

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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BETRAYING JESUS

“One of you who eats with Me will betray Me” - Mk 14:18

Jesus spoke these words to His apostles concerning Judas just hours before He was betrayed and crucified. The betrayal was especially heart-rending because it was one of His closest companions who did it.

Today, it is not simply Muslims and atheists who oppose the religion of Jesus Christ. His cause is often betrayed by those on the inside – those who have given Him their supposed loyalty.

For example, we betray Him when we talk and walk like people of the world. Whether on the job or in the neighborhood, we ‘sell Him out’ when we maintain a double-standard and refuse to live a sanctified and ‘separate’ lifestyle.

And, we betray Jesus when we turn on each other, ‘biting and devouring’ one another. Even when legitimate differences arise, we should act as brethren. *“By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (Jn 13:35). This is easy to understand.

If we claim to be a follower of Jesus, we should live like it. One Judas in the family is enough.

Placing the Lord First

In the past few years there has been a lot of talk about whether a Christian must sin – whether it is possible for one to keep the law of God perfectly. Some say that man cannot live perfectly, for God says, “*all have sinned*” (Ro 3:23). Others say that man must be able to keep God’s law perfectly else man’s free moral agency is destroyed and God is responsible for man’s sin. While a great deal of time and rhetoric has been devoted to this issue, it seems to me that the question is somewhat moot. Whether we can or cannot live perfectly in God’s sight does not speak to the reality of the fact that we do not.

To be sure, the standards of God’s word are idealistic and the pattern set forth is perfectly exemplary. We are to be “*pure*” (1 Jn 3:3) and “*holy*” (1 Pe 1:16) even as we ought “*also to walk even as he walked*” (1 Jn 2:6). While the idealistic standards of God are higher than man, we must continue to put forth every effort to attain them. As John expresses it, “*If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin*” (1 Jn 1:7).

John does not equate “*walking in the light*” with perfect law keeping, for the very next verse says, “*If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us*”. But, John is speaking of a disposition of heart that places the Lord first in our life.

- Clark Dugger (edited)

Just Thinkin'

Recently I heard a preacher acknowledge his struggle with 'melancholy'. He did not use the word 'depression', but that was the gist.

Now, I am not a professional counselor, but I know 'melancholy' can be caused by many things. In the case of this preacher, it was caused by the same problem that Elijah had when he fled from Jezebel - a less-than-enthusiastic response to truth (1 K 19).

Sometimes it can be traced to our own sin. David was miserable after the Bathsheba incident until he got right with God (Ps 51).

Or, it may be that 'melancholy' sets in because we feel unloved or unwanted - that nobody cares if we live or die. I am tempted to advise such people to just miss a couple of car payments. The creditors will provide attention soon enough.

But, while people may give us the wrong kind of attention - or no attention at all - there is One who DOES care (1 P 5:7). And, it is difficult to be 'melancholy' around One who loves us enough to die for us. Think about it.