

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

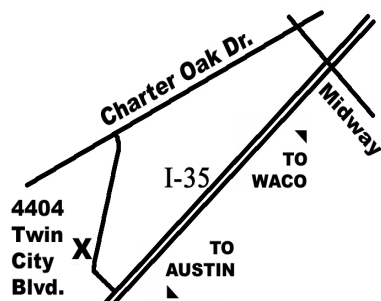
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

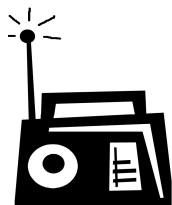
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## 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).



## BIBLE MOMENTS Radio Program

Listen to the Bible Moments radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 8:30 on KTEM 1400 on your A.M. dial!  
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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 42

## Lessons from John the Baptist

*Herod had laid hold of John and bound him, and put him in prison for the sake of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because John had said to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her." - Mt 14:3-4*

This brief account from Matthew's gospel holds several lessons for those with an ear to hear.

We learn, for example, that faithful preaching of God's word demands plainness of speech. Herod imprisoned John, and ultimately had him executed, because he understood perfectly what John was saying. John did not mince words or hide the message behind positive 'spin'.

We also learn that some marriages violate God's will for the marriage relationship. Of course, John was addressing a specific situation from the Law of Moses; but, Jesus has also prescribed specific laws concerning marriage, divorce, and remarriage today (Mt 19:9). And, faithful gospel preachers today will teach what Jesus taught.

And finally, we learn that keeping the wrong company can destroy you. Herod did not want John dead. But, although he was a ruler, he felt compelled to yield to the sinful desires of others. Peer pressure is powerful thing.

*"He who has an ear to hear, let him hear."*

## REACTIONS TO REBUKE

The instrument of any wise rebuke is the word of God (2 Ti 4:2). Rebuke from the word of God is a blessing both to the one who receives it and to the one who gives it. To the one whose sin and error is rebuked by truth, the blessing is clear: by heeding the rebuke given the sinner will repent and be forgiven. To the one who gives the rebuke there is the blessing of turning a sinner from error and death (Ja 5:19-20).

But, some have no stomach for either giving or receiving rebuke from the word of God. Like the blind watchmen of ancient Israel whom God rebuked with words of condemnation, some today are "*silent dogs*" who "*cannot bark*" because "*they look to their own way*" and their "*own gain*" instead of the salvation of lost and dying souls (Is 56:10-11). There is no virtue in failing to rebuke sin and error.

Neither is there virtue in improperly rebuking the sinner. The censuring of sin must be wisely spoken to benefit the recipient as well as the giver (Pr 25:11-12). We render rebuke powerless when we speak it rashly, angrily or self-righteously. A brother overtaken in a trespass is more likely to be restored by rebuke which is clothed with "*a spirit of gentleness*" instead of wrapped in a harsh spirit of superiority (Ga 6:1).

May we ever be wise in both the giving and the receiving of divine rebuke, for by it we "*discern knowledge*" and "*get understanding*" (Pr 19:25; 15:32).

– Joe R. Price (edited)

## Just Thinkin'

In the Genesis chapters 4 & 5, two classes of mankind are described: those descended from Cain in chapter 4, and those descended from Seth in Chapter 5. Cain's descendants were materially prosperous (4:20), they were talented musicians (4:21), and they were skilled in their trades (4:22). However, despite the seemingly positive traits of Cain's descendants, they were a godless people who were not interested in doing what God said. Some, such as Lamech, were even characterized by their moral viciousness (4:23-24).

Contrast those people with those descended from Seth (Ch. 5) who would eventually become God's chosen people. Details about their lives were simple. Yet, we know they were spiritually minded: they called upon the Lord (4:26), men such as Enoch "walked with God" (5:22), and Noah was called a preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). These people of faith were not God's chosen people simply because of their bloodline; they were God's chosen people because of their regard for God and His will. We too can be God's people if we do what He says. Think about it...

–Drew Nelson