

RUSTY WALLACE
865-688-8886
KIA KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

SAVE BIG during MARCH MANIA!!!

200,000
MILE WARRANTY

ON EVERY NEW CAR!
The All New 2025 KIA Sportage



*see dealer for details

Morgan County Today

Psalm 100:3
www.mocotoday.com
Volume 11 Number 11
Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Your Community. Your News.

75¢



Morgan County Today

Your Community. Your News.

PUBLISHER:
TOMMY LEE FRANCIS
PUBLISHER@MOCOTODAY.COM

EDITOR:
HEATHER FRANCIS
EDITOR@MOCOTODAY.COM

ADVERTISING:
ADVERTISING@MOCOTODAY.COM

**MAIL DELIVERY
SUBSCRIPTIONS**

CALL 423-346-2329
POSTMASTER:
SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO
P.O. BOX 451,
WARTBURG, TN 37887

IN-COUNTY RATES
\$40; \$35 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

OUT OF COUNTY RATES
\$55; \$50 FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS & VETERANS

**PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID
AT WARTBURG, TN
USPS PUBLICATION NUMBER
(15400)**



**Ms. Avery Pearl
Pet Columnist**

Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

Star Physical Therapy

I have to tell you guys about this place that has helped my Mimi and my Aunt Pam. Mimi calls it Star Physical Therapy and she sees a lady there named Ms Vanessa. She and her friends are awesome!

Ms Vanessa is also the one that helped my Aunt Pam, regain the ability to use her hand and the strength to be able to walk again after her accident.

Star has helped so many people in the 25 years they have been in Roane County. From knee re-placements, shoulder surgeries, strokes, sports injuries, or anything else that needs rehabilitation.

Can you imagine helping people like they do? Lots of people go to school to be a Physical Therapist. Not many of them practice it with a caring heart to go along with the know how to do the therapy itself.

You know what else? Everyone there is super nice and friendly. The manager there has in-laws in Morgan County. His name is Mr Chip. He knows my Pap.

Any-woof, Mimi is glad that Ms Vanessa has a special gift for getting you on the mend, with the least amount pain possible. She teaches you breathing techniques that help manage the pain along with exercises, nerve stimulation, and things to do at home that will help your recovery go smoothly.

I almost forgot, Ms Vanessa has helped Ms Susie get back on her feet, super fast after her knee surgery. I told you she was great!

So, I'm thinking that Star Physical Therapy is truly a God send to the people in Morgan and Roane county.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.



WEEKLY WEATHER

**CITIZENS
GAS
UTILITY DISTRICT**
of Scott and Morgan Counties

Tue 18	72°/48°	
Wed 19	73°/45°	
Thu 20	48°/30°	
Fri 21	58°/38°	
Sat 22	65°/44°	
Sun 23	64°/50°	
Mon 24	62°/43°	

S★T★A★R
PHYSICAL THERAPY
865-376-6566

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

City of Sunbright

Please join us for our upcoming monthly meeting on Tuesday March 18, 2025 at 6pm.

Our Agenda will include:

Agenda:

- Report of previous minutes
- Review of Financial Statements
- Follow up with Properties in City

The Deer Lodge Abner Ross Center meet on the third Monday of the month at 6:00 PM.

Coalfield Genealogical and Historical Society meets the second Tuesday of every month at the Senior Citizens Building at 6:00 PM.

Morgan County Republican Party meets the last Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM at the American Legion in Wartburg.

Tennessee 811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



1st Row: Pictured L to R: Frank Qualls (Sound), Paisley Olsen (Frannie); Mila Ashe (Nurse Blair); LoriLei Thomas (Carylyn); Eva DeVaney (Ms. Pitoomie); Ava Spiker (Ms. Broadside); Rachel Smith (Nurse Goffer); Emma Wrather (Nurse Baines); Donna Duncan (Zeola); Savannah Lowe (Sound)

2nd Row: Pictured L to R: Sabrina Patton (Props); Kaleb Mincey (Professor Throttlebots); Kayla Byrge (Darlene); Jackson Cox (Mr. Pinchpenny); Blaine Lawson (Crusher); Zach Elswick (Leo); Dakota Norris (Dr. Popov); Huntley Grayson (Mr. Withernight); Ashlyn Ruppe (Boots); Madi Reagan (Nurse Nancy); Max Currier (Curtains / Lights); Timothy Neshem (Lights)

