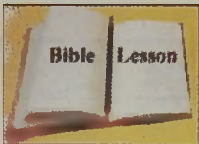


5B

RELIGION



Judged by observers

Do you know that you are being watched on a daily basis by non-believers as well as by fellow believers?

In fact, you are continually being judged by these same non-believers on how you carry yourself in certain situations. This observation is not something that can be changed or affected by you nor should you really want it to be. It's of benefit to you because it allows you to remain held responsible to the faith. Good, bad, or otherwise, people will continue to observe what you say and do, where you go, what you read, how you dress, what your pastimes are, where and how you worship, and how you get along with others.

Likewise in the line of observation is Christ's church which we the body of believers all represent. If the saints are not exemplifying Christ in their words and actions and lifestyle, and in their relationships with one another, this sends a very poor message to those who might want to get to know Christ better and eventually make Him the Lord of their lives.

Christian leaders especially need to be out in front showing the way by example, but they also must be modeling faithful servanthood—the practice of serving others according to what the master expects.

Psalm 133:1 says, "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" Not only is unity a great blessing from God to His people, but it also opens the door for evangelism (see John 17:20-21). A lack of unity speaks volumes to the non-Christian world the church is trying to win to Christ.

Such an approach is contrary to what is usually heard in the corporate world, where power and assertiveness are greatly valued. We must remember that Christ's kingdom is not of this world (see John 18:36). It does not have the same goals, nor does it utilize the methods so frequently employed by the world at large. All believers need to aspire to be servants of Christ.

LESSON BACKGROUND
In last week's lesson we saw how Paul took his readers—the Corinthians—to task for allowing themselves to be divided over personalities. In today's text, Paul pursued this matter further as he compared the true judgment of God with the faulty judgments of men.

QUESTIONS
Faithful Stewards-1
Corinthians 4:1-2.

1. What is the meaning of the word translated "ministers" (1 Cor. 4:1)?

The word "minister"—as Paul uses it in this verse—translates as servant, or "any subordinate acting under another's direction" (Vine, An Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, Revell).
Please see **MAINTAIN/7B**



Dorothy Counts, 15, the first black student to attend Harding High School in Charlotte, is followed from school by shouting white students on Sept. 5, 1957. Dr. Edwin Tompkins (right), a family friend, escorted her.

Note of reconciliation

in 1957, Woody Cooper stood by while Dorothy Counts was taunted at Harding High School. His faith led him to ask her forgiveness.

By Angela Lindsay
FOR THE CHARLOTTE POST

She was the brave 15-year-old black girl who walked gracefully into the halls of then Harding High School (now Irwin Avenue Open Elementary School) on September 4, 1957 amidst a hostile chorus of jeers and spitting.

He was the white senior classman who watched quietly from the crowd as the historic event unfolded in front of him.

Since that day, Woody Cooper has

been carrying around the guilt of standing idly by rather than coming to the defense of Dorothy Counts-Scoggins as she took some of the first steps toward integrating the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

"I didn't want to be different from anybody else," Cooper admitted. "So I didn't say anything, and that troubled me." So, earlier this year, almost fifty years later, Cooper finally contacted Counts-Scoggins to tell her so.

"It was a relief that I finally stepped out—something I should have

done fifty years ago," said Cooper, 65, describing the emotions he felt as he sat down to write a letter to Counts-Scoggins.

Though he had considered it before, Cooper says his decision actually to contact her was inspired by a particular Sunday school lesson led by Sam Smith, an adult Sunday School teacher at Assurance United Methodist Church. Smith's lesson was premised on a sermon given by C. Eric Lincoln in 1983 entitled "Have You Been to Damascus?" The scriptural basis for the sermon came from the story of the stoning of Stephen in the Book of Acts. In this text, a young man named Saul (Paul) stood by silently and watched the

Please see **FAITH/6E**



N.C.-bred ministry builds on reputation

Dr. Sir Walter L. Mack Jr. & The Union Baptist Church Music Ministry
Going On With Jesus, Anyhow
Carlos Fowler, producer



Winston-Salem's Union Baptist Church is striving to become a nationally known music ministry with its first recording. It may be well on the way in doing so.

"Going On With Jesus, Anyhow" isn't a great recording, but is better than some recent outings by veteran artists. The sound isn't consistent. At times it sounds as if it was recorded with hand-held equipment. The microphone levels vary and the mix isn't clean.

