

# THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton  
Mike Gentry

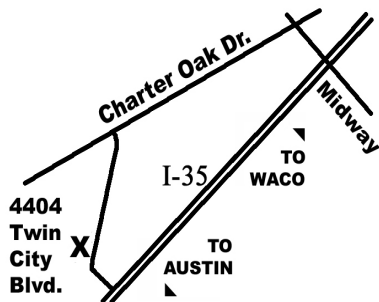
Deacons: Craig Clanton  
David Foster  
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

## WHEN WE MEET

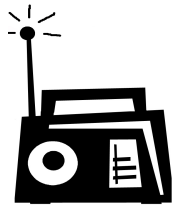
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

## 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!  
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# SIMPLE TRUTH

A PUBLICATION OF THE  
LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

4404 Twin City Blvd. Temple TX 76502

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Number 15

## NOBLE AND GOOD HEARTS

*“The ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.” – Lu 8:15*

How can we know if our hearts are what they ought to be? In His explanation of the parable of the sower, Jesus provided the answer.

A noble and good heart *hears the Word of God*. It realizes its need for guidance. It is receptive to the message. It humbles itself before the Creator of the heavens and the earth.

A noble and good heart *keeps the Word of God*. It realizes the importance of obedience. It is willing to sacrifice its own desires in order to do what God says. It does not seek to justify disobedience by ridiculing the importance of good works.

And, a noble and good heart *will bring forth fruit*. It realizes that there is much to accomplish in the kingdom and that the laborers are few. It is willing to devote itself to the task of bringing others to Christ – patiently.

God is looking for individuals with “*noble and good*” hearts. What kind of heart do YOU have?

## GIVING GOD THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT

The longer you know somebody, and have interacted with them, and the longer they have demonstrated commitment/love toward you, the more likely you are to give them the benefit of the doubt in cases where their (unexplained) actions seem incongruous with what you know about them.

Depending on our depth of history with the Lord (as with our depth of history with another human), we will give the 'benefit of the doubt' to Him, when the data of an immediate experience seems to contradict the data of our prior patterns of experience with Him. When it gets tough, we quickly start asking the 'help me understand' questions in prayer, but in that 'in between' zone we often have to look to our past history with God – that He has proven Himself good-hearted to us, in both general history (e.g., dying on the Cross, giving us the Word of Life in the Bible) and in our personal history (e.g., comfort in suffering, character development). God has an 'audit trail of grace' in our lives and we are justified in giving Him the benefit of the doubt.

So, in times of difficulty and dissonance, I have to keep reminding myself to give the Lord the benefit of the doubt. I have seen the beauty of His character for too long, and have seen Him answer too many 'help me understand' questions in wise and wondrous ways.

– Glenn M. Miller (edited for space)

## Just Thinkin'

Sometimes we take two steps forward and three steps back – spiritually speaking. We work on one character flaw, thinking maybe we've got it licked, when another one raises its ugly head. Oh well, no one said Christ-likeness would be easy.

Take the tongue, for example. James called it "*an unruly evil*" which no man could tame (3:8). Of course, he was not suggesting that we give up trying; but, he did imply that taming it would not be easy – and he was right.

Paul himself had the same kinds of spiritual struggles (Ro 7:15-25). Like us, he sometimes wanted to 'kick himself' for his sins. But, there was no undoing them – no retakes or second chances. He concluded that the only solution to his spiritual struggle was found, not in himself, but in the forgiveness that Jesus offered.

Think about that. As strong as Paul was, his only hope for spiritual victory was in Jesus. If we have any chance of victory over sin, Jesus is our only hope as well.