Spring Play 2025 - Play Summary

Hospital Hijinx by R. Eugene Jackson

Oakdale High School Drama Club invites audiences to attend the 40th anniversary of the Oakdale School Spring Play by watching the hilarious show Hospital Hijinx by R. Eugene Jackson. If ever there was an emergency, it's the emergency room at Calamity University Hospital! The two on-duty doctors have been mysteriously shipped out of the country, essential medical supplies keep disappearing, and four student nurses, whose grades were so low they had to get down on their hands and knees to read them, have been assigned there.

Add to the mix Nurse Blair, who gets hysterical over something like a split fingernail; Zeola, a student who accidentally glues herself to her desk during a test; and Professor Throttlebots, who tries to freeze-dry himself, and you have the makings for a hilarious hospital romp.

With the help of Calamity Hospital Administrator, Mr. Pinchpenny, and his secretary, Ms. Broadside, the unscrupulous Dr. Popov, owner of a rival medical center, along with his henchmen, the handsome young Leo and the clumsy bruiser, Crusher, has conspired to deplete the resources of Calamity Hospital so that Dr. Popov will have a monopoly on medical care for the area.

The student nurses may not know how to take a patient's temperature or blood pressure, but they do enjoy a thrilling adventure as they disguise themselves as a doctor, a nurse, and a sanitation engineer (floor mopper) in order to thwart the conspiracy. In doing so, the "doctor" is forced to "operate" on four villains simultaneously as the "nurse" wraps them in bandages until they are incapacitated mummies. Show times are as follows:

Reservations for Dinner Theater will open on Wednesday, February 26, 2025. To make reservations, call Oakdale School at 423-369-3885 or email Julie Johnson Crowe at johnsonj@mcsed.net.

The Dinner Theater meal will be catered by The Flying Pig in Crossville, TN, and includes: Chicken and Pork, Macaroni and Cheese, Cole Slaw, Banana Pudding, and Sweet/Unsweet Tea.

Date	Time	Cost	Audience
Monday, March 17, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades K-5
Tuesday, March 18, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades 6-8
Wednesday, March 19, 2025	12:45 p.m.	\$2.00	Grades 9-12
Thursday, March 20, 2025	7:00 p.m.	\$6.00	General Admission
Friday, March 21, 2025	6:00 p.m.	\$20.00	Dinner Theater
Saturday, March 22, 2025	6:00 p.m.	\$20.00	Dinner Theater

— In Loving Memory —

Edgar “Eddie” Bunch, 71



Edgar Bunch, better known as Eddie Bunch, age 71 of Petros left this world for a far better place on March 11, 2025.

He was the world’s best father, husband, and grandfather. He provided for his family and would give his shirt off his back to anyone that needed it. He was our hero, our safe place, our everything. No words could ever describe how wonderful my dad was. He worked hard even when he was taking treatments to provide for us.

He worked at Knoxville Custom Cabinets until he couldn’t work anymore. He missed working there so much. He loved everyone there. We will never be the same. He is our world and now he is our angel. Still providing and watching over us. I will miss my dad, and we will always have a void in our hearts.

He is preceded in death by his parents Clyde and Mae Bunch; brothers Bo and Johnny Bunch, Robert and Bobby Colston; sisters Faye Cooper, Dean Casey, Jeanette Bunch and Betty Elkins.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years Patty Bunch; daughter Brenda Bunch; grandsons Brandon Bunch, Adam Norton, and Gage Wright; great grand daughter Autumn Woods; brothers Lonnie (Dean) Bunch; sister Ann Dagley; special friends Mark Bunch (which dad always said “my buddy”), Jeff McGinnis, Casey McGinnis and Renee Pemberton and a host of nieces, nephews, and special friends.

The family will receive friends Friday, March 14, 2025 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 1:00 p.m. with Minister Alysia Jones officiating. Eddie’s wishes are to be cremated.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Edgar Bunch.

Bobbie Hester, 64



Mr. Bobbie Hester, age 64, of Mossy Grove passed away on Saturday, March 1, 2025.

His father Charles Perkey, Mother Violet Perkey, and Nephew Jeffrey preceded him in death.

