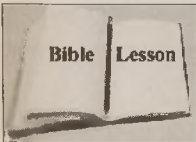


6B

RELIGION

Life 1B



The mind of Christ (Philippians 2:1-5)

1. Why did Paul pose rhetorical questions to the Philippians (Philippians 2:1)?

Paul begins this section with four rhetorical if-statements. These are rhetorical in the sense that Paul does not question whether these things are true but wants his readers to ponder them for a moment. Can we find consolation (or encouragement) in knowing Christ? Yes. Can we find comfort in living a life of love? Yes. Can we find sweet fellowship through the Holy Spirit with God and other believers? Yes.

His presence is a common bond among all believers, which certainly ought to have a unifying effect in any church. It is difficult to comprehend church fights when each member claims to be a child of God. The Holy Spirit promotes unity and fellowship instead. They also had a sensitivity to the needs and hurts of others and compassion for them in times of sorrow. This is the meaning of "bowels and mercies."

2. What were the things Paul wished to be true of the Philippians so that he would have joy in them (v. 2)? Paul is hundreds of miles away from his beloved Philippian brothers and sisters. But there is still something they can do to bring him great joy. Paul's claim was that if the Philippian believers acted a certain way, he would be filled with joy. Because of the unity among believers that should be inherent in their position in Christ, four things should be true. They should be like-minded (thinking in a similar vein), consistently loving (showing the mind of Christ, which Paul was about to explain), in one accord (united in spirit and attitude), and of one mind (sharing the same purpose of living for Christ).

3. What kinds of attitudes are referred to by "strife" and "vainglory" (v. 3)?

Why do we do the things we do? Almost any action has an underlying motivation. Why do we mow our lawns? One man does it because he loves things to be neat and tidy. Another man does it because he is afraid his neighbors will speak negatively of him if his home looks unkempt. A third man does it because that's the way his dad taught him, and he still wants to do things to please his father.

Paul uses the words strife and vainglory to describe improper motives. Selfish recognition should never be the motivation for anything a believer does. A self-centered attitude must have arisen among some of the Philippian believers; so Paul pointed out very succinctly what is wrong about that and what should replace it.

The color of controversy

By Cheri F. Hodges
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When "The Color of The Cross" was released in the theatres, some viewers had a problem with the depiction of Jesus as a black man.

But director Jean Claude LaMarre said it was about time for people to see something other than the white Jesus image that has become ingrained in society. "I checked the Hollywood archives and no one had ever made a movie with Jesus depicted as anything other than a Caucasian," LaMarre said.

Having Jesus as a black man on the screen was a major part of the movie's message, he said.

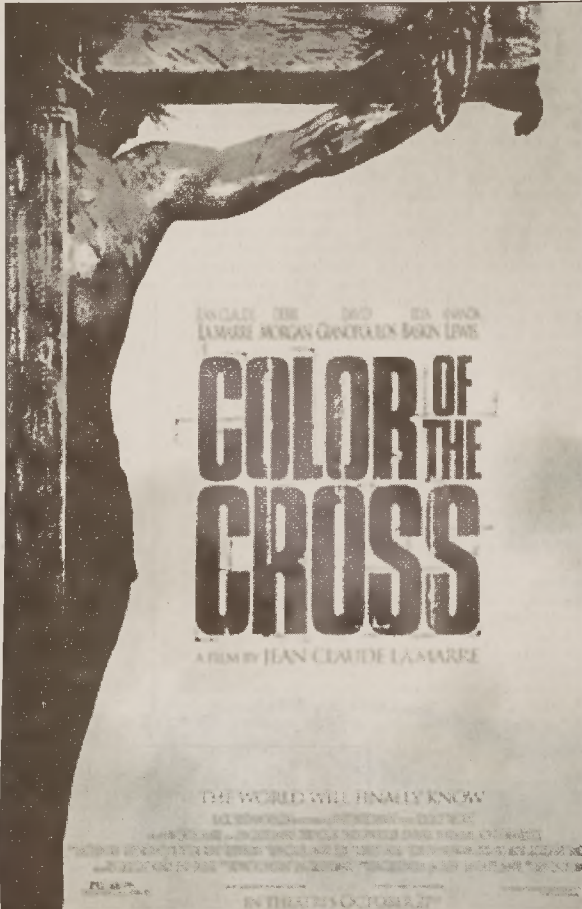
And by far was one of the most accurate depictions of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:13-16 describes Jesus' features as hair of wool, which was white like snow, his feet like fine brass as if burned in a furnace.

"The image of Jesus as a black man is a powerful message in itself," said LaMarre, who directed and starred in the movie.

The movie itself didn't have any startling new revelations in following that last 48 hours of Jesus' life. The movie was released in October and stayed in the theatres for about two months, said LaMarre. This week the movie was released on DVD. As expected, there has been controversy surrounding the movie and according to LaMarre, much of it had come from the African American church.

"A lot of mainstream black churches were reluctant to screen the movie," LaMarre said, despite the fact that the movie was made with that audience in

Please see **BLACK/7B**



Life story, struggles of first recognized black U.S. priest are unknown to most

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO—Few Americans know the story of Augustine Tiblon, a slave who grew up to become the first acknowledged black Catholic priest in the United States.

