

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

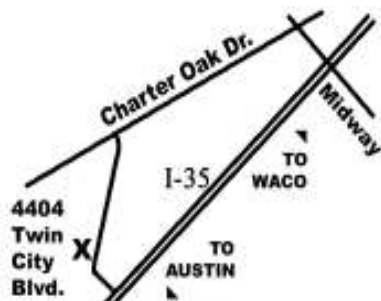
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

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 11

THE FATE THAT AWAITS US

“How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow is she, who was great among the nations!” - Lam 1:1

So begins the ‘lamentations’ of Jeremiah, the weeping prophet. He mourned for the loss of Jerusalem. For, though he had seen her in her former greatness, now he saw her desolate; and, it grieved him to the core.

Before Jerusalem’s destruction, Jeremiah had been just one voice among many of God’s prophets that had called for a national repentance. But, like so many of God’s messengers, he was rejected by the people; and, the people paid a dear price for that rejection.

No country today has the relationship with Jehovah that Israel had. But, principles of righteousness, justice, and morality are as important today as they were then. And, any people – or nation – that violates those standards will eventually face a similar fate as ancient Jerusalem.

The United States today sits “*full of people*” and is “*great among the nations*”. But, from the small town blue-collar worker to the power brokers in Washington, we have lost our moral compass. To see the fate that awaits us, read the book of Lamentations – and weep.

Angels

Angels are spiritual beings created by God (Ps 148:1), who are on a higher order than man (He 2:7) & neither reproduce nor die (Lu 20:35-36). Unfortunately, many of us have become modern-day Sadducees, in that we do not believe in angels (Ac 23:8). Many assume that because miracles have ceased, angels are no longer in business. This contradicts Hebrews, which says angels are “*ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.*” (1:13-14).

The Bible makes it clear that God’s creation has not been left to mere chance (He 1:3, Col 1:17). God is still in control. He still rules in the kingdoms of men (Ro 13, Ac 17:26, Da 4:17, 32). To believe, as some do, that God has taken a ‘hands-off’ position in the affairs of mankind is not only a contradiction of Scripture, but is tantamount to dethroning Jesus Christ, who now reigns as King of kings (Re 1:5; Ep 1:20,21).

It is comforting to know that angels are sent forth by God to minister unto us, for “*we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places*” (Ep 1:18-19). Our prayers to God are not exercises in futility, but are, in fact, requests based on a faith that God can and will help us, and that angels are His agents in these matters.

– Allan Turner (edited)

Just Thinkin'

Perhaps you have heard it said, 'The lottery is a tax on people who can't do math'. That is certainly true. With odds in a typical lottery at around 14,000,000 to 1, you are much more likely to be struck by lightning sometime in your life (3,000 to 1), or even to win an Olympic medal (662,000 to 1).

But, the Biblical argument against gambling has nothing to do with the odds. It has everything to do with the heart. And, while we could approach this topic from the standpoint of covetousness (Heb 13:5) or addiction (1 Co 6:12) – both of which are heart problems – I believe the clearest injunction against gambling is found in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: Love “*does not seek its own*” (13:5). By any definition, gambling 'seeks its own' at the expense of others. And, this is fundamentally anti-theological to Christianity.

I propose another slogan: 'Ignorance is a tax on stubborn-hearted people'. It surely fits, because ignorance of gambling's problems is not a matter of the intellect – it is a matter of the heart. Think about it.