He is survived by his beloved wife Linda Hester, Daughter Erica Hester and Fiancé Mi-

chael Underwood; son Matthew Hester; brother Franklin (Syble) Hester; sister Debbie (Jesse) Haney; nephew and nieces, the Abston sisters and his church family at New Life Apostolic.

Graveside services will be held Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 4:00 PM at Montgomery Cemetery in Lansing Tennessee with Bishop Anthony Pemberton officiating. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Bobbie Hester.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

Psalm 86:4-5

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



**Your Hyundai Dealer
NOW OPEN
in our NEW location!!!**

**DOUBLE
REBATES
UP TO
\$5,500!!!**



**TONS OF NEW
INVENTORY**

**LOCALLY OWNED, PEOPLE YOU KNOW!
WE TREAT YOU LIKE FAMILY!**



**4.9
GOOGLE
RATING**



HOME OF THE 200,000-MILE WARRANTY

*see dealer for details



**RustyWallaceHyundai.com - 865-963-3400
505 Callahan Drive, Knoxville - Exit 110 - 75 North**

Grand Opening Pre-owned Sale!!! TOP DOLLAR FOR YOUR TRADE!!!



H1202A - 2016 Lincoln MKX Reserve Loaded! Safety Package! \$15,984



H1334M - 2019 Chevrolet Colorado ZR2 4WD, Lifted! \$34,897



H1196A - 2015 Kia Sportage LX AWD, Bluetooth \$10,987



H1092A - 2015 Toyota Prius Three Bluetooth, NAV \$14,984



H1124A - 2008 Hyundai Sonata Limited One Owner! Very Clean! \$9,784



H723A - 2014 Ford Escape SE Great Bargain! \$8,673



DH1415A-2016 Hyundai Tucson Limited Loaded, Low Mileage! \$17,529



H1361B - 2018 Nissan Rogue S Only 89k Miles, Very Clean! \$16,853



H1334A - 2019 Nissan Kicks SV Low mileage! Great Low Price! \$14,597

ASK FOR UNCLE MARCUS SAVE MORE MONEY!!



H1154A - 2018 Kia Optima LX One Owner! Bluetooth \$11,986



H1396A- 2013 Toyota 4Runner SR5 Very Clean, Great Price! \$21,897



H1066A - 2018 Audi A3 Premium Plus AWD! Sporty! \$21,789



H1173A - 2015 Honda Civic EXL Sunroof, Low Miles! \$15,496



H1022A - 2020 Mini Cooper Countryman Sporty! Sunroof \$18,495



H1208A - 2018 Hyundai Elantra SEL Great Value! Great gas mileage! \$13,983



H771A - 2023 Kia Rio S Great Gas Mileage! Low Miles! \$18,984



H1273A - 2015 Chevrolet Impala LTZ Sunroof, Loaded \$13,394



**NOW HIRING
ALL POSITIONS
APPLY IN PERSON
AT
RUSTY WALLACE
HYUNDAI**

*see dealer for details

RUSTY WALLACE  **HYUNDAI**

RustyWallaceHyundai.com - 865-963-3400

505 Callahan Drive, Knoxville - Exit 110 - 75 North



It's never too early to plan.

Ask about Home Loans with:

➤ Lower down payment ➤ No-PMI options ➤ Competitive rates
Meet our Loan Officers! ☎ (865) 544-5400 ✉ tvacreditunion.com
NMLS 167911. Federally Insured by NCUA. Restrictions apply. Not a government-affiliated agency. All applications subject to underwriting guidelines and approval. Rates based on creditworthiness. Ask for details.



Historically Speaking K-25 Reunion

By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

The 2nd Annual gathering of K-25 employees and supporters is approaching soon! Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm. The first event was a huge success, bringing joy to many as they reunited with old friends and met new family members of their coworkers. Children and families enjoyed the event immensely, and you won't want to miss it this year. It is becoming an annual event that everyone will enjoy.

The legacy of the K-25 Gaseous Diffusion Plant, a cornerstone of the Manhattan Project and Cold War history, will take center stage at the 2nd Annual K-25 Employees Reunion, presented by Nuclear Care Partners. This landmark event, the largest gathering of former K-25 employees, their families, and community supporters, will honor the extraordinary contributions of those who helped shape one of the most significant chapters in American history.