Some Chicago buildings, including a home for senior citizens, carry his name. But the Roman Catholic church where he preached his sermons to flocks of adoring

parishioners on Chicago's South Side is long gone.

"When he was alive, his life would probably not have been considered that newsworthy. He lived at a time when to be a person of color automatically meant that you were not a person of significance," says Atlanta Archbishop Wilton Gregory, who served from 2001-2004 as the first black president of the U.S. Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops.

Even Gregory, a native Chicagoan, did not know Tolton's story until he was well into adulthood.

"We need to find vehicles to make him better known today," he says.

To that end, a book about Tolton's life—"From Slave to Priest"—is being reissued by San Francisco-based Ignatius Press. The biography was

written by Sister Caroline Hemesath, who first published the work in 1973.

It is a story of struggle and perseverance.

The second of three children, Tolton was born in 1854 to Catholic parents who were slaves in Missouri, just a few years before the start of America's Civil War.

His father, Peter Tolton,

Please see **LIFE/7B**

Spunky nun, former Chicago teacher helps Ala. community

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSSES Ala. —For Chlorine Shufford and others in the isolated Alabama Black Belt community of Mosses, life hasn't changed much in nearly a century.

Believed to be in her 90s, Shufford still lives on a dirt road in the small, four-room house with bare wooden floors where she raised her children six or seven decades ago. She still washes her

clothes in a big steel pot out in the yard and heats her house with an ancient potbellied stove in the middle of one room.

But thanks to Sister Ann Chaput, a spunky 55-year-old nun who gave up a career as an educator in Chicago to fight poverty in one of the poorest communities in America, Shufford has a bathroom with running water for the first time

in her life.

Before the modern lavatory was built onto the end of her home in September, the small, shy woman had to go outside—into a field next to the house. She did not have an outhouse, and kept her toothbrush tied to a string in the kitchen. A wide smile fills her face when she talks about the new bathroom.

"I'm proud of it because it's sort of hard to go outside

when it gets to raining," said Shufford, who didn't worry too much over the years about the treks to the field.

"You have to get used to not having one," she said.

Chaput, known as Sister Ann in Lowndes County, was a teacher and principal in Chicago when she decided several years ago to become a nun. She moved to the rural Alabama county and

Please see **SPUNKY/8B**

Patti hits and misses with 'The Gospel'

Patti Labelle
The Gospel According To Patti Labelle
Gerald Haddon, J Moss and Paul Allen, producers
Bungalo Records



Patti Labelle has talked of doing a gospel CD for nearly a decade. If you've been waiting for said CD, that's over and you may be a bit disappointed.

It's not that "The Gospel According To Patti Labelle" isn't good, it's just not spectacular. Labelle is getting older but she still has a great voice, one that would be better served on something a little less trendy.

Labelle does mix things up a bit. "Walk Around Heaven" is a great blend of traditional and contemporary styles. Labelle's voice seems to be at its best with this mix. "God Ain't Through" is surprisingly good despite being a quartet piece. Labelle and the Soul Seekers are a formidable combination. "I Just Love Him So" gives Labelle a chance to sing, really sing.

It's the contemporary stuff that's hit or miss. A hit is "Where Love Begins," which features Yolanda Adams. It's the best of contemporary songs. Labelle's best performance on this recording. A close second is "My Everything," a haunting song of praise. Labelle is best when she keeps things simple and lyrical. Her middle range is still her best voice and I wish she'd use it more often.

The rest of the stuff I like, but it's not really what I want to hear Labelle sing. "Anything" features Kanye West. It's innovative and funky, but it may be a bit too young for Labelle. "You Are My Friend" has never really been one of my favorites because it's big and overdone. Labelle should have resisted temptation in reworking it as a gospel piece. "Did You Pray Today" has some great choir vocals, but the overdose of metal guitars ruins the moment.

Still, Labelle fans should find this recording a keeper. Casual listeners may just say ho-hum.



Ratings

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

CHURCH NEWS

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

Ongoing

We Empower Women For Life At Women of The Harvest Bible Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at 6636 Suite L Hickory Grove Business Park.

• Steele Creek AME Zion Church, 1500

Shopton Road, will have noon day Bible study from 12p.m. to 1 p.m.

• Join Scouting at Steele Creek AME Zion, 1500 Shopton Road, Charlotte, NC 28217. Boy Scout and Girl Scout troop meetings are held each Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. Call 704-523-6552 to register or to obtain additional information.

• Grace Bible College, 1185 Little Road in Newton, will hold its winter bible classes through February 12 beginning at 6:50 p.m.

For more information, call (828) 464-7055.

• New Life Outreach seeks donations for its residential training center in Concord. The program's services are provided at no cost and helps men with addiction problems. The residence is located at 2216 Kannapolis Highway. The home is in need of appliances, cooking utensils, linens, china, flatware, clothing and cash donations. Donations can be dropped off at Olive Branch Furniture, 2603 S. Cannon Blvd. For more information call (704) 701-

8783.

• Restoration Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ has moved to 220 East Peterson St. The church's phone number is (704) 523-1441.

January 13

The University of Tennessee at Martin choral ensembles and the clarinet choir will perform a concert as they tour throughout the Southeastern Coastal region of the United States. Selections from the program include

Please see **UNIVERSITY/8B**