

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

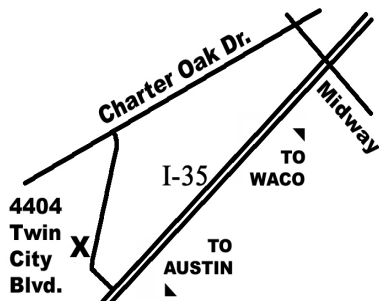
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

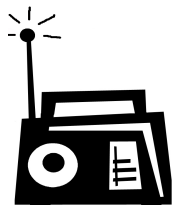
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## 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 5

## Never Too Late

*“Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned fifty-five years in Jerusalem. But he did evil in the sight of the LORD... Therefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the army of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh... Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers & prayed to Him; & He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, & brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.” - 2 Chr 33:1-13*

It is difficult to fully grasp the extent of apostasy that King Manasseh brought to Judah. The other inspired historian (2<sup>nd</sup> Kings) notes that he *“acted more wickedly than all the Amorites who were before him”* (21:11) and that he *“shed very much innocent blood”* (21:16). By any standard, Manasseh was a wicked man – for a long time.

But, he repented of his sins. And, God forgave him.

Some people have a difficult time with this. When one has sinned so grievously, and for most of a lifetime – well, their hope of salvation is pretty much forfeited. Or, so they say. But, that has never been God’s position. From His gracious offer to Cain (Ge 4:7), to His parable of the eleventh-hour worker (Mt 20:1-16), God has always indicated His willingness to forgive. This is bad news for the Pharisees; but, good news for you and me.

## Another Perspective

### WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT PURGATORY?

The Bible says nothing about purgatory. It is as silent as the tomb. Purgatory does not exist, except in the minds of men. The idea of purgatory is that all men (except those who are perfect) must be purged by fire because of their sins. After enough gifts, prayers, and masses, God transports one's relatives out of the fires of purgatory and into heaven.

The idea, however, is even inconsistent with other Catholic doctrine. It is difficult to understand how, at death, a priest is summoned to administer extreme unction, at which he pronounces absolution of all sins. Then, after death, one must be gotten out of purgatory — who went there, it is declared, because of his sins!

The Bible does not teach the doctrine of purgatory or any other doctrine of a second chance after death. Rather, it teaches that one cannot change his condition after death. *"It is appointed unto men once to die, and after this, the judgment"* (He 9:27). See also Luke 16:19-31, particularly verse 26. We will be judged by what we have done here on earth, not by what someone does for us after we die. *"We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to what he has done, whether it be good or bad"* (2 Co 5:10).

It is regrettable that so many have been deceived into thinking that one can be purged from his sins after death, for they live with a false hope. The Bible says nothing of the sort.

– David Watts (edited for space)

## Just Thinkin'

Recently, I saw a special on television about the incredible powers of duct tape. Given its adhesive power and tensile strength, it can be used to lift an automobile – or construct a cannon. Its reputation prompted one philosopher to extol, *"Duct tape is like The Force: it has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together."*

Of course, duct tape has not yet been acclaimed one of the 'Seven Wonders of the World', as Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian gardens were. He boasted that his royal palace was built by his own *"mighty power"* (Dan 4:30). But, God was not impressed; and, Nebuchadnezzar was humbled by God's own mighty hand. Other braggarts have suffered similar fates (e.g., tower of Babel). Man just has a hard time impressing God.

Another philosopher (the blue-collar variety) said, *"Give me duct tape, bungee cord, and a wire clothes hanger, and I can conquer the world."* I doubt it. But now that I think about it, he probably could go a long ways toward fixin' things around the house.