Taking place at the K-25 Historic Site, the reunion will feature a mix of celebration, commemoration, and community engagement. Highlights include:

- **Community Gathering:** A chance for attendees to connect, share stories, and honor the achievements of the K-25 workforce.
- **Special Guest Speakers:** Hear from local legends, historians, and special guests including Steve Goodpasture, Alan Lowe, Jim Campbell, and Paul Wasilko, who will share insights on the plant's construction, opera-

tion, and ongoing efforts and new facilities, including what is planned for Portal 4 and what is happening with the K-25 Interpretive Center.

- **Free Admission:** All attending K-25 retirees and their families will receive free admission to the K-25 Atomic History Center.
- **Oral History Collections & Artifact Donations:** Staff from the AMSE Foundation will be on-site to collect oral histories and artifacts, preserving the unique legacy of K-25 for generations to come.
- **Food Trucks & Catered Desserts:** Enjoy delicious offerings from local vendors while soaking in the atmosphere of this historic celebration.
- **Car Show:** Attendees are invited to participate in a corresponding car show that will happen in tandem with the event.
- **Free Event T-shirt:** All attendees will receive a free event t-shirt to commemorate the occasion.

All proceeds from the event will go toward the maintenance and preservation of the K-25 Atomic History Center's historic collections and the continuing rehabilitation and development of the K-25 Historic Site.

For more information, visit www.amse.org or contact information on donations and sponsorships for this event, contact Jennifer Lee at (<mailto:jlee@amse.org>) or (423) 273-8131. Attendees can RSVP online at (<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/k25reunion>), or over the phone to Pam Toon at (865) 368-0996 and Jennifer Lee at (423) 273-8131.

ABOUT: The American Museum of Science and Energy Foundation

The AMSE Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working in cooperation with the Department of Energy, is responsible for the operations of AMSE and the K-25 Atomic History Center and works to advance the mission of both institutions. As the official museum of science and energy of the United States, we build upon the impressive history of scientific advances in Oak Ridge to show the vital importance of science and engineering in our past, present, and future, and to contribute to a deeper understanding of the STEAM disciplines.

For more information about the AMSE Foundation and its initiatives, visit www.amse.org.

ABOUT: The K-25 Atomic History Center

The K-25 Atomic History Center honors the amazing men and women who helped construct and operate the K-25 uranium enrichment complex, first as part of the Manhattan Project and then continued to help meet our nation's security and energy needs after the war. The new 7,500-square-foot history center houses more than 250 original artifacts on display and nearly 1,000 recorded oral histories from former employees. These interactive galleries allow you to step back in time to discover the inner workings of the K-25 Plant and learn about one of the most significant industrial, scientific, and military achievements in American history.

For more information about the K-25 Atomic History Center, visit www.k25history-center.org.



First Annual K-25 Reunion was held on Saturday, April 27, 2024

RUSTY WALLACE

865-688-8886

KVA KNOXVILLE
I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

MCMC
OUR MISSION IS YOUR HEALTH

Morgan County Medical Center
224 Old Mill Road, Wartburg
(423) 346-6221

setting up an Annuity or Rolling-over an IRA

- ◆ 5%+ BONUSES ON YOUR DEPOSITS
- ◆ YEARLY LOCK-IN OF ALL GAINS
- ◆ PRINCIPAL GUARANTEED
- ◆ A+ COMPANIES
- ◆ ALL INTEREST TAX DEFERRED



DAVIS INSURANCE GROUP

NEW YEAR ...

NEW INVESTMENTS

Let us help you to protect your money!

423.346.4978

316 Eliza Street, Wartburg, TN 37887
Mon.– Fri. 9am-5pm

Allen G. Davis

Owner/Insurance Specialist
alldavisinsruance@gmail.com

Jennifer Davis Ridge

Office Manager/Agent
jridge.davisinsruance@gmail.com

Vanessa Taylor

Office Assistant/CSR/Notary Public
officedavisinsruance@gmail.com

*NO-OBLIGATION ANNUITY RATES *FEATURES MAY VARY

WHAT EVERYBODY WANTS FOR THE NEW YEAR !!!

NEW FDA Approved Semaglutide Plus and Tirzapatide Injections Now at Dr's Weight Loss Clinic!

