

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

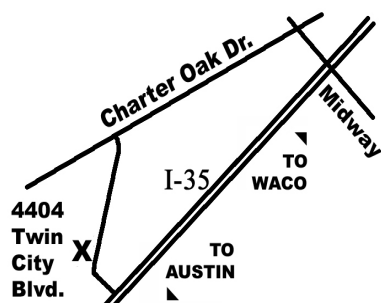
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

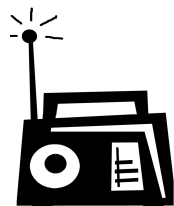
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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 8

The Events of Matthew 24

Doomsday ‘prophets’ are quick to run to Matthew 24 in an effort to foretell the events of the ‘end times’. But, what was Jesus really describing in this chilling chapter?

The apostles had asked Jesus several questions – not only about the ‘end times’ but also about the destruction of Jerusalem (vss 1-3); and Jesus answered all of their questions. In the early portion of the chapter, Jesus spoke of things that would occur within a generation (vs 34); and He promised that signs would precede the events (vs 33). This could only refer to the destruction of Jerusalem in 70A.D. (also see Luke’s account, Lu 21:20).

By contrast, in the latter part of Matthew 24, and going into chapter 25, Jesus addressed the questions of the ‘end of the world’ and of His ‘coming’ – when “*heaven and earth will pass away*” (vs 35). And, Jesus provided no hint as to the timing of these events (vs 36). On the contrary, He compared it to the flood (vss 38-39) and to a thief (vss 43-44) – no signs would herald its coming.

It is easy to take a passage here and there and spin an exciting tale of a future rapture, tribulation, and thousand year reign of Jesus on earth. But, such fanciful tales are not born out by Matthew 24 – *or any other Biblical text.*

THE GREATEST VICTORY

History abounds in its records of great victories; but, none excels the triumph of the apostle Paul, described by himself on the eve of his 'departure': "*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give to me at that day; and not to me only, but also to all them that have loved his appearing*" (2 Ti 4:7-8).

But, Paul was a fighter before he was a good fighter. He once thought that he "*ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth*" – and he carried on a terrific warfare against the truth. Many have the courage and will that fighting demands; yet, they use it in a way that is disastrous to themselves and others. A human jellyfish may do no more than waste good food and encumber space; but, a fighter is either doing a lot of good or a tremendous amount of harm. It is contrary to his nature to be neutral.

A "*good fight*" demands a stout heart directed by clear thinking and true ideals to guide it. Paul also had an objective: "*...forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things which are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Ph 3:13-14). Paul encountered many obstacles; but, his victory in overcoming them through Jesus made it a "*good fight*."

– Cled E. Wallace (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

Many things in life allow little room for error. Take skydiving for example. Some people jump out of perfectly good airplanes just for sport. But gravity, being what it is, is very unforgiving. An unsecured strap, a tangled line, a failed rip cord – and, you end up making the six o'clock news. There are no second chances.

And, some people are just as unforgiving. If you stumble, or are weak, or if you make a bad decision in life, look out! You end up impaled on the tip of a brotherly lance (which is no less lethal just because it is brotherly). Tears of remorse and requests for forgiveness have no impact on your self-proclaimed judge, jury, and executioner. You have been judged as unworthy and are left to survive spiritually as best you can.

Thankfully, God does not deal with our sins that way. He forgives multiple times and He commands us to do the same (Mt 18:21-35). Of course, this is not a license for weak brethren to indulge sin; but, it does lay down the law on how God's children are to treat a penitent sinner. Think about it.