

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

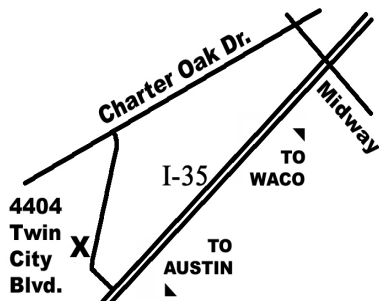
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

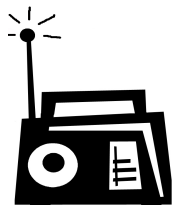
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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 19

“I’m Not Going to Church”

Sometimes one may utter such words as a ‘declaration of independence’ (from parents or a spouse) as part of a full-blown apostasy. But, it is also heard at other times.

“I’m not going to church – I don’t like _____.”
It may be the preacher or some other member, the song service, the crowd, the kids – or the air conditioning; but, this excuse serves the purposes of many very well.

“I’m not going to church – I’ve got company.” Perhaps the visit was planned ahead of time, with full knowledge that it conflicted with the assembly. Or, maybe company dropped in unexpectedly. Either way, friends or family trumped the assembling of saints.

“I’m not going to church – I’m not feeling well”, which every Christian, and the Good Lord, understand. Yet, this same brother or sister may be found on Monday morning at work, Thursday afternoon at the grocery store, and Saturday on the lake. Diagnosis: Sunday-itis.

“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (He 10:25). ‘Forsake’: from the Greek ‘ενκαταλειπω’, to abandon, to leave helpless (Vine’s). Would you do this to the “assembling of saints”? Would you?

Another Perspective

Criteria for Determining a Valid Expedient

The Expedient Must Be Lawful – Robbing a bank may be a faster way to fill the treasury; but it is also a sin! The preaching of women to the general assembly has been justified on the grounds that they can be more sincere and convincing in the pulpit. Such, however, is unlawful (I Ti 2:11 - 15).

Specifics Must Be Honored – When God specifies something, we must do it! An expedient is a choice, like building a baptistery or using the pond out back; but, when God specifies, there is no choice! For example, God specified that we are to sing in worshiping Him (Ep 5:19; Col 3:16). We have no choice but to do exactly what God has specified.

It Must Be Used to Accomplish God's Work – There are many good works in this world (blood drives, scouts, community counseling programs, etc.); but, such are not authorized as the work of the church. The church is given three areas in which it is authorized to endeavor (evangelism, edification, and benevolence). God has specified the work of the church, and therefore, an expedient must fall within that work.

It Must Not Cause Stumbling in Others – Matters specified in the scriptures must be done. If someone tells me that I shouldn't practice baptism because it would cause them to stumble, I cannot stop. God commanded such. Matters of expedience, however, are matters of choice, and must be used judiciously with others' consciences in mind.

– Bob Pulliam (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

"Of making many books there is no end" (Ec 12:12). If Solomon's advice about books is true (and I believe it is), then how much more is it true of bulletins? Writing a book takes considerable time and effort; writing a bulletin article takes considerably less. Thus, brethren write - and, I am inundated with bulletins via e-mail, snail mail, and the Internet. And if that's not enough, I can search endlessly online for more.

Such a wealth of material is a two-edged sword. On the one hand, it can consume a large amount of time - time that is often needed to do other things. In addition, as another Proverb states, ***"In the multitude of words, sin is not lacking"*** (Pr 10:19). When one has nothing to say, but feels pressured by a deadline to say something, bad things happen.

On the other hand, to hear old truths couched in novel ways is refreshing - and often provides insights that we had never considered before. So, I think I'll continue to read - and to write - bulletins. Maybe we'll stumble across a useful nugget or two.