“Walk-ins” Welcome

Call to schedule your FREE Consultation



Physician Supervised
 Prescription Diet Pills
 Lipo Myoden
 B12 Injections
 Health and Wellness Supplements



19102 Alberta Street, Oneida, TN

423-286-7546

1035 Old Hwy 127 S, Jamestown, TN

931-879-8444



David Zubler
Columnist

IRS easy pay online

The IRS provides a fast and easy way to pay taxes online and is encouraging everyone to take advantage of the tool. Payments can be made without signing into an IRS Online Account. Tax payments can be made on the website IRS.gov.

To make the payment, simply go to IRS.gov and click on **Make a payment**.

Make a payment provides two options to make a payment.

Direct Pay with bank account allows you to pay now or schedule payments up to a year in advance. The payment can be paid from your checking or savings account without paying any fees. After submitting a payment, you will receive immediate confirmation.

Direct Pay allows you to make up to 2 current or future payments per day (24 hours). It treats payments due on the date of payment as being made on time, even if the bank withdrawal actually happens later. It permits pending payments to be canceled up to 2 days prior to the scheduled payment date. After choosing the "Make a Payment" option, on Step 3 of the application, you will be prompted to select a payment date.

You can also file an extension using direct pay. Select the "Make a Payment" button. On the page that follows, select **Extension** as your "Reason for Payment (The "Apply Payment to..." field will then start with "4868" the IRS number for the extension request form). When it is successfully completed, your payment will be credited, and you will automatically receive an extension. You won't need to file a separate Form 4868, Extension of Time to File Your Tax Return.

Direct Pay works best with:

- Internet Explorer 11 (or higher) and higher on Windows 10
- Firefox 80 (or higher)
- Safari 12, 13 and 14, on iOS
- Chrome 85 (or higher) on Android 8, 9, and 10

Debit or credit card and digital wallet is another option at Make a payment if you prefer not to pay with funds from your bank account. However, processor companies charge a fee for their services. You will be given multiple options for making a payment with different processors and the fees for each option are stated. The IRS doesn't receive any fees for these payments.

The **Digital wallet payment** options are PayPal, Click to Pay, and Venmo.

The **Pay with cash payment** is with VanillaDirect.

Using the IRS online tools to make payments and file extensions is very quick and easy.

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.

John Chapter 3



Melvin Howard

(John 3:1-15) The New Birth: Nicodemus is mentioned three times in this Gospel; he sought Jesus by night for a private interview (3:1), he defended Christ before the Sanhedrin (7:46), and he assisted with the burial of the Lord's body (19:38). His faith grew with the passing of time. He appears to have been one of the Pharisee members of the Sanhedrin, the highest court of Jewish law. By night, he came to Christ expressing a sincere (though limited) view of Christ. He confessed the conviction that Jesus was "a teacher from God," as evidenced by the "signs" he was able to perform (v. 2).

The Lord went to the core of the matter (3-8): "Verily, verily [an important way to preface a teaching] I say to you, unless one is born anew [or from above] he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus mistook the figurative for the literal and wondered how a person could be "born again" physically. Jesus explained: "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom." There is one birth consisting of two components---a conception and a delivery.

Clearly the term "water" refers to the baptismal ritual, and only sectarian prejudice denies this---or ignores it. This was the universal view until the time of John Calvin, who appears to be the first to have employed the new twist. "Spirit" alludes to the Spirit's operation through the gospel that produces faith in the sinner's heart. It parallels with Christ's teaching elsewhere: "He who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mk. 16:16). Several parallels illustrate the meaning of the text.

Spirit's teaching + baptism = entrance into the kingdom (Jn. 3:5)

Spirit's teaching + baptism = entrance in the body (1 Cor. 12:13)

Instruction of the word + washing of water = cleansed (Eph. 5:25-26)

Holy Spirit + washing of regeneration = saved (Tit. 3:5)

Gospel teaching = belief and baptism = salvation (Mk. 16:16)

A consideration of the first column reveals that the Spirit's instruction is via the word, or the gospel; second, the baptism is the burial in water; third, the net result is residence in the kingdom---the equivalent of the body (church), or the regenerated state.

