

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

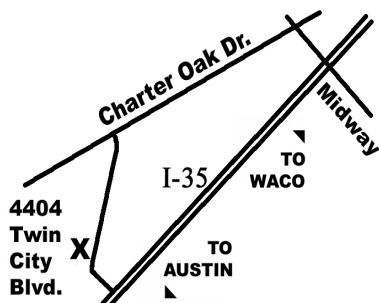
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

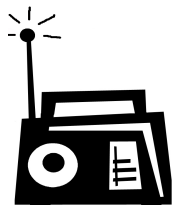
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## 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).



## BIBLE MOMENTS Radio Program

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# SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
**LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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## IF

It may be a cliché to say that the word ‘if’ is the biggest word in the English language; but, it’s true. For example:

*“by which [gospel] you are saved, IF you hold fast that word which I preached to you...” – 1 Co 15:2*

*“Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for IF you do these things you will never stumble” – 2 Pe 1:10*

*“...to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — IF indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast...” – Col 1:22-23*

We could cite more, but you get the point. And, how big is the word ‘if’ in these passages? Look again: “*You are saved IF you hold fast*”. What if we don’t “*hold fast*”? Then we are not saved. And again: “*IF you do these things, you will never stumble*”. What if we don’t “*do these things*”? Then we will stumble. And again: we are holy “*IF you continue in the faith*”. What if we don’t “*continue*”? Then we are unholy. It’s really pretty simple.

The word ‘if’ in these passages sets forth conditions that must be met if we would be saved. Theologians may quibble, but God’s Word is not hard to understand.

## Giving Up Rights

Here in the United States, we take a great deal of pride in the rights we have been given. We are frequently known to insist on our rights. In fact, numerous times, we have gone to war to make sure that no one takes our rights away from us. Perhaps that is why it is so difficult for us to understand the humility required of us by God to live the Christian life.

Paul says a lot about 'rights' in First Corinthians. He is strong in his affirmation that he and the other apostles had many rights: "*Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife... [Do we] have no right to refrain from working?*" (1 Co 9:4-6). Paul's rights were many; but, he was ready and willing to give up those rights for a greater cause. "*Nevertheless, we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ*" (1 Co 9:12).

So often, problems are caused in the church when two brothers or sisters insist on getting their way. After all, they have a 'right' to act the way they do! We don't like to give up our rights for anyone; but, as difficult as it may be, we need to learn to do just that. Perhaps it helps to remember that the One who had a right to remain in heaven, served by the angelic host, gave it all up for your sake and mine. I'm glad that He didn't insist on his rights. I pray that He helps me not to insist on mine.

– Alan Smith

## Just Thinkin'

An uninspired proverb states, '*It's always darkest just before dawn*'. Some see in that an inspiring message of endurance – to 'hang on' no matter how difficult things get. But, others see little more than a good lead about the best time to steal a neighbor's newspaper. It all depends on your mindset.

And, inspired wisdom is subject to the same abuse. Some folks read Mark 16:16 and see two simple conditions that must be met in order to be saved. Others look at it and try to explain one (or both) away. A young child, first learning to read, can understand what Jesus said there. It takes a mind tortured by theology to explain it away.

Of course, my law enforcement friends have their own twist on our proverb. They insist, '*It's always darkest just before the lights go out*'. And, since we are dealing with UN-inspired literature, I'll not argue. But, some think they can do the same with the words of Jesus. They replace 'faith and baptism' with whatever suits them – or with nothing at all. I suspect their lights are already out. They are certainly in the dark.