

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

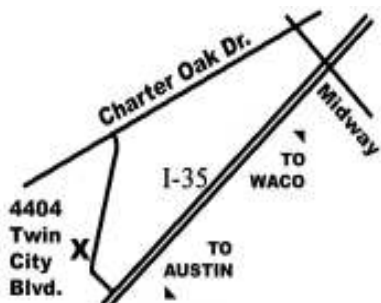
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

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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## Spirits Now in Prison

*Christ was “put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.” – 1 Pe 3:18-20*

This passage has posed no little concern for Bible students through the years. But, it is easier to understand when we ask a few simple questions.

When did Christ preach to these “*spirits*”? Clearly, it was “*in the days of Noah*”. He preached through Noah, that “*preacher of righteousness*” (2 Pe 2:5).

To whom did He preach? He preached to “*spirits*”; but, what spirits? He preached to those who were alive in the days of Noah but who rejected the message and were eternally lost. As the NAS version puts it, He “*made proclamation to the spirits now in prison*”.

Where was this “*prison*”? These spirits are now in prison – though they have been dead for thousands of years. Thus, the “*prison*” is the Hadean world, the realm of the dead (Re 20:7).

Those who look for purgatory in this passage will not find it. The time to heed God’s message is in this life!

## Another Perspective

### Once Saved, Always Saved

This popular denominational doctrine is also known as 'The Impossibility of Apostasy' or 'The Perseverance of the Saints'. It is NOT supported by God's Word.

*"Christ is become of no effect unto you; whosoever of you who are justified by the law, you are fallen from grace" (Ga 5:4).*

*"Take heed brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called today; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end" (He 3:12-14).*

*"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them" (2 Pe 2:20-21).*

Observe those who are described in this text - people who had "escaped the pollutions of the world." They were saved, but they could be "entangled" again and "overcome." Clearly, they could be lost after having been saved. These passages make it clear that 'once saved, always saved' is not taught in God's Word.

- Greg Gwin (edited)

## Just Thinkin'

**"Friends may come and go, but enemies tend to accumulate." The Woman and I arrived at that conclusion some time ago while discussing the nature of a preacher's work.**

**After all, preaching "in season and out of season" (2 Ti 4) means that the preacher will not always be popular. Saying what needs to be said will be appreciated by some; but, it will certainly NOT be appreciated by others. If popularity is the goal, then preaching should not be the work.**

**Multiply those negative reactions by decades of preaching and you begin to see the picture. The longer one preaches, the more enemies one has. But, I don't see that as a bad thing. As long as truth is preached, it will accomplish its purpose - regardless of how it is received (Isa 55:10-11).**

**And, what about those friends that 'come and go'? Well, thinking about it in this context, a 'friend' is one who appreciates straightforward preaching. The Woman and I have known many. And they are never really 'gone' - even after crossing the river.**