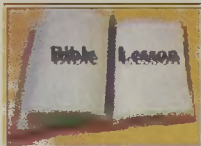


4B

RELIGION

Life 1B



True to your heritage

2 Timothy 1:3

BACKGROUND
The second letter to Timothy is among the most personal in the Bible and the most moving.

Approaching death, Paul wrote his young protégé with stirring words.

As he wrote, Paul was a prisoner of Rome and due to be executed by beheading. What a horrible thing to be on death row awaiting your own ending. Even so, Paul urged Timothy not to be ashamed of him and his situation.

Paul described the work of Christ on believers' behalf. Not only did Jesus Christ save us, but He also gave us a calling. He abolished death and revealed immortality to those who call on His name in faith.

Paul reminded Timothy that this was the reason for his apostleship. Paul was called to reveal to men the truth about God and His Messiah. It was for this exact reason that he was imprisoned—because powerful men did not want to hear his message.

Has much changed today? We are still called on by God to share the message of faith and hope and love and forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. We must fulfill our calling whether or not we have a captive audience. We must be true to our Christian heritage that was passed along to us by those who sowed good seed in our lives. The torch does not stop being passed. It is up to today's believers to keep Christ's legacy alive.

QUESTIONS

Q1. What did Paul mean about serving God from his forefathers with a pure conscience?

(2 Timothy 1:3)

The mere expression "I thank God" (vs. 3) led Paul to make a point about God. By saying that he served God as his forefathers did, Paul was admitting that he was continuing in the faith that his godly ancestors—namely, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—had served.

We learn two important things from Paul by analyzing this expression. First, he sees no conflict between his service to God as a preacher of the gospel and the service to God given by ancestral Jews before Christ came.

Later, in 2 Timothy 3:15, Paul made a similar reference to Timothy's Jewish upbringing. Judaism is the root from which the tree of faith in Jesus sprang (cf. Rom. 11:16-17). There is no necessary conflict between past service to God under the Old Testament and current service to God under the New Testament. In both cases true service to God is motivated by faith and love.

Second, we learn the importance of faith that is passed on from one generation to the next.

Traditionalists push for revival of old-school gospel

Advocates: Spirituals have historical relevance in black church



PHOTO/CALVIN FERGUSON

Pictured above is the Johnson C. Smith University Gospel Choir, which sings traditional gospel music in its concerts. Many churches incorporate rap and hip hop in their Sunday morning services. Some traditional ministers worry that a generation of churchgoers will grow up without knowing the words to songs like "Amazing Grace."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—Walk into most African-American churches Sunday morning and you're more likely to hear the choir sing from the gospel top 40 list than sing old-time "Negro spirituals" or hymns from traditional hymnbooks.

Ministers say there's been a musical shift in black churches over the past two decades as contemporary gospel music with a beat (and drums, saxophones, electric guitars and keyboards) has edged out soul-

fully sung spirituals such as "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

And while some church leaders welcome the newer music as a fresh expression of faith that engages young people, others say it's unthinkable that a generation of African-American young people is growing up not knowing the words to songs like "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine" or "Amazing Grace."

"The music of our ancestors has relevance, it has value, it was born out of struggle," said James Scan-

drick, director of the Institute on Black Church Sacred Music and Worship at Nashville's American Baptist College. The college late last month convened a national conference of church music staff and pastors concerned about preserving historic black church music.

"I'm not saying we shouldn't have new expressions of faith, but let's not turn our backs on (traditional music). Let's not be about entertainment. Let's pass on the legacy to our

Please see **TRADITIONAL/5B**

Faith part of students' back to school fare

By Cheris F. Hodges
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As students head back to school, churches across Charlotte are hoping to add spirituality to their education.

With back to school cook-outs, block parties and other events planned by churches, many in the faith community say that these events serve a greater purpose than having fun.

"Our vision," writes Walls Memorial AME Zion Church pastor the Rev. Milton Williams, Jr., "is to ignite a spiritual revolution in the greater Charlotte community... We want to demonstrate to our chil-



dren in the area that they have a community that cares. We want to instill in them that they can have a successful school year of learning and fun."

Walls is hosting a block party on August 26 a day after Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools open for the 2006-2007 academic year.

Featuring food, preaching, music and entertainment, the church expects to draw sports stars, school board members and plenty of kids to the party.

"We're reaching out to touch (the community) spiritually. We want to commi-

Please see **CHURCHES/6B**

Antique Bible collector displays and sells rarities

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HAGERSTOWN, Maryland — The antique Bible market is hot.

