

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

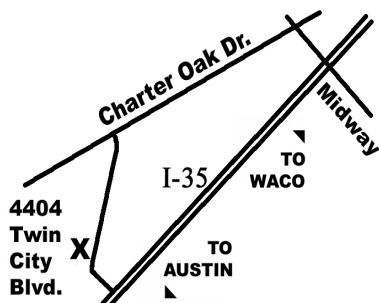
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

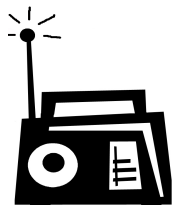
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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
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Volume 5

Number 12

Means and Ends

‘The ends justify the means’ – or so some say. But, what does the Bible teach? Is it ever right to do wrong?

King Saul thought it was a good idea. When he was commanded by God to annihilate the Amalekites, he spared the best of the sheep and oxen, “*to sacrifice unto the Lord*” (1 Sa 15:15). He directly violated God’s commandment in order to do something he thought was better. But, God called it “*rebellion*” (vs. 23).

A thousand years later, the apostle Paul wrote that some were making a similar charge against him: “*Let us do evil that good may come*” (Ro 3:8). Not only did he deny the charge, but he stated that those who reason this way will receive a “*just*” damnation.

Today, that attitude is still common. In the areas of morality, church organization and worship, and even with the plan of salvation, some folks think they have found better ways than those God has revealed. “*Things are different now*” or “*It’s only an expedient*” may work if we are debating moving up from a horse to a tractor. But, fundamental spiritual problems – and solutions – have not changed in the last two thousand years. If we seek to accomplish God’s ends, then let’s use His means.

A SOFT ANSWER

Human emotions, like a nest of hornets, are easily aroused when provoked. And, nothing ‘stirs up anger’ quicker than harsh words carelessly spoken. That’s why so many sins condemned in the New Testament involve careless use of the tongue. We must train ourselves to say right words – with right attitudes.

Jesus knew the healing power of pleasant words. When He talked, people “*marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth*” (Lu 4:22). Sinners found in His words a hope they could not find in the pontificating of the scribes and Pharisees. In fact, Jesus’ sternest language was reserved for those religious leaders who had lost touch with the people and could only ‘speak down’ to them (Mt 23).

Paul deplored the verbal abuse that pseudo-preachers of his day heaped on their listeners (2 Co 11:20). He preferred to deal with people gently (1 Th 2:7), and taught other preachers to do the same (2 Ti 2:24-25). That does not mean Paul was timid in the face of error. He could ‘shell the corn’ when he had to; but, even then his plain talk was delivered in a spirit of kindness (2 Co 7:3-12). And, he urged all Christians to do the same (Ga 6:1). He knew what many have yet to learn: “*A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger*”, and “*Pleasant words are like honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones*” (Pr 15:1, 16:24).

– David King (edited)

Just Thinkin’

It has been one of the colder winters on record – despite the ‘global warming’ doomsayers. In fact, it was beginning to look like the cool weather would never relent. But after all, God only promised “*winter and summer*”. He never guaranteed the timetable (Ge 8:22).

In the same way, God has promised that Jesus will one day come again. But, He has not provided a timetable (Mt 24:36, 2 Pe 3:1-10). The delay in His coming lulls some into sleep and others into denial; but, come He will. And, we had best be prepared.

King Saul suffered from this same ‘why-doesn’t-he-hurry-up?’ mentality. When Samuel delayed coming to Saul’s side to offer sacrifices for the impending battle, Saul took it on himself to offer the sacrifices (a job reserved only for the priests – 1 Sa 13:8-14). He lost his throne for his impatience. We can lose our eternal inheritance for ours.

Spring does eventually come. And, so will the Lord – in His time. Think about it.