

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

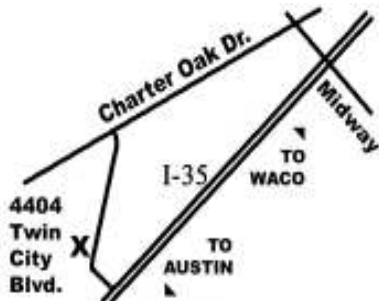
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

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).



## BIBLE MOMENTS Radio Program

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# SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE

LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Jesus: The 'Covenant-Ratifier'

*"For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives" - He 9:16-17*

Few passages have been so passionately disputed through the years as this one. On the one hand, it seems to mesh perfectly with our concept of 'testators' and 'wills'; yet, the word '*diatheke*' is never used to describe a 'will'. And in the context, this hardly jives with the Old Testament contrast that the author is making.

Several OT passages help to clarify the point. Abraham made a covenant with God, and ratified it with the death (the blood) of animals (Ge 15:7-18). The OT itself was ratified with the death (the blood) of animals (Ex 24:6-8). These animals did not die to bring their 'will' into effect. Their death was simply the cultural means of ratifying a covenant between two or more parties.

And, so it was with Christ. Jesus was not simply the 'testator' of a will. He was more than that. His death (His blood) was the means by which the New Covenant was ratified. We could call Him the 'covenant-ratifier', because that is exactly what He was. And, you can enter into that covenant with Him yourself – if you will.

## Dr. Spock, Dr. Phil, and God

During the 60's almost every new mother had her own copy of a book by Dr. Benjamin Spock. Whenever a question arose about the well-being of children, he was the one to turn to. Many parents swallowed his psychology based doctrine, rejecting the clear instruction of God's word regarding discipline.

Today another doctor has emerged on the scene. 'Dr. Phil,' deals with all kinds of relationship issues. His straight-talking style along with his wit and cordial Texan drawl made him an instant hit.

I like Dr. Phil. So do a lot of other people. However, his advice is rooted in psychology rather than the word of God. Take, for example, the issue of spanking children. In response to a couple who believed and practiced spanking of their unruly child, he said, "If it works so well, why are you here?" I doubt he would apply that same test to parents who simply tell their child how much the behavior 'disappoints' them. Or, will he conclude that 'time outs' are ineffective because a child continues to misbehave?

It is distressing to see some Christians taking worldly advice over the truth of God's word. They've read: "*He who spares his rod hates his son*" (Pr 13:34) and "*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him*" (Pr 22:15). They've read these; but the question is, do they believe God, or Dr. Phil?

– Al Diestelkamp (edited)

## Just Thinkin'

Many of us would agree that a flashlight is just a case for holding dead batteries. Not that flashlights are designed that way, of course. But, in practical application, that's the way it often plays out – which reminds me of some Christians I have known.

The gospel is the "*power of God*" unto salvation (Ro 1:16). 'Power' translates the Greek 'dunamis', or dynamite. It is the driving force (the high-powered battery, if you will) that leads us to salvation. But, like any battery, it must be used to be useful.



The world is full of those who once knew Christ – those who had a knowledge of His will and responded positively to it – and yet, have fallen away. Like the proverbial flashlight, they have become a case for holding dead batteries. A peek inside would reveal the unsightly corrosion of an unbelieving heart.

The word of God is "*living and powerful*" by design (He 4:12); but, it only energizes those who receive it – and continue to embrace it – with a good and honest heart. Think about it.