

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

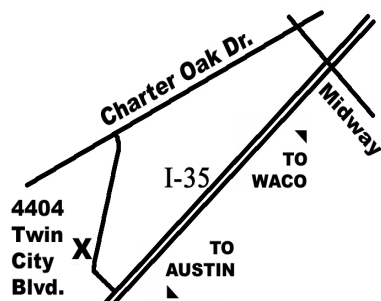
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

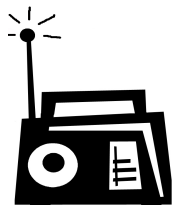
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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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Number 2

Letters to the Corinthians

The two inspired letters of Paul to the church at Corinth bear little resemblance to one another. One deals with almost nothing but problems and issues (the first letter), while the other is a very positive and upbeat epistle.

For example, the first letter includes chastisements such as: “*you are still carnal*” (3:3), “*there is sexual immorality among you*” (5:2), “*I say this to your shame*” (6:5), “*I do not praise you*” (11:17), and “*how do some among you say there is no resurrection?*” (15:12). Clearly, Corinth had its problems. Yet, in the second letter, very little rebuke is found. Instead, Paul follows a theme of ‘comfort’ (a word found once in the first letter and fourteen times - in some form - in the second).

Why so different? Something fundamental had changed at Corinth – and, it changed Paul’s whole demeanor toward them. What was it? As Paul put it, “*I rejoice... that your sorrow has led to repentance...*” (2 Co 7:9). Well, hallelujah! I believe there is a lesson here.

If your godly friends have been stepping on your toes lately, don’t get mad at them. Learn a lesson from the Corinthians. Repent of your sins and turn your life around. The change will do you good – and them, too!

Another Perspective

"Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

Just before His death, Jesus cried, *"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"* Why did Jesus say that?

First, note that this is a quote from Psalm 22. In reading the entire Psalm, it is evident that David is NOT expressing doubt in God, nor a feeling of abandonment, but the depth of sorrow and grief he felt at a particularly low moment in his life. Later verses show that he knew God was holy and could be trusted. But, his opening words show how low he was at a time of despair, with nowhere to turn but to God. So it was with Jesus as He hung on the cross.

Second, this was the only moment in Christ's life where He bore the weight of sin! He was sinless His whole life, and yet Isaiah wrote: *"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried... He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening of our well-being fell upon Him"* (Is 53:3-5). Jesus was bearing the weight of sin, the chastening of being defiled by sin. Since sin separates from God, and this was the moment Christ carried our sin on His shoulders, this would have been the most separated from God He had ever been or ever would be – a 'forsaken' moment.

And, that is how we should feel when carrying sin upon our hearts – 'forsaken' of God until we can have the burdens lifted by God from our shoulders (through forgiveness) and once again be close to the Father.

– Kris Emerson (edited)

Just Thinkin'

Debt is not inherently sinful – although it easily can be. Paul 'signed off' on a debt of unknown size in order to facilitate the reconciliation of two friends (Phile 1:18-19). But, that is hardly justification for a credit card lifestyle fueled by covetousness and an immature desire for instant gratification.

The Bible warns about the dangers of debt; and, there are many. In addition to the issues of covetousness and immaturity, debt makes one a virtual slave – the fruit of his labor now belongs to someone else (Pr 22:7). Usurious creditors can be a problem (Eze 22:12). But, crooked borrowers can be a problem, too. As one conniver counseled: "Borrow money from a pessimist; they don't expect to be paid back!" Money-love really is *"the root of all kinds of evil"* (1 Ti 6:10).

Sometimes circumstances make it hard to avoid the 'debt trap', in spite of skilled money management (Ne 5:1-5, Ec 9:11). But, that makes it no less a harsh master. Franklin had it right: *Better to go to bed supperless than rise in debt.* Think about it.