

# 8B

# RELIGION



## True wisdom

Proverbs 17:20-27

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:

"How long will you simple ones love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge?"

If you had responded to my rebuke, I would have poured out my heart to you and made my thoughts known to you.

But since you rejected me when I called and no one gave heed when I stretched out my hand, since you ignored all my advice and would not accept my rebuke, I in turn will laugh at your disaster; I will mock you when calamity overtakes you - when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster sweeps over you like a whirlwind, when distress and trouble overwhelm you.

1. Does God want you to be afraid of Him?  
 2. Does God want you to respect who He is?  
 3. What's a fool?  
 4. Why would one despise wisdom and discipline?  
 5. Where is wisdom when she is crying out?  
 6. How is wisdom crying out?  
 7. What simple ways are you still holding on to?  
 8. Do you reject God's rebukes?  
 9. Is God still revealing Himself to you?  
 10. Have you rejected wisdom in your life?  
 11. What's the consequence of rejecting God's wisdom?

## Believe in the hereafter



A new survey on www.barna.org says that Americans' take on the afterlife hasn't changed much.

It says Americans still overwhelmingly believe there is a heaven and hell. But 50 million adults are uncertain regarding their personal eternal fate.

I found it shocking that only 1 out of 10 adults say there is no life after one dies on earth. But when you watch television and listen to what people are concerned with, it's hard to believe that the majority of people believe there's life after death.

When I first read the information, my first question was how can a country be so violent and materialistic and still believe that there could be a reward or punishment awaiting for everyone man and woman after death.

As I continued to read, it began to make more sense to me what was going on. Although the majority believe in heaven and hell only 1 percent of folks expect to go to hell upon death. Nearly 64 percent believe they'll go to heaven. And one in four

adults have no idea where they will go after they die.

Almost half believed they would go to heaven because they had confessed their sins to Jesus and accepted Him as their Lord and savior. About 15 percent believed they would enter heaven because they tried to obey the 10 Commandments or because they were good people. At least 6 percent said they would go because God loves everyone and wouldn't want anyone to perish.

According to Jesus in Luke 18: 25 its hard for a rich man to make it to heaven. Jesus said: "Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

After looking at this research, I see why. How much money or education a person has plays a factor in what they believe. The more educated a person is and the more income

they earn, the less likely they are to believe that heaven or hell exist. It also shows that people with education have a bigger struggle accepting biblical teachings.

I've heard people say what you say you believe and what you really believe can be two different things. It has taken me 30 years and this survey to understand what that really means.

There are Christians who believe they are going to heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus. But some of these same folks say someone else can get there by living a good life.

Atheists and agnostics are just as confused. At least half of these folks believe every human has a soul and that there is a heaven and hell. Even 1 out of 8 believe that accepting Jesus as savior probably makes life after death possible.

I think what you truly believe isn't based in just your profession but also action.

So if I or anyone else truly believes there's a reward or punishment waiting for us when we die then our lives should reflect as much.

## Production aims to touch 'Soul'

By Artelia Burch  
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"My Soul Sings," an a cappella musical intends to revive the spirit and refresh the faith.

Kat's Eye Promotions will present the production Nov. 14 at McGlohon Theatre at Spirit Square at 7 p.m.

This gospel musical promises to deliver stories of inspiration by reflecting on the lives of women from the Bible as the backdrop. "This musical takes the stories of women from Africa, the Bible and women from the 21st century," said Geanetta Bennett, playwright and director of the production. "The stories will address issues of heartache and disappointment. Overall it gives a message of hope."

Bennett is a survivor of sexual abuse. She says so many other women have also been abused. So each vignette in the show focuses on overcoming personal bondage. "So many women have been sexually abused,"

Please see GOSPEL/7B



## Norful gives an earful with latest

Smokie Norful  
 Special Edition  
 Smokie Norful and  
 Myron Butler, producer  
 EMI Gospel



Smokie Norful took off at this year's Stellar Award show, not just because he won an award, but because his live performance was

jaw-dropping.

Norful sang the wheels off "I Need You Now," which has quickly become his signature. Norful's delightful tenor is even more explosive live and took advantage of the moment. That's probably the reason behind "Special Edition," a live, eight-song CD that sparkles.

A few of these songs appeared on Norful's debut CD, the others from guest appearances. "Still Say Thank You" and "It's All About You" show his power and control. Where does all that voice come from? Norful may not be 5 feet tall, but his voice towers over some of his peers.

Norful's "I Need You Now" rivals the version he did at the Stellers. It is an exercise in power singing. Norful motors his way through this song like a Jaguar XJ8 rolling down Rodeo Drive - with agility and grace. Norful gives an ear-wrenching performance - one that begs for God's healing power. But in the same instance the performance honors God's power. There's no bitterness, just acknowledgment of God's

control.

Norful includes a Christmas song as a bonus. "O Holy Night" has been done to death, but Norful's combination of finesse and power adds drama. This version can also be found on a T.D. Jakes Christmas CD called "Follow The Star."

Norful fans shouldn't worry about buying the same product twice. This is different enough and good enough to own.

### Ratings

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

## CHURCH NEWS

Fern Mays, a member of Covenant Baptist Church at 11724 Elm Lane was picked first runner-up for the 2003 Sunday School Teacher of the Year.

**October 30**  
 The General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina will hold its 136th annual session at Ebenezer Baptist Church at 2020 W. Sugar Creek Road.

• The 136th annual session of the General Baptist State Convention will be held at Ebenezer Baptist

Church.  
**October 30-November 1**  
 Brother 2 Brother Men's Conference will be held at 7:30 p.m. at Life Center Ministries at 331 East Sugar Creek Road.

**October 30-November 1**  
 Clanton Presbyterian Church at 335 Freeland Lane will host its first BBQ Fund raiser at 10:30 am.

**November 1-2**  
 St. Paul Baptist Church will celebrate its fifth anniversary for its Pastor Gregory Moss at 6 p.m. Sat-

urday and a full day of events is planed for Sunday.

**November 2**  
 The Senior Choir of Clement Memorial AME Church will celebrate its 54th anniversary at 3 p.m.

**November 2-7**  
 Clinton Chapel AME Zion Church will hold its homecoming revival.

**November 9**  
 Greater Mount Moriah Primitive Baptist Church will host its Pastor's Aid Club, Hospitality Board and

T.W. Samuel's ensemble at 8 a.m.

The Singing Angels will celebrate its 17th anniversary at the Greenville Center at 1330 Spring St. Doors open at 2 pm.

**November 13-16**  
 True Way Church of God In Christ at 1134 Commercial Avenue will hold its 9th Pastoral Anniversary for Darryl Johnson and his wife Theresa Johnson. For more information call (704) 398-8123.

**November 15**

District III annual fellowship banquet will be held at University Park Baptist Church at 6 p.m.

• Pineville Church of the Nazarene will display the works of artists at the 2nd Annual Pineville Church of the Nazarene Christmas Arts & Crafts Festival at 9 am.

• Walls Memorial AME Zion Church Choir will hold its 56th anniversary at 5 pm.

**November 16**  
 Silver Mount Baptist  
 Please see WALLS/5B