

THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Gerald Clanton
Mike Gentry

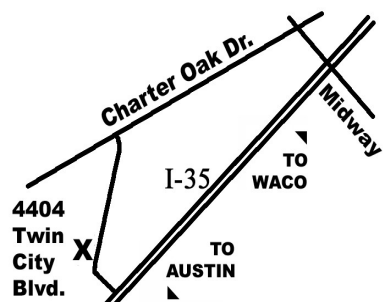
Deacons: Craig Clanton
David Foster
V.O. Speights

Preacher: Warren King

WHEN WE MEET

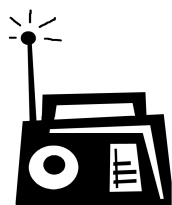
Sun:	Classes	9:30 A.M.
	Assembly	10:30 A.M.
	Assembly	6:00 P.M.
Wed:	Classes	7:30 P.M.

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

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The J.P., Lovely Goodreport

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

- Ph 4:8

Of course, I have never known a Justice of the Peace by that name; but, this JP has been with me for many years. She is the mnemonic device I use to remember that list of “things” the apostle tells us to think about. You may find it strange, but it works for me – and that is enough.

This JP reminds me that much of the spiritual battle is won – or lost – in the mind. When we allow ourselves to contemplate deceitful, dishonest, or unjust ‘things’, we have already lost the battle. When we think on ‘things’ that are impure, spiritually ugly, or commendable only in Satan’s eyes – we have lost the battle.

But, Paul does not state these as negatives. The command is to proactively think of things **True, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely,** and of **Good Report**. It is a simple formula; but, filling our hearts with these kinds of ‘things’ will go far in helping us win our spiritual battles against Satan.

Another Perspective

The Matter of Authority

Either we must have authority for all that we do in religion, or we do not. Any position in between would be ridiculous. If someone insists that we must have authority for some things, but not for all things, by what standard could he possibly distinguish the two?

May God pity the man who calls himself a gospel preacher and who makes such statements as: "We do many things for which we do not have authority". Such a preacher would have neither right nor grounds to condemn any of the religious practices around us. On what basis would he show that instrumental music, infant baptism, choirs, missionary societies, quarterly or annual communion, etc., are wrong?

Authority falls into two categories: specific and general. Some things are specifically authorized like baptism and singing. Other things are authorized because they are embraced in, and necessary to, the performance of things specifically authorized: 'aids' in carrying out a command (as long as no Scriptural principle is violated) - like a baptistery or songbooks.

To say that we must have authority for all we do in religion is a far cry from saying that we must have *specific* authority for all we do in religion. Certainly Noah had authority to use whatever tools were necessary to carry out the injunction to build the ark. But, if God had specified the tools, he would have been limited to what God had specified.

– Bill Crews (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

By the time you read this, the deed will have already been done. Though I make no pretense of being a song leader, my 'favorite niece' (they all claim that title) asked me to lead a song at her wedding.

I've preached many weddings, sat through a good many more, and even cleaned up after a few. Any of those options would have been my personal preference. Even picking my nose would have been a novel touch; but, it doesn't fit the wedding template. So, I agreed to lead the song.

Because it's not about me.

Jesus stated the principle often: "*whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant*" (Mt 20:26). In a society that is self-absorbed, we all need to spend less time thinking of ourselves and more time thinking of others - of being servants.

So, I wish my niece (and nephew-in-law) the best in their life ahead; and, I'll do my best to lead the song for their sake. Now let's discuss the parable of the talents.