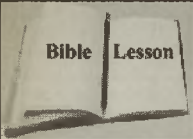


# 6B

# RELIGION

Life 1B



## Appreciate wisdom

We live in a fast-paced world. People are scurrying about in pursuit of happiness, meaning, or perhaps something they cannot even define. Amid all the clamor, the voice of wisdom is calling.

Wisdom's invitation may not seem as exciting or glamorous as what the world has to offer, but it has the infinite advantage of reflecting the basic structure of creation, and more importantly, the will of the Creator. The things that wisdom offers, therefore, will not prove illusory or harmful.

Perhaps we fail to appreciate the blessings of wisdom because we over-look its relational dimension. Ultimately, wisdom means knowing God.

As believers, we need to show our children and others we come in contact with that wisdom is not a set of abstract rules or boring principles that older people come up with to annoy the young. Rather, God's wisdom points the way to abundance, a life of genuine passion and fulfillment.

God is not a skinflint (selfish person) who wants to withhold His wisdom. He overflows with grace and desires to pour out His riches upon us. May we gain from this week's lesson a sense of how pressing the world's need for wisdom is and how willing God is to provide it.

### Lesson Background

Proverbs 8 uses an exciting literary technique called personification to portray wisdom. This means that wisdom is not presented as an abstract, doctrinal item that can be reduced to a list of dos and don'ts. Instead, wisdom takes a personality and becomes the companion of God in creating Heaven and earth. Wisdom is also the channel of God's blessing. The Invitation's Pervasiveness

1. What is the identity of the speaker in Proverbs 8? (vs. 1-3)

In Proverbs, Chapter 8, the speaker is identified as "wisdom." Wisdom is defined (according to Webster's Dictionary) as having insightful understanding of what is true, right or enduring. Looking closely at the word "insightful," this is having the ability to perceive the true or hidden nature which is what wisdom does. This wisdom speaking in this passage is not authored by human wisdom. Some Bible students believe that the pre-incarnate Christ is the speaker; however, the author of Proverbs was simply personifying the attribute of wisdom.

2. What is the significance of the places where wisdom chooses to declare her message? (vs. 2-3)

See APPRECIATE/7B

## ACLU back to court over Commandments monument



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRANKFORT, Ky.—A simmering legal dispute over whether a Ten Commandments monument should be placed on the Capitol grounds is heading back to court.

The American Civil Liberties Union says state officials should be held in contempt of court if they go ahead with plans to return the 6-foot-tall granite monument to the statehouse lawn.

U.S. District Judge Joseph Hood ruled in 2000 that displaying the monument on government property was an unconstitutional government religious endorsement. In a filing

Thursday, the ACLU asked the judge to require state officials to show why returning the monument to the Capitol wouldn't violate the court order.

Legislators passed a law earlier this year directing that the monument, now on display in Hopkinsville, be returned to Frankfort and displayed publicly. Gov. Ernie Fletcher signed the measure into law in March.

The Ten Commandments monument was donated to the state in 1971 by the Fraternal Order of Eagles. It was removed from the Capitol grounds and placed in storage in the mid-1980s during a construction project. When political

leaders tried to display it again in 2000, the ACLU went to court, claiming the monument was an unconstitutional endorsement of religion. The ACLU won the case.

Kentucky has been at the center of legal fights in recent years on the posting of the commandments. In one case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled displays inside courthouses in McCreary and Pulaski counties were unconstitutional. In another, the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals said a similar display in the Mercer County Courthouse is constitutional because it included other historic documents.

## Judge orders San Diego to remove its cross

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO — After a 17-year legal battle between the city and a self-described atheist, a judge has ordered San Diego officials to remove a giant cross from a hilltop park.

The 29-foot high cross was dedicated as a memorial to Korean War veterans in 1954 on a hilltop that towers over

seaside La Jolla.

Philip Paulson, an atheist and Vietnam veteran, has been challenging its placement on city-owned parkland since 1989. He declined comment on the ruling Wednesday, but his attorney, James McElroy, said he hoped city officials would finally back down.

U.S. District Judge Gordon

Thompson Jr. gave the city 90 days to comply with a 1991 injunction forbidding the cross on public property or start paying \$5,000 a day in fines.

"It is now time, and perhaps long overdue," the judge wrote.

