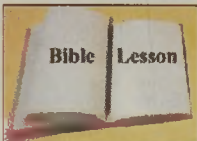


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



The Lord is gracious, merciful

PSALMS 145: 1-5

David recalled the story of how God delivered the people of Israel from captivity and led them through the Red Sea. David knew that the stories of God's chosen people were actual accounts of history. David also knew that God was deeply involved with his ancestors, contemporaries and descendants. He also probably had in mind the time when he was a young shepherd boy whose single stone felled Goliath and turned back the Philistines. God had done mighty works throughout the history of Israel and those works demonstrated God's grace and mercy toward His chosen nation.

Through his own personal experience, David recognized that God supplies the needs of His people (v. 15). Whether we believe we have earned or bread or not, we recognize that we have what we need in life because God is gracious to us and is aware of our needs.

David reminds us that God keeps His promises because He is gracious to us. God does not owe us anything. He has made promises because He wishes to bless us and He will keep those promises because He loves us.

David recalls that God also demonstrates His merciful and gracious nature when He hears the cries of those who fear Him and saves them (v. 19). God's mercy is shown each time a sinner cries out to Him and He hears. His grace is demonstrated as He gives each sinner the gift of salvation, which never could be earned by our own merit. God's grace and mercy are worthy of our praise, for He has withheld the punishment we deserve and given us blessings instead.

II. The Lord is Slow to Anger

(Psalm 145:6-8)

If you are one of the fortunate people blessed with godly parents, you know that a parent's anger builds in stages. As a child, you could recognize those stages. First there might be a stern look, followed shortly by a sharp word of warning. If those went unheeded, a more direct or serious warning might follow. If your disobedience continued, eventually, you were punished. However, your parent's anger would not fall upon you in full force without chances for you to wise up and avoid the repercussions.

David said that characteristic-being slow to anger-is another reason to praise God. God, as we know, hates sin, and His holy anger burns against it. But, in His mercy and grace toward us, He does not allow of to feel the full

Please see THE LORD/6B

Rescued from disaster

Charlotte mission pulls addicts toward productive lives



Former addict Dale McKinnon turned his life around with the help of God and the Charlotte Rescue Mission.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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About four years ago, it took the threat of jail time to bring Dale McKinnon to the Charlotte Rescue Mission.

Addicted to alcohol and crack and just out of a 14-day drug program in Lumberton in eastern N.C., McKinnon was given an option-jail or attending the 90-day program in Charlotte.

In Lumberton, McKinnon was homeless and going nowhere fast. His stepfather knew of the mission and talked McKinnon into going to Charlotte.

The rescue mission, which houses, trains and helps homeless addicts, has worked with them since 1992. Unlike many programs that treat addicts, the mission is faith based.

"We believe that professional counseling and therapy is usually necessary to help individuals to overcome the consequences of alcoholism and chemical dependency," according to the mission's philosophy. "Also, we recognize that alcoholism or drug abuse is a 'family illness', and believe that all members of the abuser's family need to be a part of the recovery process by receiving specialized help themselves. We accept the Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous as a reliable and orderly approach to recovery from alcoholism and chemical dependency. We identify the higher power as the person and work of Jesus Christ. We also believe there are some very specific scriptural principles that must be applied to such an individual to assist them in a victorious and fruitful Christian walk."

Please see RESCUE/6B



Morton pours it on with 'Rain'



Bishop Paul Morton & The FGBCF Mass Choir Let It Rain (Expanded) James H. Brown, producer Intersound

Paul Morton had a huge run a couple of years ago with "Let It Rain," a CD that picked up Stellar and Grammy award nominations.

To get more mileage from the project, Morton has repackaged the CD with a DVD featuring footage of the live concert.

The timing is curious considering Morton has released a couple of projects since this CD. Still, it's a neat two-for-one package. If you missed the first release this is a perfect chance to pick it up.

