



Heaven’s “Whoever” Policy

“ . . . *whoever believes in him shall not perish . . .*”

Some years ago I took a copy of God’s “whoever” policy to California. I wanted to show it to my Uncle Billy. He’d been scheduled to visit

my home, but bone cancer had thwarted his plans.

My uncle reminded me much of my father: squared like a blast furnace, ruddy as a leather basketball. They shared the same West Texas



NOEL JONES COVINGTON, SR.

Noel Jones Covington, Sr., January 30, 1931, passed away Thursday, May 14, 2020

A graveside service was held Wednesday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. at Seneasha Cemetery, Goodman, MS. The service was conducted by Rev. David Cain, Seneasha United Methodist Church.

Born into the Shrock Community in Attala County, Mississippi to Duncan Noel Covington and Anna Jones Covington, Noel graduated high school, played junior college basketball at Holmes Junior College, and enlisted in the United States Air Force 1951-1955. He was stationed in Japan during the Korean Conflict and served as the crew chief of an SA-16A/HU-16 Albatross, search and rescue aircraft.

After his Air Force service, Noel lived in Louisiana while working as a geophysical engineer and log analyst for Dresser Industries/Halliburton and settled in Lafayette, LA to raise his family. He was a member of various golf clubs and Mardi Gras associations.

Retirement meant a move to Mississippi and building a dream home near his birth place. He retired in 1996 and began farming his land - corn, watermelons, sugarcane and made cane syrup each season. He enjoyed raising German Shepherds and was especially fond of his latest shepherd, “Super.” He was active in Shrock United Methodist Church.

Noel is survived by his three children, Noel Jones Covington, Jr. and wife Terri of Lafayette, LA, Cynthia West and husband Eric of Roswell, GA, Kathryn La Combe and husband David of New Windsor, NY; four grandchildren, Sean Noel



MS. JIMMIE REE OLIVER

Ms. Jimmie Ree Oliver, 58, of Yazoo County, Mississippi passed away on Thursday, May 7, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN.

Ms. Jimmie Ree leaves behind a daughter Jessica Oliver-Jones from Indianapolis, IN.

Visitation service will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at Century Hairston Funeral Home in Lexington, MS. A funeral service will be held on Friday, May 22, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. at New Canaan Missionary Baptist Church in Benton, MS.

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Covington, Gretchen Covington, Christopher West and William Noel LaCombe; five great grandchildren, Evan Noel Covington, Ethan Covington, Chloe Prindel, Samuel Prindel and Joel Prindel; and one great-great granddaughter Savannah Kathryn Covington. He is also survived by his best friend Bessye Perkins.

He was predeceased by his wife of 58 years Kathryn Virginia Thompson Covington; his parents; his sister Christine Vianna Covington; his brother Duncan Cicero Covington; his brother James Howard Covington; an infant sister.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Shrock United Methodist Church, PO Box 246, Goodman, MS 39079.

roots, pendant for cigars, and blue-collar work ethic. But I wasn’t sure if they shared the same faith. So after several planes, two shuttles, and a rental-car road trip, I reached Uncle Billy’s house only to learn he was back in the hospital. No visitors. Maybe tomorrow.

He felt better the next day. Good enough to come home. I went to see him. Cancer had taken its toll and his strength. The recliner entombed his body. He recognized me yet dozed as I chatted with his wife and friends. He scarcely opened his eyes. People came and went, and I began to wonder if I would have the chance to ask the question.

Finally the guests stepped out onto the lawn and left me alone with my uncle. I slid my chair next to his, took his skin-taut hand, and wasted no words. “Bill, are you ready to go to heaven?”

His eyes, for the first time, popped open. Saucer wide. His head lifted. Doubt laced his response: “I think I am.”

“Do you want to be sure?”

“Oh yes.”

Our brief talk ended with a prayer for grace. We both said “amen,” and I soon left. Uncle Billy died within days. Did he wake up in heaven? According to the parable of the eleventh hour workers, he did.

Some struggle with such a thought. A last-minute confessor receives the same grace as a lifetime servant? Doesn’t seem fair. The workers in the parable complained too.

So the landowner, and God, explained the prerogative of ownership: “Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?” (v. Matt. 20:15 RSV).

Request grace with your dying breath, and God hears your prayer. Whoever means



WEST GROVE MBC

West Grove M.B. Church in Lexington will host its Annual Family and Friends’ Day Program on Sunday, May 24, at 11 a.m.

ADDICTION HELP

Narconon reminds readers about the dangers of fentanyl, an incredibly potent chemical that has contributed to the increase in overdose deaths across America. Many don’t know that one thing that makes fentanyl so dangerous is the it can be absorbed in the system through skin contact, leading to a potentially fatal overdose. Narconon can help you take the

Local seniors awarded Lexington Colts scholarships



REKO WALDEN

The Lexington Colts Youth Sports Inc. announced scholarship awards for local graduating high school seniors for the 2019-2020 school term. In partnership with REAL Christian Foundation, the Reggie Weary Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Reko Walden who will be attending Holmes Community College in the fall; and to Christian Davis who will be attending Mississippi State University. The scholarships are \$1,000.00 each. The Coach Willie Reeves Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Deonta Barnes who will be attending Northeast Mississippi Community College. He will be awarded \$1,000.00.



CHRISTIAN DAVIS



DEONTA BARNES



First, understand the problem

Dear Dave,

I feel truly blessed. Even with everything that is going on these days, I still have a steady job and a good income. I’m thinking about taking some money out of my savings account in order to completely pay off my credit card debt. How do you feel about this idea?

Erin

“whenever.”

And one more: whoever means “wherever.” Wherever you are, you’re not too far to come home.

From 3:16, *The Numbers of Hope*.

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Dear Erin,

It’s not a bad plan if you’ve come to a point where you understand a few things. The credit card and the debt aren’t the real problems. They’re symptoms of buying things you probably don’t need with money you don’t have. You need to take a long look in the mirror, because the person who’s looking back at you is the real problem.

If you can accept this, and are committed to changing yourself and your financial habits, I’d say go for it. Just don’t wipe out your savings in the process. Leave plenty of cash in there, especially right now when so many things are uncertain. Also, make sure you cut up that credit card, close the account, and make a promise to yourself that you’ll never use those things again.

Once you do all this, and start living on a written, monthly budget, rebuild your savings as quickly as possible. Saving money is always a good thing. And everyone needs an emergency fund of three to six months of expenses for the unexpected stuff life throws at you!

Dave

Look at past numbers, then proceed realistically

Dear Dave,

Do you have a rule for calculating how much money to set aside for home repair and maintenance?

Bobby

Dear Bobby,

I don’t really know of a formula to determine this sort of thing. I’d suggest looking at your checkbook over the previous year, and see what you spent on maintenance and repair issues. Home maintenance is kind of like car maintenance, in that it’s going to depend on the age and general condition of the house. If you’re driving an older model car, you expect to put more into it over time, right? It’s kind of the same

principle with houses. The older the structure, the greater the likelihood you’ll have to pump some money into it.

Make sure you look at things from a realistic point of view. You probably won’t need a new roof anytime soon if you had one installed in the last couple of years. But give your house a good going over, inside and out, every six months or so. This will go a long way in assessing what’s needed—and what might pop up in the future!

—Dave

**Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @Daveramsey.*

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