Defying the order is something cash-strapped San Diego can ill afford. Its pen-

sion fund is more than \$1 billion in debt, the federal government is investigating, and there has been talk of bankruptcy.

Still, Mayor Jerry Sanders said he would ask the city attorney to appeal.

The city has tried to sell the half-acre beneath the cross to a nonprofit association that

Please see JUDGE/8B

## Mount Carmel quartet headlines for Folk Society

By Tom Hanchett  
SPECIAL TO THE POST

Central Piedmont Community College's Sloan-Morgan Building will ring with the sound of a cappella African American gospel when the Charlotte Folk Society gathers on June 9.

For half a century, the group Men Standing For Christ has been carrying on the tradition of black quartet singing. Voices rise in rich four-part harmony, accompanied from time to time by keyboard.

Original member David Thompson, now in his 70s but still singing strong, recalls when the group first formed at Mount Carmel Baptist



PHOTO/CHARLOTTE FOLK SOCIETY

Men Standing For Christ carries on the tradition of black gospel sung a capella. They'll perform June 9 at the Charlotte Folk Society.

Church, then located next to the campus of Johnson C. Smith University.

"Rev. Leon Riddick wanted a men's group to sing for Father's Day. He contacted Deacon G.G. Glenn, who said he'd put something together, but he didn't want to do all that work for just one day per year," says Thompson. The minister agreed to schedule the singers for four church services annually - but soon they were performing twice a month on Communion Sundays.

The initial five members included JCSU football assistant coach Moses Sharp (baritone). Please see MEN/8B

## CHURCH NEWS

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

### May 20

Christian Women of Elegance will host their fifth annual "Gospel Day in the Park-A Day to Celebrate Women," at Independence Park, located at 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, Illinois.

### 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, S.C., May 26-27. 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 currently on sale.

The concert is scheduled to take place at the Paladium Amphitheatre at Paramount's

Carowinds. The concert features Deitrick Haddon, Stellar Award winner - one of Gospel Music's most prestigious prizes. Also appearing are Tye Tribbett & Greater Anointing, Cross Movement and Serenity, a gospel group from Charlotte.

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 Paramount's Carowinds at 1-800-888-4FUN (4386). All prices are slightly higher on the day of the

events.

• The Seigle Avenue First Church of God will host a Missionary Outreach weekend through Sunday Registration is at 8:30 a.m. then there are several workshops throughout the day. For more information, call

### May 28

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

• The Silver Mount Baptist Church Young People Choir will be in concert at 6 p.m. The church is located at 501 West Arrowood Road. Please see SILVER/8B



## Nesby unleashes power 'In The Spirit'

Ann Nesby  
In The Spirit  
Tres Gilbert, producer  
Shanachie/It's Time Child



If you don't know Ann Nesby by voice or name you've been deprived. Think of Aretha with a bit of Patti thrown in for fun.

No disrespect to The Queen or Ms. LaBelle, but Nesby is her own singer in her own right. Her work with the Sounds of Blackness has been spectacular, as her solo stuff. Both have been laced with blues, R&B and gospel, so a complete gospel CD would be a logical step for Nesby.

That's what she's done on "In The Spirit." This is no trendy contemporary thing. Nesby has reached back to her roots as a child and come up with one of the best traditional gospel CDs of this or any year.

Nesby's song choice is varied - running the gamut from a Baptist hymnal to Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers - but she's entrenched in traditional arrangements. Each song is stripped down, nearly raw Hammond organs, snare drums, pianos and the occasional brass section sound as if each was plucked from a country church.

Nesby sings the life out of each song. Wonder's "Heaven Must Be 10 Zillion Light Years Away" sounds different without the synthesizer but that's a good thing. Nesby's blistering soprano makes the song a gospel jewel. What Nesby does to Withers' "Grandma's Hands" is incredible. It's hard to touch the original but she touches this song.

Nesby is at her best on the classics. "I Can Go To God In Prayer," "If It Had Not Been For The Lord," and "Rise Up And Walk" are enough to get high marks, but Nesby's work on "Oh How I Love Jesus," "Climbing Higher Mountains" and the stunning "Pass Me Not" is exceptional. I nearly forgot how well this woman sings.

Traditional gospel fans will love this recording, but it's the contemporary folk that need to hear it. Nesby puts on a singing clinic. This is how you sing.

### Ratings

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