

SIMPLE TRUTH

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THE LEON VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

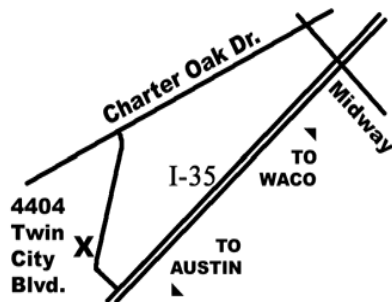
meeting at 4404 Twin City Blvd., Temple, TX 76502

(254) 939-0682

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.

Listen to the Bible Moments radio broadcast Sunday mornings at 8:30 on KTEM 1400 on your A.M. dial.

Visit our website at
www.biblemoments.org

All articles in Simple Truth are written by Warren King, unless otherwise noted.

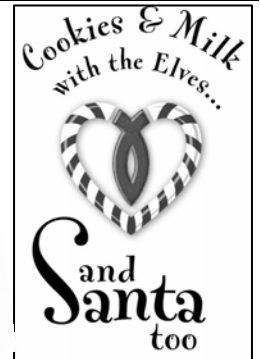
Simple Truth

A COMPENDIUM OF ARTICLES DESIGNED TO
INSTRUCT, INFORM & INSPIRE SEEKERS OF TRUTH

Volume 7

Number 5

IS THIS REALLY WHAT CHRIST DIED FOR?



This advertisement for “*Cookies and Milk with the Elves (and Santa too)*” was found in a recent bulletin of a “Church of Christ” in Tennessee. It was just one small part of a smorgasbord of worldly tidbits offered by this church this past December.

Is this really what Christ died for?

Christians through the ages – from the first century until this – have died for their faith. They have experienced brutal persecution and torture (Re 6:9-11). The pap we see among many denominations (& not a few ‘Churches of Christ’) does nothing to galvanize God’s people for the inevitable spiritual warfare. It may be fun; but, in the end it leaves Christians spiritually weak (1 Co 11:30).

Now I know that I will be called ‘negative’ by some and ‘judgmental’ by others. But, I would simply encourage you to examine the scriptures. Look at the work of Jesus (& the apostles). Is this really what Christ died for?

Another Perspective

The Danger of an Empty Heart

“When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest; and not finding any, it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.”
(Lu 11:24-26)

Jesus doesn't reveal the reason for the demon's initial exit. What we do know is (at least temporarily) the man is freed from satanic control. But one victory doesn't win the war. When the evil spirit returns with his friends they find no barrier prohibiting reentry.

Ancient Israel's idolatry and immorality had brought the harsh punishment of Babylonian captivity. But while their first-century descendants had overcome Baal's grip, the Jews of Jesus' day had surrendered to other sins that were equally condemning (Mt 23:13ff). Never was a group of men more committed to religious practice; yet, never was a group farther away from God.

Will we remember what the Pharisees forgot? Satan is a determined adversary who seeks to destroy our soul (I Pe 5:8); and, he cares little what means are employed to accomplishing that end. We may whip deceit, but fall to pride. We may stand firm against immorality, but be devoured by greed. Jesus reminds us that spiritual success in one area does not mean victory in every realm.

- Terry Slack (edited for space)

Just Thinkin'

When I first stepped into a middle school classroom in the eighties, the 'final exam' for students was called the TEAMS (Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills). Shortly after that came the TAAS (Texas Assessment of Academic Skills), and then the TAKS (Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills), and now the STAAR (State of Texas Assessment of Academic Readiness). What's next? Only the bureaucrats know.

But, what has changed about reading skills, or math skills, or writing skills through the years? Two plus two still equals four. It was true in the eighties and it's true today. Do we really need another assessment to test that? No doubt larger issues are at work; but, I think money drives it all.

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.” (2 Co 13:5). This has been God's standardized test for the last 2,000 years. Compare your life to the perfect standard set forth in the gospel; then, make whatever corrections need to be made. And yes, there will be a test over the material (2 Co 5:10)!