

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

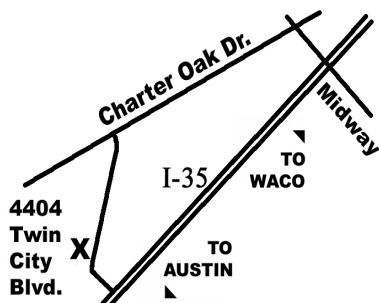
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

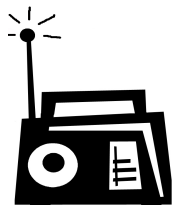
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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

Listen to the Bible Moments radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 8:30 on KTEM 1400 on your A.M. dial!
Free audio downloads of the program are available at:
www.biblemoments.org

SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 5

Number 11

Turning Water to Whiskey

One of the most common defenses offered for the social drinking of alcohol is the first miracle of Jesus recorded in chapter two of John's gospel. There we read that He miraculously turned water to 'wine'; therefore, some say, Jesus approved the social use of alcohol. But, did He?

The word 'wine' in the New Testament is from the Greek 'oinos' and can refer to the juice of the grape whether it is fermented or not (see Mt 9:17, for example, where the same word describes the juice before and after the fermentation process). The only way to know which type of juice is under consideration is to look at the context. So, let's look again at John chapter two.

When Jesus performed His miracle, the guests had already "well drunk", or "drunk freely" (vs. 10). His 'oinos' would not have been their first drink at the party. And, if the 'oinos' being served was fermented (and thus, intoxicating), would Jesus really have chosen to contribute further to their drunkenness? Of course not! Jesus condemned such behavior (Lu 21:34).

To hear some tell it, Jesus might as well have turned the water to whiskey – and, proposed a toast to boot.

Another Perspective

I Am the Preacher

I am the preacher. Like you, I am an experiment in grace - a flesh and blood testimony to God's goodness.

I have soup stains on my tie, razor nicks on my neck, mud on my shoes, a song on my lips, and the joy of Jesus in my heart. I am part poet, part handyman, part soldier, and part badger. I am a purveyor of hope, a merchant of mercy, an advocate of agape, a fan of faith, and a sharer of the Good News.

I pray. I study. I wrestle with the text. I search for the right words to express it. Sometimes I am successful. But, always I preach first to me.

I want to be better than I am; and, I want you to be better than you are. I want to reproduce Jesus in my life – and help you do the same. I want us to be fueled by the Spirit of God, directed by His Word. I'm concerned with character – mine and yours. I want us both to be successful – in biblical terms. I am convinced that there is a better world coming, so I want us both to live 'other-worldly' now. I want what is best for you – at times more than you do.

My life, like yours, has its ups and downs. I have had more good days than bad, but enough bad to relate. I feel. I laugh. I cry. I hurt. I understand. I know. I care.

My job is to encourage, to exhort, to rebuke, to warn, and to teach. And, with God's help, I will until I die, because I am the preacher.

– author unknown (from *Pulpit Helps*, August 1999, edited)

Just Thinkin'

"All who believe in telekinesis, raise my hand." With such a simple statement, the hoax of psychic power is laid to rest.

The hoax of modern-day miracles is just as easily laid to rest. *"All who believe in miracles, raise the dead."* The fact that none do is prima facie evidence that none can.

The genuine miracle-workers of the first century never argued their ability to perform miracles. They just performed the miracles. The purpose of those miracles was to confirm that the message they preached was from God (Mk 16:20, He 2:3-4).

Today's miracle-hoaxers reverse that process. They run to the Word of God (the message) to 'confirm' that they have the ability to perform miracles. Sorry, Charlie. It doesn't work that way.

Heart surgeons do not run to any textbook to prove their abilities. They just do the job. And, a genuine miracle-worker would never argue their ability to do miracles. They would just 'getter dun'. Think about it.