

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

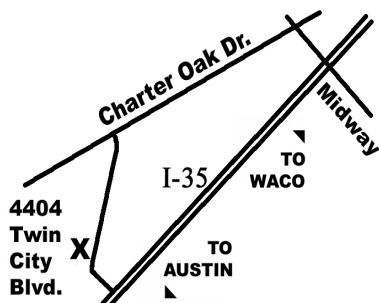
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

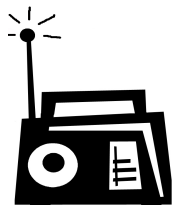
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## 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**

4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 5

Number 10

## Capitalism, Communism, & the Bible

To hear some folks speak, one would think the capitalist system is the greatest evil the world has ever seen. By contrast, they may point to the early church as a God-ordained example of communism. So, what DOES the Bible teach about capitalism – and communism?

Honest labor, and wages, and the stuff that those wages can buy (private property) are not inherently evil. The Old and New Testaments both assume a capitalistic economy (Pr 31:16, Ja 4:13-15, etc.). Of course, many warnings are written about ‘money-love’ (1 Ti 6:9-10, etc.); but, being rich is not inherently sinful (vss. 17-19).

In Acts 2, the disciples had “*all things common*” (vs 44); but, was this communism? No – this sharing was on a voluntary basis (Ac 5:4 – note the Greek ‘*exousia*’; and 2 Co 9:7). It was only for those in need (2:45), and did not require a surrender of all private property (Ac 12:12, 1 Th 4:11-12, etc.) – not exactly what Marx had in mind.

Communism robs the individual of charitable choice. It takes away any incentive for working hard and makes its subjects dependant on the institutional teat – an approach specifically condemned in scripture when private means are available to care for those in need (1 Ti 5:16).

## Another Perspective

# THE SOCIAL GOSPEL

The 'social gospel' is the effort to expand the spiritual activities of the church to include physical needs and desires. It may include gymnasiums, kitchens, medical missions, game rooms, busses for outings, etc. All of these may be good and wholesome activities, or even very helpful; but, the question remains whether the church has the authority to act in these.

We can read of members of the church eating together (Ac 2:46); but, we never find the church providing the facilities to do such. Apostles healed the sick (Ac 19:11-12); but, the church never provided medical facilities to accomplish this.

The church can only survive by one of two philosophies (although by the first, it ceases to be the Lord's church). The first method involves competing with other churches with social programs and activities like those mentioned above. Thus begins a never-ending cycle of competition with other churches. It may begin in very simple, seemingly unobtrusive ways. But with time, the initial abandonment of authority leads deeper and deeper into error.

The second is to offer only the truth. This is the precious commodity the church clings to, for by the truth she exists. The meeting house may not be as full as many others in town, but the stand for truth is essential for her salvation as well as her continued existence (Ep 4:14-15; 5:25-32).

– *Bob Pulliam (edited)*

## Just Thinkin'

Some folks 'rise to the occasion' - like the young shepherd, David. He did not go out looking for greatness that day when he visited his brothers on the battlefield (1 Sa 17). Yet, the occasion - coupled with his faith - propelled him to greatness.

But, while some folks 'rise to the occasion', others just 'slide over' to it - like King Saul. As Israel's first king, he also had an opportunity for greatness. He could have set the standard for his successors by honoring the Law of God. But, he failed to grasp the significance of the occasion - or of his duty.

We may not see any connection between these examples and our own lives. Perhaps we never see ourselves and 'greatness' in the same context. But, while we may never rise to lead a nation, we DO have occasions for moral greatness on a regular basis. Young people on a date, middle-aged people making career decisions, or older folks dealing with the infirmities of age - each is a chance for greatness. You can 'rise to the occasion', or just 'slide over' to it. Think about it.