There is a physical birth; similarly, there is a spiritual birth. The physical birth is characterized by physical life; the spiritual birth by spiritual life. Spiritual life is necessary for entrance into heaven. Verses six and seven contain an explanation of how the Spirit operates in the begetting process. The term rendered "wind" in the common versions is pneuma in the Greek text. The term is found 374 times in the Greek Testament; only

here has it been rendered "wind." It should have been brought over as "Spirit." "Blows" may be rendered as "breathes". Thus, by means of the Spirit's "voice," as conveyed through the Scriptures, one learns of his duty to the "new birth," by faith he responds in submitting to immersion in water, and as a result he enters the kingdom of God. No other view fits the language of this context and the general teaching of the New Testament. Real faith "in God" complies to God's word.

Nicodemus was amazed. At this point, he could not understand how such could be. But the Lord nudged him forward. "If you are the teacher (one of significant reputation) of Israel, you must learn these things" (v. 10). Jesus declared that some knew and gave witness of the truth; others refused to receive his testimony (v. 11). "Earthly" and "heavenly" (v. 12) refer to two levels of knowledge---one elementary, the other more advanced. If one cannot (or will not) receive the simpler matters, how can he possibly fathom the more complex? If one rejects the elements of the new birth, he scarcely is prepared to go further in Christian teaching.

Verse thirteen has perplexed many and has been the victim of abuse by some. (a) Some contend it is an affirmation of Christ's omniscience; while such is true, this view hardly fits the context. (b) The text is sometimes used to prove that no one has yet entered heaven---a proposition refuted by the case of Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) as well as several New Testament inferences (2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 6:9-11). (c) The best explanation appears to be this: no one is qualified to speak of "heavenly" things (in the ultimate sense) unless he has descended out of heaven, namely the Son of Man. The sense may be: "No one has entered into communion with God and possesses thereby an intuitive knowledge of divine things, in order to reveal them to others, except He to whom heaven was opened and who dwells there at this very moment" (Godet). John, writing near the end of the first century, editorially added "who is in heaven"---having ascended back to the Father after his earthly mission was completed.

The illustration of Moses and the serpent is introduced. When the people of Israel murmured in the wilderness (Num. 21:4-9), God sent serpents among them and many died. As a remedy, Moses was instructed to raise a crafted serpent upon a pole; those who "looked" upon this object in faith were healed. "Even so," the Son of Man would be "lifted up" (on the cross [12:32-33]). All who believed (in the New Testament, true belief is obedient faith) might, in him, have eternal life. The "in him" or "in Christ" refrain becomes an important phrase that warrants close study (2 Tim. 2:10).

John Chapter 3



Melvin Howard

(John 3:16-20) Christ, God's Gift to the Lost: Verse sixteen provides further explanation of the preceding promise of eternal life. "God [the source] so [the extent] loved [agape---the noblest term for love] the world [universal love] that he gave [a gratuitous sacrifice] his special Son that whoever [anyone willing] believes [with a loyalty that obeys] should not perish [experience eternal separation from God], but have eternal life [eternal fellowship with God]."

John 3:16 must not be isolated from other texts that catalog salvation conditions. Christ's mission to earth was not to condemn; instead, it was to provide a way of redemptive rescue (v. 17). Nevertheless, God's love does not nullify the threat of eternal punishment for those who rebel. His justice demands that.

The one who cultivates a sustained belief (so the force of the verb) need not fear judgment. He who does not maintain obedient faith has fallen under judgment already because he has not acted upon that quality of faith that is responsive to God's unique Son (v. 8). Continuing the idea of judgment, it will be deserved because "the light" has come into the world; but it was rejected, because evil people love darkness rather than light, the reason being their actions are wicked (v. 19). Every person who practices evil as an unrestrained way of life hates the light (the depository of which is Christ). Hence, they do not come to the light because, should they do so, their evil would be exposed (v. 20). But he who practices obedience to the truth comes to him who is light that his obedience may be demonstrated to have been motivated by God (v. 21).

(John 3:22-24) Baptisms in Judaea: After the previous discourse, the Lord and his disciples came from Jerusalem into the outer areas of the countryside of Judaea. Jesus spent some time there and baptisms took place. The Lord did not directly administer baptism, but he did indirectly, through his disciples (4:1-2). John the Baptist was also baptizing at Aenon, which some think was in Samaria. The reason for the location was because of the "many waters" in the area which would facilitate immersion---though certainly not necessary for the sprinkling of a few drops of water. Why else would the "many waters" be mentioned? The reference to John not having yet been cast into prison is a chronological marker revealing that this activity was early in Jesus' ministry.

