marriages are built on a triplet of these three-word sayings: "I love you," "I am sorry," and "I forgive you." Couples who learn how to say these words — and really mean it — develop a strong bond of affection that is impervious to the hard knocks of life (Song of Solomon 8:6-7; Matt. 5:23-24; Col. 3:12-13). When marriages fall apart, it is usually because one or both parties could not bring themselves to say three little words. What a shame!

Our relationship with God likewise can be boiled down to a series of these sayings.

"God loves me" establishes the basis for this relationship: God genuinely loves us, and wants us to be happy (Rom. 5:6-10; Gal. 2:20). There is a refreshing liberation in the knowledge that no matter what others think of me, God loves me (Rom. 8:31-39).

"Put God first" is a recasting of the injunction to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk. 12:30). Nothing should be more important to us than God.

Because God is first in our lives, we are sensitive to His word. Thus, "It is written" becomes the standard by which we determine right and wrong (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10).

"Love your neighbor" guides all our relationships with those around us (Matt. 22:39; Rom. 13:8-10). Learning the details of what that means will take a lifetime of study and reflection, but in the end, it all comes down to those three little words.

We make life more complicated than it needs to be. Sometimes all we really need is three little words to show us the way.