

John 3-16: Believe What?

By Van Yandell
Romans 10: 9-10
“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”

As we are witnessing in our world today, many of the happenings are based on what people believe. Good or bad, belief triggers a multitude of attitudes and actions.

A village we worked in East Africa believed a little boy was saved from death because the witchdoctor cut holes in his stomach to let out the evil spirits. A Nepalese friend believes in reincarnation and a man in Brazil told me he had eternal salvation because he was baptized when he was two weeks old.

Many American Christians believe they have eternal salvation because they are a member of a particular denomination or because they’ve been “good.”

Beliefs are determined by our teachings, our environments and our personal mindsets toward many things. I am a Christian. Had I been born in Mecca, I probably would be a

Muslim. Had I been born in Kathmandu, I would probably be a Hindu or Buddhist.

I was born in Nashville Tennessee and raised in a small Western Kentucky town by parents that read and studied the Holy Bible and went to church every Sunday.

As a result of my upbringing, the firm conviction that John 3: 16 is, in my mind, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Most any sentence/verse we may read, say or hear has a key word. John 3: 16 has several key words, one of which is “believes.” Following that word are the words, “in Him.”

Questions may arise in the minds of any non-believer or critical thinker. Two of those are “believe what?”, and “who is Him?”

Once again, our answers to those questions are influenced by our teachings. One’s religion belief (or lack of) is generated by the environmental factors of each of us.

There are a few over eight-billion people on planet earth. Christians must keep in mind that only one-third of those profess Christianity as a belief. The other two-thirds claim another belief or believe nothing at all about a supernat-

ural spiritual being.

A question someone may have at this point is “How can I be sure the Holy Bible is, in fact, true and the Word of God; the only Creator God?” This is, of course, a legitimate question if one had not been exposed to the teachings of Christianity.

The question “Believe what?” could be considered a reasonable question for anyone, both believers and non-believers. The focal character in Christianity is Jesus Christ. To the second question “Who is Him?” is the name above all names; Jesus!

Philippians 2: 9, 10a, 11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Another question that arises occasionally is “How can I be sure the Bible was actually written centuries ago and not in the last few hundred years?” If prophesy isn’t written until after the fact, how can it be called prophesy?”

The finding of the Dead Sea Scrolls and

the carbon dating of those verifies the Bible was written between 1900 and 3500 years ago.

It is by the prophetic information in the Holy Bible and the science in the Bible that mankind could not possibly have known centuries ago, that offers compelling evidence that only a supernatural spiritual God could have directed those writings.

The questions remains, “Believe what?” The Bible teaches there is only one eternal salvation. That is by a faith based belief (Ephesians 2: 8) that Christ Jesus was crucified (Matthew 27: 35) for the remission of sin (Romans 4: 25), resurrected (Matthew 28: 6) and ascended alive into Heaven (Acts 1: 9).

Ephesians 2: 8-9 “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it

Sullivan Baptist Homecoming September 14

Bro. Joe Baker and congregation invite everyone for Homecoming at the Sullivan Baptist Church on Sunday, September 14. The event will feature music by The Childress Family of Madisonville during the morning worship services beginning 10:30 a.m.

A pot-luck fellowship meal will follow the worship service, and a love offering will be taken.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy the day celebrating the Sullivan Baptist Church Homecoming.

Deaths And Funerals

Bettie “June” Sneddon

Bettie “June” Griffin Sneddon, 912, of Robards, Kentucky died on Tuesday, September 2 at the Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson, Kentucky.

She was born June 7, 1933 in Robards to the late Charles and Eula Griffin.

June was a devoted homemaker and a faithful member of Robards United Methodist Church. She and her late husband, Louis “Lou” Sneddon, shared many wonderful experiences together.

In addition to her parents and her husband, she was preceded in death by her brothers, Bill Griffin and Bert Griffin and sisters, Mary Ruth Grif-

fin, Martha Busby, and Ruby King.

June is survived by her children, Ronnie Ashby of Robards, Milton Ashby of Florida, Kathleen Exe of Missoula, Montana, Julie Todd of Twin Bridges, Montana, Mary Bateman of Missoula, Jennifer McCall of Missoula, William “Bill” Sneddon of Richmond, Virginia,, and Tonia Simanton of Seattle, Washington; several grandchildren; and several great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 6 at Tomblinson Funeral Home, Sebree Chapel with pastors Rick Nollman and Kenny Palmer officiating.

Burial was in Pleasant Valley Church Cemetery in Robards.

William Scott

William Earl Scott, 72, of Onton died on Wednesday, September 3.