(John 3:25-36) John's Testimony Concerning Christ: A certain controversy arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew on the subject of purification (Mk. 7:1-4). This brought to their attention the coordinate work of Jesus. Some of them approached John about the matter. With some distance in their expression, they referred to "he" who was with "you" beyond the Jordan (the eastern side), about whom "you bore witness. "Look, he is baptizing, and great crowds are coming to him." Clearly they were concerned about the competition, and felt their teacher was being thrust into the shad-

ows. But John responded with a nobility characteristic of him. No one could carry on a work, such as Jesus was, unless God was with him (3:2). Draw a proper conclusion about this matter!

John then urges them to recall the thrust of his ministry. He had never claimed to be anything except the one who prepared the way for Christ. He would never attempt to compete with the Lord. He then introduced the analogy of the bridegroom and the friend of the bridegroom (best man). The friend knows what his responsibility is, and he rejoices in it; John's happiness in his preparatory work is like a cup of joy filled in the brim. His vision is clear. Christ's ministry and influence would continue to rise, while John's preliminary labor would diminish. There is no hint of jealousy or resentment. John's truly was a great man (Mt. 11:11).

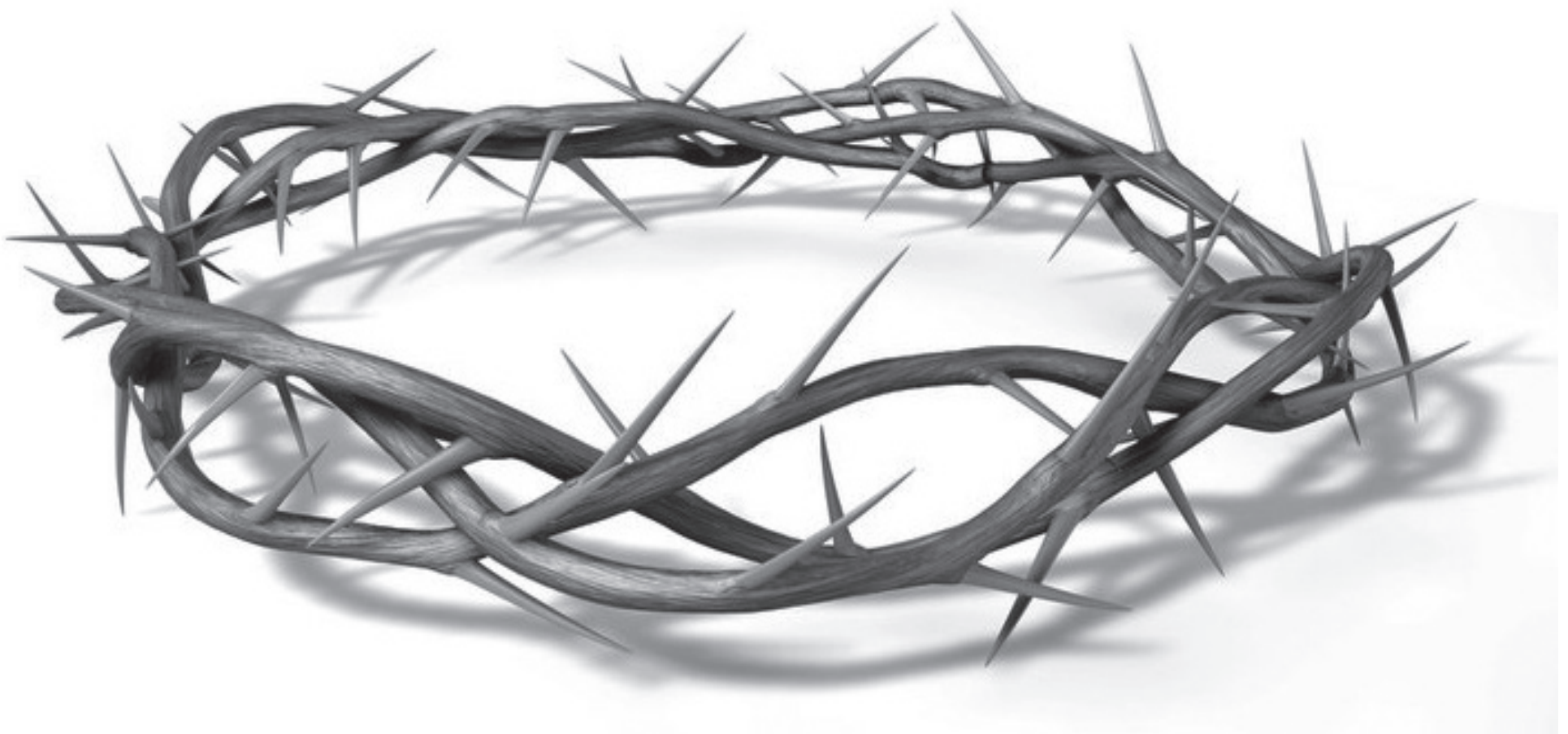
John describes the Lord as one "who comes from above [heaven], and is above all [absolutely preeminent]." John's mission versus Christ's was the equivalent of comparing the earth with heaven (v. 31). Jesus had come from heaven and thus could bear witness of what he had seen and heard; unfortunately, a tide of rejection was rising. The expression, "no man," is a hyperbole for a significant growing hostility (v. 32). But he who has received the Savior's testimony has set his own "seal" of authentication respecting God himself (v. 33). (And what shall be said of those who do not "set their seal" to Christ's teaching?) God sent Christ into this world and the Lord Jesus consistently "speaks" the "words of God," for the Father constantly bestows the Spirit upon him limitlessly (v. 34). The present tense verbs are important.

