

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

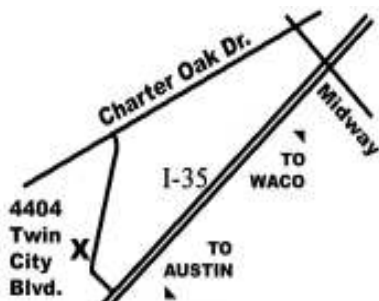
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

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. Contact the Leon Valley congregation at (254) 939-0682 (leave a message).



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SIMPLE TRUTH

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Number 1

A Doable Resolution

“This commandment which I command you today is not too mysterious for you, nor is it far off. It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.” - De 30:11-14

We tend to shy away from New Year’s resolutions because we know the probable outcome before we even start. But, Moses proposed a doable resolution to Israel. His proposal was offered, not on the eve of a New Year, but on the eve of their entrance into Canaan. It was a simple proposition: obey God’s commandments. It would make a good resolution for God’s people today.

Of course, some will become distracted with trivia. ‘Is it even possible for a Christian to live without sin?’ The Pharisee says ‘yes’, and points a self-righteous finger at those who stumble. The worldling says ‘no’, and uses Romans 3:23 to justify his pursuit of worldliness.

But, Moses was proposing a “walk” (De 30:16) – a way of life that was doable for Israel then, and is just as doable today (1 Jn 1:5-10). So forget those resolutions that are destined to fail, and “walk in His ways”.

Bonsai Christians

Have you ever seen those little miniature bonsai trees? They have all the features of full-grown trees, but are only a fraction of the size even though they may be many years old. The tree is no different from any other to begin with. But the grower clips some of the tree's roots, pinches its limbs, and starves it by using very little soil and water. The result is a tiny tree, pretty for decoration, but worth little else.



Some Christians are like those bonsai trees. Their spiritual growth has been stunted. They have been starved, having made only shallow study of the Word of God. They could be mature, could be bearing fruit, but spiritual growth has been restricted. The result is a dwarfed Christian.

The failure of a tree to grow is no great tragedy. The failure of a Christian to grow is. But, the possibility of growth is still there. The bonsai tree is destined to forever be miniature, but not so with the Christian. We can begin taking spiritual nourishment from the Word of God. We can break out of our shriveled state, grow up, and bear fruit.

– Joe Barnett (edited)

Just Thinkin'

I ran across the following stat recently: 43.6 percent of statistics are just made up. Another critic wrote, "Torture numbers and they'll confess to anything". And finally, "Statistics can be made to prove anything - even the truth". Clearly, the field of statistical analysis struggles for credibility.

But, numbers have always tended to obscure the reality. King David sinned by playing the 'numbers game' (2 Sa 24). He thought that superior numbers equated to superior strength. He was wrong. Jesus even warned about the danger of large numbers (Mt 7:13-14) - the 'statistical advantage'.

When statistics become just another method of testing the wind to validate ourselves, they cease to have relevance for a child of God. What difference does it make that 80 percent of Americans believe in God, or that 'Christians' outnumber Muslims by more than half a billion? Even IF they accurately reflect the numbers, they do not 'prove' truth. Truth doesn't need a statistician for validity. But, it always appreciates a few good folks with backbone. Think about it.