

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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Apocalypse Whenever

With gasoline prices rising daily and reports circulating of food shortages and hoarding, we are again reminded by a few religionists that ‘the end is near’.

Now, this is not to ridicule the idea of Christ’s return, or the Day of Judgment. The Bible does, indeed, foretell those events – albeit not like the premillennial doom-sayers portray them. Jesus plainly tells us that His coming, and the end of the world, will be completely without signs (Mt 24:37-51). I am content with that.

But, this is not to say that the United States is destined for perpetual prosperity. If there is one thing that history – both secular and divine – teaches us, it is that countries that lose their moral compass are destined for destruction. This country is not exempt from the consequences of abandoning moral law. And, when the time comes to pay our dues, it will certainly be a day of tears and regret.

But, as the prophet Habakkuk was reminded in the face of the approaching armies of Babylon, “*the just shall live by his faith*” (Ha 2:4). That promise sustained the prophet (3:17-18) – and, it will sustain God’s children today.

ARE YOUR SINS FORGIVEN?

Nothing could be more important than obtaining the forgiveness of sins. The reason forgiveness is so important is that it separates man from God (Is 59:2).

Forgiveness is all about being reconciled to God, or standing in a right relationship with Him again. The Bible offers two ways of being forgiven: one for those who are not God's children and one for those who are.

If a person is not a child of God then he needs to believe the Gospel message (Mk 1:15). Upon hearing that Jesus has died for his sins, and has arisen again (1 Co 15:3-4) one needs to determine to change his life. The Bible calls this repentance. It is essential to becoming a child of God (Ac 2:38). When a person has faith in Jesus as the son of God he will want to confess that faith publicly. This is known as confession and it is also essential to salvation (Ro 10:10). Finally, a person must be baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Ac 2:38, 22:16). Baptism, though oft overlooked in today's religious world, is essential to salvation (1 Pe 3:21).

Those who have done these things are children of God (Ro 8:16-17) and part of the body of Christ (Ga 3:27). But what do God's people do when they sin (and they will)? Is it necessary to be baptized again and again? No, God's children may prayerfully ask forgiveness. Upon so doing, God will forgive that sin (1 Jn 1:9, Ac 8:18-24). But remember, praying for forgiveness is a privilege reserved only for those who are His children (1 Pe 3:12; Jn 9:31).

– Mark Roberts (edited)

Just Thinkin'

It was one of those rare evenings when The Woman and I had little to do - so she brought out the picture albums. Now, few things in life evoke the range of emotions that old pictures do. From humor to sadness, pictures from the past defy detachedness.

There were, of course, the usual baby pictures - reminders of a time when they (and we) were more innocent. There were the pictures of aged relatives, now dead, whose memories will live with us - even without the pictures - until the day we die.

And then, there were the pictures of fellow Christians we have known through the years. Some are dead. Some have fallen away. But, some - like us - have just gotten older.

Do not think that these memories stir up in any way a desire to relive the past. The Bible consistently warns against such yearnings (Ec 7:10, Ph 3:13-14). But, they do cause us to think about the swift passing of time, and the need to prepare for eternity; and this is good.

Besides, who wants their hair and/or clothes to look like that again anyways?