

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

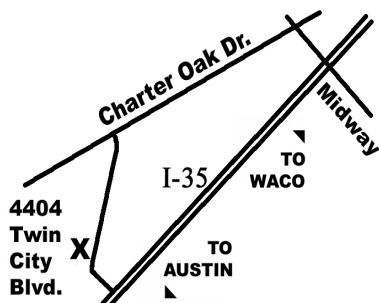
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preachers: Drew Nelson and Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

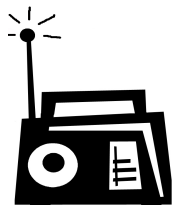
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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 43

The Purpose of Faith(s)

“...for we walk by faith, not by sight. We are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.” - 2 Co 5:7-9

The Bible uses ‘faith’ in two senses: in an objective sense and a subjective sense. Objective faith refers to the body of teaching, or doctrine, found in the Bible. Objective faith is singular; it is the “one faith” we read about in Ephesians 4:5. By definition, objective faith is either true or it is not, with no in between.

Subjective faith on the other hand refers to personal conviction and firm persuasion, which is manifested in action. By definition, subjective faith varies from person to person; one’s faith can be strong or weak.

How then do we reconcile these two senses of faith? How do they work together? “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (He 11:1). This verse tells us what subjective faith does: it gives us reason for hope and gives us reason to believe those things that we cannot yet see. But, this verse also implies something about objective faith as well.

Would subjective faith be of any worth if it were not based on The Faith (objective)? It is only when our subjective faith is based upon objective faith, the truth, that our faith is real and reliable. We must first know exactly what the Bible teaches, and then have a strong enough subjective faith to live by it. It is then, and only then, that we are able to truly “walk by faith, and not by sight.” - Drew Nelson

Another Perspective

Baptizing in the Name of Jesus

I was once criticized for baptizing an individual “*in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*” (Mt 28:19). The individual insisted that I should baptize “*in the name of Jesus*” (Ac 2:38).

These passages do not teach some word-formula that must be stated at the time of baptism to validate it. Nowhere does the New Testament require a particular phrase used in connection with baptism. It is not what the one doing the baptizing believes (or says) that determines the validity of baptism, but rather the faith of the one being baptized.

Second, the phrase “*in the name of*” indicates the authority by which the action is taken. Is there a difference in the authority of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Father or the Holy Spirit? We must be careful about separating the godhead. Certainly all three persons of the Godhead accepted different roles relative to the scheme of redemption; but, in matters of authority such distinctions should not be made. The word or authority of Jesus Christ is that of the Father and the Holy Spirit. All are Deity. It is by God’s authority that one is baptized for the remission of sins.

Last of all, if the expression “*in the name of*” expresses a verbal pattern that must be said to validate an action we would have to repeat that phrase every time we did any thing, for Paul said, “*Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him*” (Col 3:17).

– Clark Dugger (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

People come in all shapes, sizes, & personas. Some we enjoy being around. Others we tolerate. Some bore us, some entertain us, and some just seem to take up space.

It's easy to love the entertaining ones, the 'normal' ones, the ones we count as friends. But, love looks beyond these naturally alluring aspects of human relations. Love loves those who are not lovable. It loves not just a friend, but an enemy; not just those who are entertaining, but those who are social outcasts; not just those of my 'rank', but those who are 'below' me - and, those who are 'above' me as well.

Love is concerned about others simply because they, too, are a part of God's creation. They, too, have a soul. They, too, will spend eternity in heaven or hell - and, hell it is, if they do not hear, believe, and obey the gospel.

We must learn to look at the world as God does - not for selfish advantage, but for opportunities to seek those who are lost, regardless of persona. Think about it.