

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and 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

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 4

Number 34

Rebuke and Forgive

“Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him.” – Lu 17:3

Jesus sets forth here what might be two of the most difficult commands to obey. Our efforts in both cases can easily end up as mere imitations of the real thing.

Do we rebuke others? Sometimes – if we can get past the ‘thou shalt not judge’ crowd, and if we can muster the backbone. But even then, our ‘rebuke’ may be nothing more than a chance to vent our frustration and anger. It may not even be in response to ‘sin’ – maybe we just got our feathers ruffled. But, we call it ‘rebuke’ nevertheless.

Do we forgive others? Sometimes – if we are in the mood, and if the ‘sin’ has not hurt us too deeply or cost us too much. But even then, our ‘forgiveness’ may be nothing more than a temporary reprieve, still kept on the ledger for that time when we need to throw it back in the recipient’s face. But, we still call it ‘forgiveness’.

Genuine rebuke and forgiveness, motivated by love, are sometimes hard to do. Yet as much as anything, they help to define the true children of God. And so the question is, do they help to define YOU?

Another Perspective

In Due Season We Shall Reap

Sometimes it is tempting to become cynical and give up. It is important during times of distress that we seek to do what is right. We are told, “*Do not grow weary in well doing*”. Why? Because, “*in due season we shall reap*” (Ga 6:9).

The Psalmist described that season of reaping as a day of prepared tables and cups that overflow, of goodness and mercy, and of “*dwelling in the house of the Lord forever*” (Ps 23). The New Testament reminds us that God will not forget our efforts (He 6:10). We are challenged to live in hope, to keep on doing that which is good, and to trust in God for the results. Living in hope makes this life better as we prepare for the next.

All of us have our weaknesses, but God’s strength, upon which we depend, never diminishes. The Scriptures ask, “*Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator... neither faints nor is weary... He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles...*” (Isa 40:28-31).

Make Jesus your Lord and Savior. Let that final moment of your life be one of victory. Obey His gospel and live for Him. Remember, “*in due season we shall reap*”.

– Jon W. Quinn (edited)

Just Thinkin'

Some scriptures are hard to reconcile, though I do not doubt the scriptures. What seems to me at first to be a discrepancy, in the end just proves to be my ignorance. But, meantime I do a lot of head-scratchin'.

And, so it is with Ph 4:4, “*Rejoice in the Lord always*”. Try harmonizing that with the story of the beggar, Lazarus (Lu 16:20-21). How does one 'rejoice' in such circumstances?

The harmony, I believe, comes in understanding what it is that leads to 'joy'. Most folks define joy, or happiness, in physical terms - good health, lots of money, and minimal pain. Lazarus had none of these.

But, these are not the things that buy true happiness. Christians rejoice, not because we have material things (if we do), but because we are forgiven. This knowledge leads to inner peace, and the only true joy.

The beggar must have found great solace in knowing that he was right with God. And, so can we - IF we are right with God. Think about it.