

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

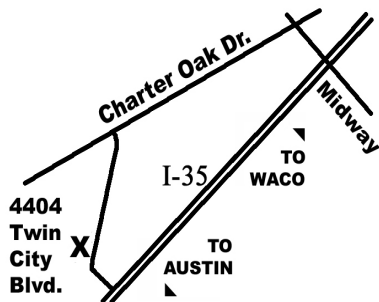
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

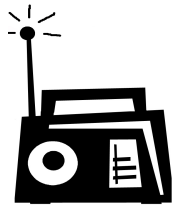
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 5

Number 3

When There is No Authority

“In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes. – Judg 21:25

It is popular – and often easy – to resist authority. Young people back talk their parents with impunity. Students ignore the directions of a teacher – and, the teacher is powerless to demand compliance. Even the cop on the street and the soldier on the battlefield must operate within ‘the rules of engagement’ – which seem designed more and more to empower the ‘bad guys’.

Of course, I understand the dangers of abusive power. Rules are in place to prevent child abuse, exploitation of students, and an overreaching military and police force. But, in our efforts to protect the powerless, we have robbed legitimate authority figures of the muscle they need to enforce the law – to uphold what is right and proper in a society. And, this does not bode well.

The history recorded in the closing chapters of the book of Judges is instructive to anyone willing to hear it. When authority figures no longer can – or will – enforce morally upright behavior, the outcome is, ultimately, a breakdown of law and order. It is seen in many ‘third world’ countries today; and, pending an unlikely national repentance, it is coming soon to a street near you.

Another Perspective

I Want My Child To Have Everything

Today we put undue emphasis on the possession of things. Clothes, cars, jewelry, land, and houses assume for us an importance all out of proportion to their real worth. And, to make sure that the next generation has a properly developed appetite like ours, we shower our children with ‘everything’ they ask for – first toys, then pocket money, then clothes. Our only excuse is, “I love my children! I want them to have everything I did not have.” Our children then grow up without discipline, without the will to work, and without moral or religious training.

Let me suggest now three things we can give to our children that will be more useful to them than, say, a new bicycle or wristwatch. But, be warned – these are very expensive gifts.

The first is *Chastening*. “*Whom the Lord loves, He chastens.*” If we do wrong, we are chastened. So, if our child does wrong, let him be chastened by a sorrowing, but firm, parent. The next is *Example*. Note the parent who sends his child to Bible class, but does not go to church himself. Does he imagine that his offspring will think such things as faith and obedience important in the face of this practical denial? Finally, the third gift is *Time*. Spend it on the child whom you love. If we want them to be godly, knowledgeable, self-controlled, imaginative or good, then let us take time to train them in those things.

– H.P. Ewing (edited)

Just Thinkin'

It was not the first time I had seen death up close – before the undertaker had a chance to pretty it up. When the blood ceases to flow, the skin takes on a pallid hue. It is always a sobering experience.

Solomon wrote, “*It is better to go to the house of mourning than to the house of feasting*” (Ecc 7:2). And, while that may not seem intuitive, it is certainly true. It is in the house of mourning that we learn the important lessons of life – its transitory nature, its ultimate purpose, and the need for preparing for what lies ahead.

The house of feasting (to say nothing of the house of debauchery) does not lend itself to such thoughts. It keeps us focused on the here and now, and pushes thoughts of duty and destiny to the background. It breeds apathy toward the most important issues confronting every one of us.

So, while hearts grieve over the death of a loved one, such occasions can be a stepping stone for a brighter tomorrow – including a grand reunion. It's worth thinking about.