

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

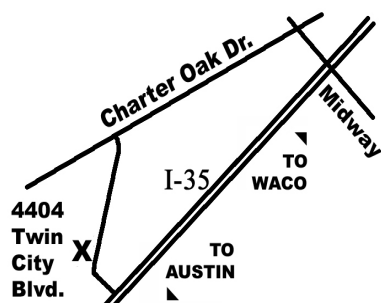
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

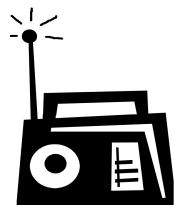
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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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Volume 5

Number 4

Short Prayers, Long Prayers

The king said to me, "What do you request?" So I prayed to the God of heaven; and I said to the king, "... I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers, that I may rebuild it." - Neh 2:4-5

This passage relates what is possibly the shortest prayer in the Bible. The powerful Persian king, Artaxerxes, had asked Nehemiah a question – and we can hardly believe he would have waited thirty minutes (or fifteen, or five) for Nehemiah to go through a prayer ritual. But, that did not stop Nehemiah from praying. Some have called it an ‘arrow prayer’ – swift and to the point.

On the other hand, Jesus was known to spend all night in prayer (Lu 6:12). It was the night before He selected His twelve apostles – a major milestone in His ministry. And, this must have occupied at least some of His prayer time that night. Prayer was more important than sleep.

I have heard brethren (in years past) engage in ‘chronocriticism’ of those who lead public prayers. I have heard others (in years past) argue against any lengthy prayers because of the rebuke of Jesus (Mt 6:7). But, Jesus only argued against “*vain*” repetition. He Himself did not hesitate to ask the Father for help over and over and over again when Satan pressed his assault (Mt 26:44). So yes, there is a time to pray – and pray – and pray – and pray.

Another Perspective

Correcting an Adulterous Marriage

Baptism does not make the sin of adultery or any other sin into a virtue. If a person steals a car and drives it to church and is baptized, can he keep it? No. If a homosexual is baptized, can he keep his lover? No. If a man marries another man's wife and is baptized, can he keep her? No.

Forgiveness of sins does not absolve the consequences of that sin. A murderer still has to face the consequences of his sin. He may have to spend the rest of his life in prison or even be executed. If he has



children, they will also suffer. God is not the one who put the children into such a heart-wrenching situation. Who is really to blame for their situation in case of divorce? One or both of the parents who did not care what their divorce and re-

marriage would do to their children or the children in a second marriage. Even dissolving an unscriptural marriage does not relieve the parents of their responsibility toward their children.

When people violate God's law on marriage, divorce, and remarriage, they sin. If they continue in their sin they will be lost. It is better for us to help people recognize their sin so they can get out of it. We must not help them to deny their sins by perverting the teaching of the Bible in a futile effort to try to justify them.

– Ron Boatwright (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

It has been observed that we are born naked, wet and hungry – and then things get worse. Whether that is true or not (the 'things get worse' part) depends, I believe, on the direction of one's life.

Things do get worse for children who are born to narcissistic parents, to drug-addicted parents, or to hedonistic parents. In addition to the physical and emotional abuse these children suffer at the hands of their parents, they are ill-prepared for an eternal focus. They are too busy just trying to survive from day to day.

Children of responsible parents may be born 'naked, wet and hungry'; but, they are soon warmed and fed. And, if they are very fortunate, they will be taught about God and about sin and about their eventual need for a Savior. The prospect for these children is bright, indeed.

Of course, even abused children can learn about Jesus, if they have good hearts and right circumstances; but it's tough. So think about them, and lend a hand when you can.