

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

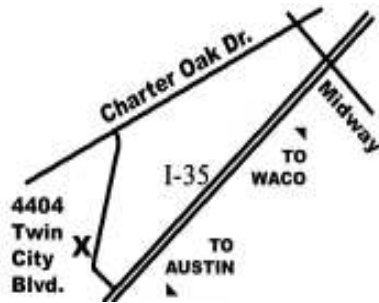
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## WHERE WE MEET



From I-35, take the Midway exit (# 297). Go south (toward Austin) on the feeder road for almost one mile. Turn right at the DPS Drivers License office. We are on the left.

All articles in Simple Truth are written by Warren King unless otherwise stated.  
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# SIMPLE TRUTH

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## Pulling Punches

To ‘pull a punch’ refers to a fighter refusing to use all of the power at his disposal. He may be showing mercy, or he may be ‘on the take’ – but, when he ‘pulls a punch’, the other guy gets some relief.

And, there is a time for a Christian to do just that. The apostle Paul encouraged the congregation at Corinth to ‘pull a punch’ in their handling of the repentant brother (2 Co 2:6-8). They had rightly inflicted a punishing blow in withdrawing from him; but, upon his repentance, they were instructed to back off and “confirm” their love for him. Such mercy is a welcome sight to a prodigal-come-home, and we should be swift to offer it.

But, Paul had pulled no punches in exposing the sins of that brother – and of the church at Corinth – in his first letter to the Corinthians. He had been unapologetic in his rebuke of sin. In fact, the book of First Corinthians might be compared to an unrelenting boxer, landing blow after blow after blow. Paul found no joy in such ‘brutality’, but saw it as a necessary process in bringing them to repentance (2 Co 7:8). It seems a far cry from the pantywaist preaching of many today.

# What is Hell Like?

Hell isn't talked about as much as it once was. As a result, some people don't know much about it. But, the Bible gives us a clear picture of what Hell is like.

Jesus described Hell as a place where "*the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*" (Mk 9:43-48). He also said it was a place of "*outer darkness*" where there is "*weeping and gnashing of teeth*" (Mt 8:12, 22:13, 25:30).

Jesus also said that Hell was created for the devil and his angels as a place of punishment. "*Then shall he say to them on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels'*" (Mt 25:41). 'Who' and 'what' Hell was created for tell us that we don't want to go there.

Some teach that souls that enter Hell will be destroyed and will cease to exist. This is not what Jesus taught. He said the torments of Hell will be "*day and night for ever and ever*" (Re 20:10). Hell will last just as long as Heaven (Mt 25:46).

As we look into eternity we have only two options: Heaven or Hell. The cry from Heaven is "*Come*" (Re 22:17). The cry from Hell is "*Do not come to this place of torment!*" (Lu 16:28). We need to take the warnings of Hell that Jesus gave seriously. There is no reason for anyone to spend eternity in Hell, but the choice is up to us.

– Heath Rogers (edited)

# Just Thinkin'

Time passes so swiftly. I see it, not only in the measureable growth of my grandchildren, but in more subtle ways as well. Like a lazy river, moving almost imperceptibly, yet making constant progress, time continues its relentless journey. "It seems like only yesterday" is a cliché – but it is so true.

Yet, one day, all of those yesterdays will cease their relentless accumulation. And, when that day comes for me, I want to be found faithful as God's child. I want to stand on the threshold of Jordan and gaze upon heaven itself. And, I want you to be able to do the same.

It is a forward-looking mindset that views this life as a mere prelude. Life has its joys – and a Christian knows this better than anyone. But, no this-world joy can compare to what lies ahead. True joy comes in the morning (Ps 30:5) – we must never forget.

And so, "*set your mind upon things above*" (Col 3:2). Do this – so that when the Jordan envelops your ankles, you can simply smile, knowing that you are finally home.