That aside, the music and performances are generally good. Assistant musical director Carlos Fowler wrote, produced and arranged the bulk of this CD and has done a fine job. There's a nice mix of contemporary and traditional songs. Even so, the entire CD is very churchy. The majority is performed by the church choir, with the youth choir contributing two songs.

There are a few times when song and vocalist really connect. Carolyn Napper is fiery on "Stand Up Be A Witness." The song is churchy and so is Napper, whipping the congregation into a frenzy with school fervor. Vergie "Cookie" Hart is just as effective on "Going On With Jesus," a heart-twisting ballad that sounds like her personal testimony.

The most entertaining moments come from Walter Mack Jr. when he takes the mic for an old-time revival workout on "If I Can't Say A Word." Mack's one of those singing preachers that lets the choirs now how it was done before everything got fancy.

This is not bad for a first effort. Better things should be coming.



Ratings

Classic: ★★★★★

Excellent: ★★★★★

Good: ★★★

Fair: ★★

Why? ★

No stars - Amess

Baptist women's group will stay independent

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—The Southern Baptist Convention has rejected a proposal from its own executive committee to bring the world's largest Protestant missionary group for women under its control.

The executive committee wanted the Woman's Missionary Union either to explicitly reaffirm its "exclusive prom-

otion" of Southern Baptist missions or to simply become a branch of the Nashville-based SBC. But the delegates to the Southern Baptist Convention's annual meeting—known as "messengers"—voted down that proposal in Greensboro.

Formed in 1888, the Woman's Missionary Union is considered an "auxiliary"—or helper—to the denomination,

but it has always been self-governing and financially independent. Some critics have said the executive committee's proposal was meant to keep the WMU from working with more moderate, non-SBC Baptist groups.

Dedicated to encouraging missionary work, the Birmingham, Ala.-based WMU has about 1 million members. It has an annual budget of

about \$11 million, which comes mainly from book and magazine sales.

Even if the motion had passed, the independent WMU could have rejected the idea. Wanda Lee, the WMU's executive director, has said the group's current status as an auxiliary works well and shouldn't be changed.

Inmates strip-searched after religious services

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAWRENCEVILLE, Va.—Brunswick Correctional Center officers have been strip-searching inmates after some church services, and a religious leader for the prison system wants the practice stopped.

"This is not appropriate—strip-searches following worship services," said Cecil E. McFarland, president of the Chaplain Service of the Churches of Virginia Inc., a Protestant chaplain service for all state prisons.

Brunswick—a 700-inmate, medium-security facility—apparently is the only prison in the state with a post-service search policy, McFarland said.

Department of Corrections spokesman Larry Traylor said Brunswick inmates are

strip-searched because services are held in a visitation section outside the prison's secure area, increasing the possibility that contraband might be smuggled inside.

Nevertheless, inmate Calvin E. Lipscomb of South Boston said some of the 70 to 75 prisoners attending a service in the visiting area June 1 were disturbed when seven officers entered the room and pulled out rubber gloves.

"Some have vowed, 'I'm not coming back. It don't make no difference who comes, what type of service it is, I just ain't coming,'" said Lipscomb, who is serving a 30-year sentence for three counts of involuntary manslaughter.

"When they strip-search you ... you take off everything that you have on and squat and cough as they do a cavity



Please see **INMATES/6B**

CHURCH NEWS

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

July 9

Shirley Caesar's outreach ministry will host its 34th annual conference through July 14 in Raleigh at Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church, located at 3100 Sanderford Road.

To register, visit www.shirleycaesar.com.

July 11

The Women's Initiative Network Chapter Meeting will be held at the Doubletree South-Park. The guest speaker will be Jill Feltz, owner of Classy Creations Jewelry. To register log on www.womensinet.com or call (803) 802-5454.

July 14

University Park Baptist Church, 6029 Beaties Ford Road, will host comic Jonathan Stocumb at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13 if purchased in advance and \$15 at the door.

July 16

The 33rd annual Women's Day Celebration will be at 4 p.m.

The guest speaker will be Minister Chris Whitley, first lady of Mount Moriah Baptist Church.

July 22

The New St. Luke Church's Youth/Young Adult Ministry will sponsor UNITY in Praise Fest 2006. The outdoor event will take place in the Winchester parking lot, 910 Winchester

Ave. Rain location: Winchester Gym (across street).

August 5

Metrolina Baptist Association will host a Women Reaching Women Conference, sponsored by LifeWay. The event will be held at Carmel Baptist Church, 1145 Pineville-Matthews Road. For more information, call (704) 847-8575.