The Father "loves the Son." He "has delivered" all things into his hand (Mt. 11:27; 28:18). Then this most crucial text: "He who believes [a sustained faith] on the Son has [presently] eternal life" (v. 36). There is a sense in which eternal life is possessed in this life; there is another sense in which it is yet to come "save" [Mk. 16:16; 1 Cor. 15:2; 2 Tim. 4:18]). The present possession of eternal life does not support the dogma of eternal security, as taught by Calvinists.

BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo
FortifyYourFaith.org

Melvin Howard's Weekly column is sponsored by
The Lord's Church
102 Paxton Road, Lancing

Opinions expressed by readers and columnists do not necessarily reflect those of Morgan County Today





SUMMIT
MEDICAL GROUP
— AT WARTBURG —

FAMILY MEDICINE & URGENT CARE



FAMILY MEDICINE
Jonathan B. Laymance, M.D.
Seth Stewart, FNP-B.C.



Accepting new patients of all ages!
Most insurances accepted
including Medicare and TennCare.

URGENT CARE

Monday – Friday: 8am – 6:30pm
Saturday & Sunday: 8am – 4pm

Do not have to be a patient of SMG to visit Urgent Care!
Appointment required. Walk-ins if schedule allows.

1825 Knoxville Hwy, Wartburg





(423) 346-3600



Caring for our community

 **Griffith Family**
PHARMACY




Wartburg

 1236 Knoxville Hwy
Wartburg, TN
37887
 423.346.6337

Rockwood

 600 N Gateway Ave
Rockwood, TN
37854
 865.590.6339

Harriman

 1701 Roane State Hwy
Harriman, TN
37748
 865.590.6337
 griffithfamilypharmacy.com

 *Your Community*
Health Mart
PHARMACY

This pharmacy is independently owned and operated under a license from Health Mart Systems, Inc.



Randy McFarland

105 S Kingston Street
PO Box 690
Wartburg, TN 37887-0690
(423) 346-7670

www.randyismyagent.com

 **COLDWELL BANKER** Jim Henry & Associates



Real Estate Agent
Glenda Johnson

Direct: (865) 591-6900
Office: (865) 376-2121 x102
License: 251289 TN

glenda6900@bellsouth.net
With all my years of experience in Real Estate, allow me to work for you with all your Real Estate needs.

RustyWallaceKiaKnoxville.com

March Mania Sales Event !!!

Save Now!!!



2025 KIA K5



2025 KIA Sportage



2025 KIA K4



2025 KIA Telluride

Home of the 200,000 mile warranty!

RUSTY WALLACE



865-688-8886



KNOXVILLE

I-75 AT CALLAHAN DRIVE

*see dealer for details