He is survived by



his wife, Yvonne Scott; daughters, Angela, Autumn, and Amanda; step-sons, Chris, Chad, and Ben Scott; five grandchildren; and his siblings, Mary Rakestraw, Cindy Melton, Mike Scott, Lee Scott, Jana Gowler, Sandy Walker, and Billy McConnell.

No funeral service was scheduled.



God Knows You

By Dr. Bob Hardison

God Is Always At Work For Our Good

Q: My closest friend in high school recently betrayed me. Now she is saying I have done things I didn’t do. She slandered me on facebook. I don’t know how to deal with all this drama. Can God help me work through this turmoil?

A: Yes, God can and will help. He is a loving God who cares for His children. Instead of trying to deal with your problems on your own, start by asking God to give you His wisdom in dealing with your hurtful situation. “Come near to God, and he will come near to you” (James 4:8). He will give you calmness to deal with your turmoil.

When dealing with the person who has hurt you, take the high road.

Don’t try to put yourself in a winning position and her in a losing one. Victory isn’t discrediting those who oppose us. Instead of seeking to get even, seek reconciliation. Speak kind words of forgiveness and kindness. Be merciful. Set aside any desire to return harsh words of blame and accusations. Winning God’s way is turning an adversary into a friend.

In all circumstances, including stressful ones, God is always at work for our good. One of the greatest promises to believers is: “We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose” (Rom. 8:28). Throughout your stress and hurt, look for ways God is bringing some good out of your hard time.

is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Faith is a method of believing. We have faith in the chairs on which we sit; the water we drink and in the pilot and crew of the airliner we may fly in.

We have faith in the safety of products we buy, our bank and our plumber. These things considered, why is so difficult to have faith in the God that created us? (Genesis 1: 27)?

Would you prefer to believe your ancestor was an ape or washed up on an ancient sea shore 100 million years ago in the form of a piece of green slime? Can you seriously believe that you are a freak of nature, a mutation having been determined by an accidental combining of heat, moisture and a

few chemical elements that accidentally combined to make you?

Do you really prefer to believe your life has no purpose, no calling, no grand design? Jeremiah 1: 5 “Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou came forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.” We may not be Jeremiah but God is omniscient.

What you believe is your choice! Choose wisely and base that choice on credible information.

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MINE

Pursuant to Application Number 913-9003, Renewal 3


In accordance with KRS 350.070, notice is hereby given that River View Coal, LLC, 835 State Route 1179, Waverly, KY, 42462 has applied for a renewal to an existing refuse disposal and slurry injection operation located 2.5 miles southwest of Uniontown, KY in Union County. The proposed operation will disturb 1169.9 surface acres

The proposed renewal area is approximately 0.1 miles south from KY-360 junction with KY-666 and located 0.5 miles west of Clements Branch.

The proposed renewal is located on the Morganfield, Uniontown, and Grove Center U.S.G.S. 7 ½ minute quadrangle map. The surface area to be affected by this renewal is owned by Jerry Joe Greenwell, River View Coal, LLC, Alliance Resource Properties LLC, French Farms LLC, Eddie G Steward & Mary Jo Steward Irrevocable Real Estate Trust, Cory & Tina Thomas, Jon A. Schermerhorn, Robert E Mills, William J Thomas & Gerald W Thomas, Thomas Family Land LLC, Frenchs Finest LLC, Cypress Flats Land Company LLC, Thomas Land Holdings LP, Neal Greenwell Farmland LLC.

The application has been filed for public inspection at the Division of Mine Reclamation and Enforcement's, Madisonville Regional Office, 625 Hospital Drive, Madisonville, KY 42431. Written comments, objections, or requests for a permit conference must be filed with the Director, Division of Mine Permits, 300 Sower Blvd, 2nd floor, Frankfort, KY 40601.

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ALLISON BALL

AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor's Report

To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Steve Henry, Webster County Judge/Executive
The Honorable William Braden, Webster County Sheriff
Members of the Webster County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Webster County Sheriff's Settlement - 2023 Taxes for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 - Regulatory Basis, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Webster County Sheriff's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statement presents fairly, in all material respects, the taxes charged, credited, and paid for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024 of the Webster County Sheriff, in accordance with the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the taxes charged, credited, and paid of the Webster County Sheriff, for the period September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the *Audit Program for Sheriffs' Tax Settlements*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Webster County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Webster County Sheriff on the basis of accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Webster County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not an absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgement made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Webster County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Webster County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement (Continued)

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 27, 2025, on our consideration of the Webster County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Webster County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, Ky

June 27, 2025

State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

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