But if you don't have the money to buy a first edition King James Version you still can get your hands on one at the Christian Heritage Museum, whose owner invites visitors to touch and purchase some of the 20,000 pieces in his collection.

Gene S. Albert Jr. isn't selling his prized King James first edition, first issue, printed in 1611. The book, also known as a "he" Bible for a masculine pronoun in Ruth 3:15 that was changed to "she" in later

versions, sits atop a bookcase in the loft of the climate-controlled barn near Hagerstown that houses his museum.

But Albert, who's been collecting for 25 years, said he wants regular people and not just scholars to have access to the collection, hoping that viewing the artifacts will inspire them to accept Christ as their savior. Visiting the museum is free by appointment.

"We happen to believe that these were made and meant to be seen," he said, "and that's why we put them out for the general public."

On a recent tour, Albert picked up the

King James first edition and encouraged a guest to touch a slightly yellowed page, its ornate letters and decorations still clearly legible after 395 years. The paper felt stiff and a little rough, like the cotton rags from which it was made.

Most owners of rare books balk at letting strangers handle them.

Liana Lupas, curator of the Scripture collection at the American Bible Society in New York, shares Albert's desire to grant visitors up-close experiences with historic volumes. But, "if you let everybody just rifle through it, it's going to be damaged," she said.



21:03 mixes R&B with gospel

21:03
21:03

PAJAM, producers
Verity/GospelCentric/
PAJAM Records



It's certainly getting harder to tell what's gospel and what's not. A number of artists and production companies continue blurring the lines between R&B and gospel sacred music, sometimes with stellar results.

21:03 is one of the better combinations. The talented trio owes a great deal to Paul Allen and J. Moss — the pair that makes up the PAJAM production team — but there's a lot of talent present as well.

Sean Grant, Ervin Martin and Torrence Greene aren't spectacular singers, but their harmony can be stunning. On "I'm Sorry" the group gets help from J. Moss on vocals, but clearly it's their chemistry that makes this song work. It was a minor hit for a secular group called 3rd Storee a few years ago. Moss and Allen changed the lyrics a bit to make the song a confessional. The music is essentially the same — urban aimed at a younger audience.

That's essentially the goal of this CD. This trio is out to bring the message of Christ to kids which may be more club or street oriented. It's an admirable goal, but I wonder if the message will survive the tantalizing beats. Most of this CD would fit comfortably on any urban radio station. The lyrics aren't ambiguous, but are at times more all-around message oriented than religious. "Power Of Christ" may have the most religious lyrics, but even it could be mistaken for a love song.

That's not a bad thing. 21:03 is very good at this urban gospel thing. "Young Love," "Sweet Spirit" and "How Long" are wrapped as tightly in the word as they are in their secular rhythms. I'm left a bit cold by their version of "Again I Say Rejoice." Israel Houghton's original is a bit too dancey and this version is too street. I just don't like the song.

One bad track hardly ever spoils an entire CD. It does not do so here, either.

Ratings

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

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements in the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Be sure to put "church news" in the subject line.

August 19

Gethsemane Baptist Church, 565 Jetton Street, Davidson, will host a "06 Back 2 School Break-Out" festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the church. This year's themes are: P.A.S.S. - Parents And Students Succeeding and The Paths to Success are God, Education and Fellowship. There will be entertainment, games for kids,

food and school supplies. Free to the public. Details: (704) 892-1635.

• The Children's Church Ministry of Steele Creek AME Zion Church, 1500 Shopton Road would like to invite all children and youth to the "Back to School Jam" from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Call the church office (704) 523-6552 for additional information and to provide the number of children attending from your church or you may email steelecreek_publicrelations@yahoo.com.

• The Gaston-Mecklenburg County Chapter

of Women of Real Destiny will host its monthly women's fellowship event. The guest speaker will be Minister Yvonne Davis of Community Outreach Church. The event begins at 9 a.m. at the Bette Rae Thomas Recreation Center, 2921 Tuckaseegee Road. For additional information, call (704) 691-1472 or (704) 777-1144.

August 20

"The Revival of the Summer 2006" will be held at Trinity Park Baptist Church through August 23. The guest speakers will be:

Bishop George Brooks/Sunday 5 p.m.
Rev. Robert McGowan/Monday 7 p.m.
Rev. George Cook/Tuesday 7 p.m.
Rev. Cornelius Atkinson/Wednesday 7 p.m.
The theme is "A Focus on the Family: Lord, Help Us Raise Our Children"

• First Mount Calvary Baptist Church, located at 209 West 28th St. will host its annual men's program. The event begins at 3:30 p.m. and will feature the Rev. Kirk Reid and Jonesville AME Zion Church.

Please see **BARNES/5B**