

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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Is Righteousness Really “Filthy”?

“We are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags...” - Is 64:6

Thus some theologians dismiss the importance of being righteous. After all, if God considers our ‘righteousnesses’ to be ‘filthy rags’ (menstrual waste), then our salvation must truly be all about grace – and we truly have no part to play in it. But, was this Isaiah’s point?

Some years earlier, the prophet Amos had relayed a similar message from God to the Northern Kingdom:

“I hate, I despise your feast days, and I do not savor your sacred assemblies. Though you offer Me burnt offerings and your grain offerings, I will not accept them, nor will I regard your fattened peace offerings. Take away from Me the noise of your songs, for I will not hear the melody of your stringed instruments.” (5:21-23).

What was the problem? God was not condemning the proper exercise of their religious duties. In the context, He was condemning the HYPOCRITICAL exercise of those religious duties. And, in the context of Isaiah 64, this is also the point. Isaiah does not impugn righteousness.

Vivid metaphors are a good way to communicate vital truths – IF they are interpreted in context.

A GRATE JOB

A newly hired salesman stunned his superiors with his first report, for it revealed that he was nearly illiterate. He wrote, "I seen this outfit who aint never got a dimes worth of nuthin from us and sole them sum goods." Before he was fired, a second report arrived. It read, "I comed to Chicawgo and sole them half a milyon dollers wurth."



The sales manager dumped the problem into the president's lap. The next day the staff was amazed to see the salesman's reports on the company bulletin board, with this memo:

"We ben spendin two much time tryin to spel insted of tryin to sell. I want everbody should read these reports from Gooch, who is doin a grate job, and you should go out and do like he done!"

Sometimes we get so preoccupied with appearances that we lose sight of our primary purpose. How much better is a stumbling, stammering presentation of the gospel that presents unadulterated truth than one that is all gussied up with nice jokes, heart wrenching tales, and practically nothing that fits biblical teaching?

When you find a preacher working hard at preaching the truth, no matter whether he knows an adverb from an adenoid, listen to him and learn. And, to all preachers: "Go out and do like he done!"

– Author Unknown

Just Thinkin'

If Lazarus had any children, the Bible does not mention it (Lu 16). But, *perhaps* he had been a lousy parent, and was living as a beggar because of poor choices he had made earlier in life. As the axiom says, 'Be nice to your kids; they'll choose your nursing home'. It's a lesson in consequences that we all need to learn. If that was, in fact, the case with Lazarus then he had certainly turned it around – because he died right with God.

Of course, if our children are rebellious we **SHOULD** put on the 'mean' face – even if it means living in a cardboard box in our old age. But, often what 'comes around' is the result of our own sinful choices. The easiest way to avoid negative long-term consequences is to pay attention to short-term behaviors.

Yet, which parents could not look back at their child-rearing efforts and wish they had done some things differently? The beauty of Christianity is that even egregious mistakes in our past can be forgiven. In some respect Lazarus must have understood forgiveness – and so should every parent. Think about it.