

8B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Why do we need good teachers?

1 Timothy 4:1-6

Many people enjoy competing with each other and being the center of attention. Some people enjoy telling the latest joke; others love name dropping; others like being the first to own the newest piece of clothing or technology.

Satan uses our weaknesses against us. He will whisper in the ears of people who enjoy being the center of attention that if they just come up with some new angle on Christianity, they will be recognized as a great teacher. The same practice was occurring in Paul's day and it continues today.

Paul knew there were people following him around, trying to one-up his teaching. So he warned Timothy to be on the look out for lying spirits and doctrines invented by devils. Such doctrines were taught by hypocritical liars who claimed to honor Christ as Lord but who really were seeking their own prestige by spouting off the newest and latest fad.

Timothy was instructed to teach the truth in order to stop people from turning away from God's truth and to those lies in part marking him a good minister and servant of the family of God. This turning away is called apostasy. Today it is vital that we have teachers dedicated to teaching the truth of God's word so Christians can recognize error when it is taught. It is good to desire to be a teacher in the church, but teachers must be very careful to teach only the revealed truth of God.

II. What makes a good teacher?

(1 Timothy 4:7-12)

The first thing Timothy was to do was to stay away from false teachers and errant teachings. Paul told Timothy to have absolutely nothing to do with myths and old wives' tales. He meant that Timothy should not even show up where the teachers were teaching, lest he give credibility to the teachings by his mere presence. Teachers must be careful about the causes or messages they support.

He warned Timothy that he would have to guard his godliness by training himself the way an athlete trains for a big competition. He would have to devote himself to the study of Scripture, make sure he had a solid relationship with God, and spend time in prayer. Then he would have the wisdom and spiritual muscle to stay away from doc-

Please see TIMOTHY 4:1-6/7B

Yolanda's groove

Gospel artist uses music as 'platform' to reach audiences



FILE PHOTO

Gospel star Yolanda Adams uses her music to reach people and spread the word of God. She said when she takes the stage it is about more than just singing.

By Cheris F. Hodges
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When Yolanda Adams takes the stage in Charlotte on Jan. 27, she's going to do more than just sing.

"This is my platform. This is the way I talk to people; it's never about just singing. I have people for a few hours and maybe I can say something

that will change someone," she said.

Her new CD "Day by Day" has spawned the crossover gospel hit "Victory," which receives play on gospel and secular stations.

Despite a four-year layoff between records, Adams still has a broad fan base. "The great thing about gospel is that you don't have to have an album

every year to keep working," she said.

And working is what she's been doing. Adams starred with Boris Kodjoe in "The Gospel." She's been laying the groundwork for her Voice of an Angel Foundation, which focuses on mentoring high school students

Please see ADAMS/7B

Pastor calling for boycotts over gay rights

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OLYMPIA, Wash.—A pastor has called for a national boycott of Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard and other businesses that have come out in support of a gay civil rights bill, saying the companies have underestimated the power of religious consumers.

Rev. Ken Hutcherson,

pastor of Antioch Bible Church in the east Seattle suburb of Redmond—also home to Microsoft—said he would officially make the call for the boycott Thursday on a national conservative talk radio show, "Focus on the Family."

"We're tired of sitting around thinking that morals can be ignored in our country," he said Mon-

day "This is not a threat, this is a promise. Check out the past presidential election. We made the moral issue the No. 1 issue."

Last week, several companies, including Microsoft Corp., Boeing Co., Hewlett Packard Co. and Nike Inc. signed a letter urging passage of the measure, which would add "sexual orientation" to a state law that

already bans discrimination in housing, employment and insurance based on race, gender, age, disability, religion, marital status and other factors.

Microsoft's support comes a year after it was denounced for quietly dropping support for it.

Hutcherson, who has organized anti-gay-mar-

Please see PASTOR/7B



'Days' a very bright effort for Neal

Antonio Neal
Days of My Life
Tedd T. and Antonio Neal, producers
EMI Gospel



I don't know that gospel music needs a Babyface, but it certainly seems to have found one in Antonio Neal.

Neal is part of the burgeoning set of gospel artists that throw convention to the wind and do contemporary music that makes Kirk Franklin sound traditional. Neal's obvious influences include Babyface, Tony Rich and maybe even D'Angelo. His songs fit snugly between R&B and light pop.

That's not to say this isn't a gospel CD. The lyrics let you mistake this for nothing but gospel. He doesn't substitute God and Lord for pronouns for replacement words. He's upfront about for whom he sings.

Neal isn't a bad singer, either. He's not a fiery vocalist or one who relies on typical gospel conventions. He's more of a crooner and storyteller.

Neal has crafted a set of interesting songs. The first three are certainly contemporary R&B, none of which would sound out of place on urban radio playlists. The title song could certainly make some heads bob.

The rest of the CD gives way to a very mellow pop groove, sometimes even folksy. Neal spices things up a bit with "Our Love," which borders on funk.

This CD would be a bit more compelling if Neal's delivery was more assertive. Still, this may be the perfect thing for those who don't want traditional gospel. This is as far from that as you can get.

Ratings

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

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline to have announcements added to the calendar is noon Friday. Fax to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

Ongoing

Grace Bible College will host winter classes at Grace Baptist Church on 1185 Little Rock Road in Newton through March 13th. These classes maybe taken for credit. For information, call (828) 464-7055.

The Millions More Movement-Charlotte, Inc. will move to its new location at Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 N. McDowell St. The group will meet the second and fourth Monday

nights of the month for six months. For more information, call (704) 333-1690.

January 19

The Broomfield CME Church, located on Shannon-Bradley Road in Bessemer City, will host the Women of Real Destiny Conference through Saturday. The event kicks off at 7 p.m. with speaker Apostle Ann Jackson from the Living Waters Christian Center in Charlotte. Services begin nightly at 7 p.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday. For more information, call (704) 824-7709.

January 22

Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church will celebrate 135 years with dedication service of renovations and additions to their fourth site. The church, located at 3545 Beatties Ford Road, spent 10 years to renovating their current location and adding additional classrooms, offices, storage areas and a choir room. For more information, call (704) 399-2717.

January 29

The Temple of Deliverance International Fellowship, located at 5521 Cannon Drive, Suite 104 in Monroe, will host "100 Men in Black." The event begins at 6 p.m.

January 30

The Park Ministries will host a religious conference through Feb. 2. The conference is titled "Kingdom Agenda, Making the Connection." Speakers include Bishop Eddie Long and hosted by the Rev. Claude Alexander. For information, call (704) 392-1681 or register online at www.theparkministries.org.

February 11

Temple of Deliverance International Fellowship, located at 5521 Cannon Drive, Suite 104

Please see FEBRUARY/7B

