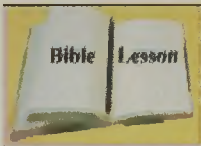


5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Proverbs' wisdom

What is the difference between a wise person and a foolish person? In the book of Proverbs, this usually has nothing to do with education. Many of us can name someone who acts the fool on a regular basis. We may be able also to point to a person who never graduated from high school, yet stands as a source of quiet, reliable wisdom.

In Proverbs wisdom is a matter of how one responds to the will of God. The wise person is the one who knows what is right and wrong from God's perspective and chooses to do the right thing. The foolish person is the one who knows what is right or wrong from God's perspective and chooses to do the wrong thing. Foolishness, then, is not a matter of ignorance. Conversely, wisdom is not a matter of education. Both the wise and the foolish are assumed to be educated in the ways of God, knowing what is right from wrong. The fools consistently disregard God's standards and freely do the wrong thing (sin).

Central to the message of Proverbs, however, is that foolish behavior is more than just displeasing to God. The life of the fool is also self-destructive. When we shun God's standards to follow our own desires, we will be frustrated, unhappy, and without hope. "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise" (Proverbs 12:15).

The book of Proverbs in general is attributed to King Solomon (see Proverbs 1:1). Solomon's wisdom was given to him by God (1 Kings 4:29). This wisdom was legendary even during Solomon's own lifetime (1 Kings 10:24). We know that some of the proverbs of Solomon were compiled several hundred years later by the advisers of King Hezekiah (Proverbs 25:1). Apparently, this compilation process included a few authors beyond Solomon. The book also contains proverbs that are attributed to Agur (Proverbs 30:1) and Lemuel (Proverbs 31:1), although we know nothing about these men.

Desiring Wisdom (Prov. 2:1-5)

1. What does a student need to do once he has heard the truth? (v. 1)

In today's world, the word "wisdom" is used rather loosely. Many people claim to be wise. Some people make wisdom synonymous with knowledge. Some use the word "wisdom" to attribute to worldly success. The bottom line, however, is that wisdom comes from God. A person cannot be wise outside of a

See PROVERBS/7B

High-tech mishap brings singles together



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION WADE NASH

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHNSTOWN, Pa.—Not even a computer's delete key was enough to erase the love that would form between Sherry and Don Rudge.

The Somerset County couple met through a misdirected e-mail.

Don, who is a United Methodist pastor, had just been assigned to the Centennial United Methodist Church, 426 North Fork Road, and was trying to forward a sermon by e-mail in October 2003.

Sherry, who had a night off from her job in the emergency room at the Carlisle Hospital, was the recipient of the e-mail.

"I hit delete," Sherry said. "It happened three times and I kept delet-

ing it."

Sherry then got an e-mail stating, "Sorry I dumped junk in your box."

"I thought, Who is this?" Sherry said. "I responded with, 'Do I know you?'"

Don wrote back to explain that he was computer-illiterate and had been trying to forward an e-mail, but he had the wrong address.

Since Don couldn't figure out what was wrong, Sherry, who has a computer science background, decided to help him.

Through instant messages, the couple exchanged names, and Sherry found Don an updated computer program and answered his questions.

Sherry, who was recently divorced and was enjoying her newfound freedom, had no way of knowing if Don was married.

"I thought he was some old, retired minister," she said. "I was content with my life."

"I had season tickets to the Harrisburg Senators (minor league baseball team) and planned to go on a singles cruise."

In addition to her hospital job, Sherry owned a medical billing business and worked in a doctor's office.

She had one night off a week and found herself spending her pre-

Please see E-MAIL/6B

Priest admits stealing \$2 million from church

Plea deal includes restitution and taxes

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A priest who enjoyed exotic vacations and drove fancy cars has pleaded guilty to embezzling more than \$2 million from his parish, a judge said Thursday.

As part of a plea bargain,

the Rev. Joseph W. Hughes agreed to return the money to the Church of the Holy Cross in Rumson and pay \$120,229 in taxes.

Superior Court Judge Bette E. Uhrmacher will determine whether Hughes should be fined when he is sentenced next month. Prosecutors plan to recommend that Hughes serve five years in prison.

The priest's lawyer and the prosecutor would not comment because of a gag order imposed by the judge.

Hughes, who led the parish for 16 years, had set up a secret account in a local bank and deposited church money into it, prosecutors have said. He also used a church credit card for personal reasons.

His pilfering, which extend-

ed over a seven-year period, was discovered during a church audit triggered by anonymous telephone calls and letters to the Diocese of Trenton about the priest's spending habits.

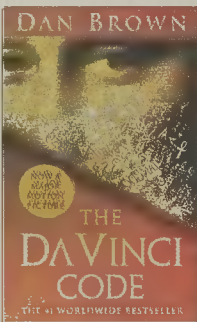
The clergyman was banned from performing ceremonies or wearing his collar in public after the allegations became known.

