

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

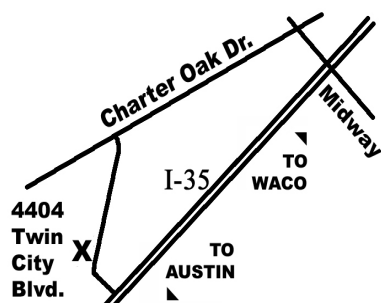
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

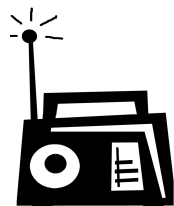
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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

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Volume 4

Number 41

Solomon's Song

"The curves of your thighs are like jewels... Your navel is a rounded goblet... Your waist is a heap of wheat... Your neck is like an ivory tower... Your nose is like the tower of Lebanon..." - Song of S. 7:1-4

Bible critics with infantile mentality use such passages to ridicule the veracity of God's Word. How could anyone take this language to be an inspired message? But, even serious scholars have struggled with Solomon's Song.

The usual approach has been to 'allegorize' the book – making it a figurative description of the relationship between God and His people. But, while the Bible is full of metaphor (Ep 5:22-33), no New Testament writer ever pointed to the Song of Solomon as such. It stands unique among all of God's Word. What exactly is its message?

The simple answer is that it is what it is. It purports to be a poetic drama of young love, with all its accompanying emotions. Why not leave it at that? It is true that the language of romance has evolved over 3,000 years (*goblets* and *wheat*); but, the message has not. Young people still need to wait for marriage before sex (2:7). And, married couples still need to focus their sexual energy toward one another (4:11). Such lessons are timeless. We would do well to heed them.

Dead Relatives

"What do you suppose happened to my dear Aunt Ruby? Do you think she went to heaven or hell? And, what about the people on the South Seas islands who never heard the gospel. Will they be lost?" Never do you find anyone in the Bible asking such questions. They are irrelevant. After all, if these people went to hell, what could you do about it?

The relevant question in the Bible is, *"What must I do to be saved?"* It was asked by the multitude on the day of Pentecost (Ac 2:37). It was asked by the Philippian jailor (Ac 16:30) and by Saul of Tarsus (Ac 9:6).

The truly important question is that which concerns me individually. When I stand before the judgment bar of God, I will be judged for my own actions (2 Co 5:10). It will be my own personal acceptance or rejection of the word that will determine my eternal fate (Jn 12:48).

Related to this is the response that some people give when they realize that a dead relative did not obey. *"Well, if Aunt Ruby won't be in heaven, I don't want to go there either."* What?! This isn't a vacation! If Aunt Ruby isn't in heaven, and you go to hell to be with her, you will not enjoy the visit. Clearly, this expresses a greater love for Aunt Ruby than for Jesus.

Remember that the Bible never brought up such a subject. It is nothing more than the imagination of humans who declare their allegiance to man rather than to God.

– Bob Pulliam (edited)

Just Thinkin'

Some questions in life may cause us to scratch our heads and think – like, "How do you know when you run out of invisible ink?", or "How does Teflon stick to a pan?" You may have never pondered such imponderables – and neither have I. After all, who cares?

But, some wannabe theologians believe that contemplating such questions is the mark of a deep spiritual thinker. We're not writing here, of course, about Teflon or invisible ink. But, some debate such issues as whether it is okay to use grape juice with added vitamin C for the communion, or other such trivia (look again at 1 Ti 6:3-5). No wonder skeptics mock religion – and religionists.

It is true that some things found in God's Word are hard to understand (2 Pe 3:16) and such things are deserving of serious and studious attention. But, surely we can discern between the significant and the small, the important and the petty.

We live in a world full of lost and dying people. If we must obsess, let's obsess over saving their souls – and ours. Think about it.