

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

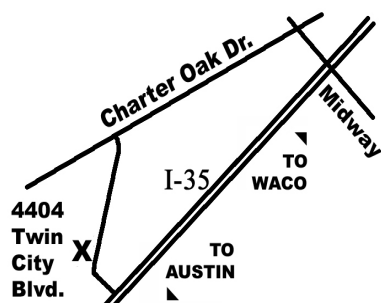
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

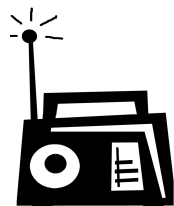
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

Volume 5

Number 14

Diotrephes and Demetrius

“...Diotrephes, who loves to have the preeminence...” - 3 Jn 9
“Demetrius has a good testimony from all...” - 3 Jn 12

I have long been struck with the contrast between these two Biblical characters. Within just a few verses, John describes two men of completely opposite natures; yet, the brief descriptions provide important lessons for God’s children today.

On the one hand, Diotrephes wanted to be a ‘big man’. And, the way he went about gaining that prestige was by throwing his weight around and bullying the brethren. Beyond the use of “*malicious words*” we do not know the tactics he used. But, whether he used physical force or not, we know that he never achieved the preeminence he sought – at least not from those who mattered.

On the other hand, Demetrius lived his life according to the principles of God’s Word; he had a “*good testimony*” from “*the truth itself*”. That tells us that preeminence was NOT a concern for Demetrius (Mt 23:11-12). The irony is that this man found what Diotrephes did not: true preeminence. He had “*a good testimony from all*” and, of course, he has enjoyed two thousand years of good press. Yep, I think there’s a lesson in there somewhere.

“I Do”



Author and business leader Fred Smith writes: One of my treasured memories comes from a doughnut shop in Grand Saline, Texas. There was a young farm couple sitting at the table next to mine. He was wearing overalls and she a gingham dress. After finishing their doughnuts, he

got up to pay the bill, and I noticed that she didn't get up to follow him.

But then he came back and stood in front of her. She put her arms around his neck, and he lifted her up, revealing that she was wearing a full-body brace. He lifted her out of her chair and backed out the front door to the pickup truck, with her hanging from his neck.

As he gently put her into the truck, everyone in the shop watched. No one said anything until a waitress remarked, “He took his vows seriously.”

– *Leadership, XVI: 1:38*

(quoted by Jim Ward in the Lost River church bulletin)

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“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” – Ep 5:25

Just Thinkin'

“Don't Worry; Be Happy!” – It's one of those songs with a catchy tune that stays stuck in your head for a long time. It's also sound Biblical advice.

“Don't Worry” – Isn't that what Jesus said? *“Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.”* (Mt 6:31-32). While concern for others is justified (2 Co 11:28), our tendency is to fret over trivia.

“Be Happy” – Isn't that what Paul wrote? *“Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”* (Ph 4:4). Of course, this is not the festive joy associated with revelry and wild living, but the inner joy that comes from having one's sins forgiven and being in a right relationship with God.

A philosopher summarized both of these admonitions when he advised: *“Worry does not empty tomorrow of its pain; it empties today of its joy.”* It's not exactly a catchy tune; but, it is certainly the truth. So, think about it.