A 'Da Vinci Code' puzzler about Jesus' divinity

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's no surprise that the No. 2 man in the Vatican's powerful doctrine agency, Archbishop Angelo Amato, urged a boycott of "The Da Vinci Code" movie. He said it is based, in fact, filled with "offenses, slander, historical and theological errors" concerning Jesus and Christianity.

One crucial issue is the novel's statement, presented as fact by a historian, that Jesus was seen as a mere mortal until A.D. 325, when the Emperor Constantine "turned Jesus into a deity" at the Council of Nicea.



Brown's controversial book, "The Da Vinci Code."

Brown's assertion agrees with modern-day Jehovah's Witnesses, Christadelphians, the Restoration Fellowship and The Way International, raising this pop culture question: When did belief in Jesus' divinity originate?

The situation was actually the opposite of Brown's scenario. Except for one faction, early heresies said Jesus was divine but not quite human. Nicæa defined the long-existing belief in both Jesus' full humanity and divinity.

Brown's novel appeared simultaneously with a magnum opus on this: "Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity" by

Larry Hurtado of Scotland's University of Edinburgh, followed by Hurtado's "How on Earth Did Jesus Become God?" (both published by Eerdmans).

Hurtado starts from New Testament letters that Paul wrote between the late A.D. 40s and early 60s.

Philippians 2:6-11, for example, is thought to repeat an earlier hymn and says Jesus "was in the form of God" but "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped" and was born a man. Further, at Jesus' name every knee should bow and every

Please see DA VINCI/7B



Williams Brothers jazz up their sound

Williams Brothers presents The Jazz Album: Songs From The Brothers' Repertoire Randy Everett, producer



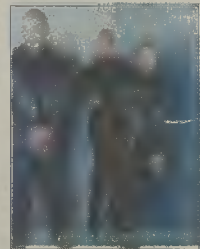
The Williams Brothers are known more for their traditional quartet sound than anything remotely modern. That's not a bad thing because these guys are about the best at what they do.

Taking the group's kind of gospel and transferring it into another genre probably wasn't easy, but producer Randy Everett has done so with silky smoothness. Who knew quartet harmony could work so well with jazz?

There are times when some of the songs are hardly recognizable. "Helpless and Hopeless" is transformed into a jazz jam session. Jessie Primer III is playing the sax as if he's in a smoky jazz club instead of church. "Never Seen Your Face" has been chilled so much that you expect to hear wine glasses clinking in the background. The grand piano solo is nearly breathtaking.

There's plenty fans will recognize quickly. "Cooling Waters," the massive hit from Doug and Melvin's "Duets" CD, is much the same. The brothers are even singing background vocals. "After The Storm" and "Allow Me" are sung by Rhonda Richmond in a rich, husky tone that's more jazz than gospel, but that's the point of this whole project.

Ardent fans may find this collection too secular for their liking, but a close listen should win them over. This is the perfect CD to play while working around the house, commuting to work or simply relaxing. It's fine music for any genre and that's becoming harder and harder to find these days.



Ratings

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

CHURCH NEWS

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

May 13
The House of Full Life Gospel Ministries will hold its third annual health fair from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Southview Recreation Center, located at 1720 Vilma St. For more information, call (704) 598-9851.

May 15
True Way Church of God in Christ will host its annual Men's Conference through May 17. The church is located at 2931 James

Road.
May 20
Christian Women of Elegance will host its 5th annual "Gospel Day in the Park-A Day to Celebrate Women," at Independence Park, 300 Hawthorne Lane from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. For more information, call (704) 332-9434 or (704) 493-2536.

May 24
Little Rock AME Zion Church will host revival through Friday. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. The guest pastor will be the Rev. George W.C. Walker of St. Mark AME Zion Church, East Chicago, Ill.

May 26

The community outreach committee of Steele Hill AME Zion Church is sponsoring a two-day, one-night trip to the Gullah Festival in Beaufort, SC. The dates are May 26-27, 2006. Steele Hill AME Zion Church is located at 6021 Charlotte Highway, Lancaster, S.C. For more information, call (704) 488-5008.

May 27
Tickets for JoyFest '06, a gospel showcase of praise and song, are on sale.

The concert will take place at the Padiam Amphitheatre at Paramount's Carowinds, featuring Deitrick Haddon. Also appearing are Tye Tribbett & Greater Anointing, Cross Movement and Serenity, a Gospel group out of Char-

lotte. Advance ticket purchases and discount tickets for Season Pass members are available through Ticketmaster by calling 704-522-6500, by logging on to www.ticketmaster.com or at any Ticketmaster outlet. Discounted tickets for groups of 15 or more, including a group picnic option, are available by calling 1-800-888-4FUN (4386). All prices are slightly higher on the day of the events.

May 28
Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 North McDowell St., will host Little Rock Day, celebrating excellence in ministry. For more information, call (704) 334-3782.