That may not be the case for those who've already purchased the CD. It was a fine recording and remains such. I don't know that the DVD adds a lot. Sure, the sound is great and the picture is sharp, but church folk are not the most interesting people to watch at times.

There are some good moments Peggy James and the FGBCF Mass Choir put a hurlin' on "The Just Shall Live." Her performance is energy-filled, making the choir come to life. And Morton's heart-tugging performance of "Let It Rain" is certainly entertaining. But I'm now convinced this song is simply a reworking of Prince's "Purple Rain." Not a bad thing, but I'm waiting for His Royal Badness to jump on the guitar solo. Now, that would have been a show stopper.

Morton doesn't have the greatest voice, but he is an emotional singer. He sings the life out of "Walk On By Faith." He also has a number of those odd bishop suits in a variety of odd colors that he wears throughout this project OK, the suits at least add a little interest.

Ratings

Classic	★★★★★
Excellent	★★★★★
Good	★★★★
Fair	★★★
Why?	★★
No stars - A mess	★

The Park hosts hepatitis screening

SPECIAL TO THE POST

The Park Ministries will host a hepatitis education and awareness screening this weekend.

The screenings will be offered at University Park Baptist Church, 6029 Beaties Ford Road from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and on Sunday from 7 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The Park South will also host a screening at 10 a.m. Sunday at the campus located at 13733 Lancaster Highway in Pineville, on Sunday. Both are free.

Blacks are more susceptible to the disease, and some people spend a lifetime never knowing they carry Hepatitis C. A person may be at risk if he or she

- used cocaine with shared straws (even only once)
- had intravenous illicit drug use with shared needles (even only once)
- had a manicure, pedicure or razor shave
- been a long term hemodialysis patient
- had a blood transfusion or organ transplant before July 1990
- had a tattoo or body pier-



University Park Baptist Church will host a hepatitis education and awareness screening Saturday and Sunday on the Beaties Ford Road campus. Screenings will also be held at the Park South in Pineville.

- shared a toothbrush or razor with someone
- is a police, correction officer or healthcare worker

- is a HIV positive individual
 - has had multiple sexual partners
 - received medications with non-sterile needles
- For information, call (704) 392-1681; fax (704) 392-7507; or www.theparkministries.org.

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for additions to the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax announcements to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

Ongoing

Church of the Holy Spirit Fellowship, Inc of Winston-Salem and Carolinas Black Pride Movement in Charlotte have teamed up to create the Pride Gospel Mass Choir: the Carolinas first gay-affirming/all-affirming gospel mass choir.

PGMC is actively seeking sopranos, altos, tenors, baritones, basses, musicians of all

instruments, songwriters, poets, praise dancers and mime performers

Call Pastor Roger Hayes at (336) 575-6205 or chsn@earthlink.net

www.churchoftheholyspiritfellowshipnc.com

• Inspiration Networks is holding a gospel talent search for its nationally televised series Christian Artist Talent Search.

The winner will receive a national recording contract with Point Of Grace Entertainment. All entrants must be at least 15 years old by April 21. Entries are due by April 21.

For rules and entry forms, log on to

www.insp.com or call the CATS hotline at (704) 561-7955.

March 23

The Serious Times Church & Culture Conference will be held through March 25 at Mecklenburg Community Church. The event will feature seasoned cultural engagers like Charles Colson, James Emery White, Andy Crouch, James Sire, Crystal Downing, Brian Godawa and Kelly Monroe Kullberg.

• Restoration & Deliverance Temple will host its first Spring Revival at Remnant Outreach Ministries, 3819 South Tryon St. Ser-

VICES begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. For details or directions, call Prophet Nathan McDaniels at (704) 890-7262.

April 8

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will host its fourth annual Wedding Extravaganza from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. The event is free and designed to help brides, grooms and wedding planners focus on the preparation and the implementation of a perfect Christian wedding and marriage.

The registration deadline is March 31.

Please see PRESERVATION/6B

