

# Walmart evacuated for precaution after lightning strike

BY CHRISTOPHER HARRIS  
COMMONWEALTH JOURNAL

The local Walmart store was briefly evacuated to ensure the safety of those inside after lightning struck the building's grounds during Saturday's storms. Store manager Glen Bolton spoke to the Commonwealth Journal after the incident on Saturday, which took place shortly before 3 p.m., and confirmed that nobody was hurt as a result of the incident.

He also said that there was no damage to the store, and that there was no fire that would have been a danger to customers, despite the presence of firefighters.

"Lighting hit the light pole (at the) back of the building," said Bolton. "We had a small fire, but it wasn't on the sales floor."

Despite that, customers and Walmart associates were evacuated from the building out of precaution.

"Everybody got out," said Bolton. "We do roll call, and make

sure all the associates are accounted for, and then management walks and does a back walk, just to make sure everybody is followed up on, to make sure there's no loose people still wandering around."

Somerset Fire Chief Bengie Howard said that they arrived at the scene and helped evacuate the building with the assistance of the Ferguson and Parkers Mill Fire Departments. Somerset City Gas and Kentucky Utilities also assisted at the scene, he said.

"After our investigation, the only damage was to the pole," said Howard. "... No other issues were found with the building."

People remained evacuated from the building for almost an hour, noted Bolton. Firefighters remained on the scene until 4:15 p.m.

"I'm very proud of how the community reacted, how our associates reacted and got to a safe location," he said. "It gave us time to make sure the store was safe for them to come back in."

# Weekend water line break on East Mt. Vernon sees nightlong repairs



COURTESY OF DANA WHITIS

City of Somerset crews worked all night Saturday into Sunday to fix a water line break on East Mt. Vernon Street.

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While Saturday's storms spared Somerset by and large from the kind of flooding seen in other parts of the state, they still caused their share of problems — including likely playing a role in a water line break on East Mt. Vernon Street.

City of Somerset Water

Crews were on the scene making repairs throughout the night into Sunday afternoon repairing the break to an eight-inch line in front of Birdies & Barrels, near the intersection of East Mt. Vernon and South Maple Streets.

The incident took place at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday, and repairs weren't completed until about 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

"When we dug it up, we went to fix the leak, and there were multiple leaks instead of just one, so it took a while to fix," said City of Somerset Water and Wastewater Manager Dana Whitis. "... (T) here were three service lines across the road that were torn up as well, and so we ended up having to fix four leaks and three service lines, so it took a long time."

Whitis thanked the Somerset Fire Department for coming to help clean the road since it was so muddy after the repairs.

She said the leaks happened because of the ground shifting, influenced by weather, such as Saturday's heat and heavy rains — such shifts frequently occur connected to abrupt changes in temperature and moisture fluctuations.

No local businesses were damaged, she said.

"We were able to get there in time," said Whitis. "As soon as we got the call and I called my guys out, we got there and time and it didn't flood any buildings. We were able to turn the water off."

## KERLEY

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Furthermore, it seems that Freeman, the secular historian, occasionally ventures into inaccurate biblical exegesis, with the Colossians 2:8 text serving as an exemplar. In the passage, Paul writes, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." On the mere surface, it appears that Freeman may have a point in that Paul does seem to condemn philosophy. However, a couple of facts bring Paul's apparent condemnation of philosophy into proper context.

First, Freeman fails to provide an adequate definition of philosophy. In the time of Paul and in context, the discipline of "philosophy" had to do with all the theories of God, the world, and the meaning of life, and it was taught in Jewish and pagan schools in Greek cities. This means that Paul's mind has a much looser and broader definition of philosophy than Freeman is forcing upon him. The Jewish historian Josephus and philosopher Philo saw both "biblical teaching and Jewish piety as a kind of philosophy." Even

Christian Justin Martyr considers Christianity to be a type of philosophy. That is precisely the point; Paul's "attack" in Colossians 2:8 is not specifically focused on the Greek rational tradition; instead, he is actually attacking a particular kind of religious speculation. In short, and contrary to Freeman's presentation, Paul does not view "philosophy" as being narrowly limited to Greek philosophy.

Secondly, the issue at hand in Colossae is not corrupting pressure from traditional Greek philosophy being exerted upon the church, but was actually a "form of Jewish thought being presented as a 'philosophy' by Jewish apologists." Radically contrary to the gospel, Merkabah mysticism held that salvation was found in the "ascent of the soul from earth, through the spheres of the hostile planet-angels and rulers of the cosmos, and its return to its divine home in the 'fullness' of God's light, a return which, to the Gnostic's mind, signified Redemption." The evidence that Paul is addressing this particular "philosophy" is compelling. Paul warns against "human tradition" that are contrived "according to the elemental spirits of the world" (Col. 2:8) along with the "asceticism and the worship of angels,"

and "visions" (Col. 2:18); and to "regulations" set by "the elemental spirits of the world" whom you have died to in Christ (Col. 2:20), and "self-made religion" having "the appearance of wisdom" (Col. 2:23).

There is little doubt that in the context of Colossians 2:8ff, Paul is not "violently" condemning "the Greek rational tradition" as Freeman charges, but is rather specifically condemning the efforts of Jewish apologists who are enticing the Colossian Jewish Christians to turn away from Christianity, and to return to an age-old Merkabah mysticism. It appears Freeman has

completely misunderstood the passage in Colossians chapter two. Rather than being hostile toward philosophy, Paul himself was known to have relied upon elements of the Greek rational methodology in crafting his own logical arguments. To be sure, Paul's reliance upon the Greek tradition to make his point is overtly obvious in his argument for the resurrection of the dead in 1 Corinthians 15 and in his engagement with the Athenian philosophers recorded in The Acts of the Apostles.

In 1 Corinthians 15, for example, Paul presents a logical argument in the classic style by simply

presenting premises that lead to a definite conclusion. When allowed to engage with the philosophers of Athens at the Areopagus, Paul once again structures his argument based on the Greek tradition of rational and logical discourse. To be sure, Paul's understanding and appreciation of the Greek tradition are on full display as he incorporates quotations from two Greek philosophers into his own argument. Given this evidence from the historical records, as Freeman attempts, it can hardly be said that Paul knew "virtually nothing of the Greek philosophical tradition that

he condemned." Nor can one rightly argue that Paul "declared war on the Greek rational tradition."

Join us next time as we continue to look at Freeman's work in search of clues to answer the question: Is God dead?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

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## NOTICE TO PULASKI COUNTY TAXPAYERS

Tim Price, Pulaski County Clerk, pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2025 Delinquent Real Property Tax Bills (Certificates of Delinquency) will be published in the Commonwealth Journal **July 8, 2026**. The list of Certificates of Delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8:00 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at the County Clerk's office, located at 100 Main St., Room 208, Somerset, KY 42501. The list may also be inspected on the Pulaski County Court Clerk's Web site. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the Web site is: [Kydtax.smlc.us](http://Kydtax.smlc.us)

The tax sale will be held on **Aug. 6, 2026** beginning at 9:00 a.m.. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by close of business on **July 27, 2026**. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale. **PLEASE NOTE: All payments must be RECEIVED in the County Clerk's office PRIOR to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies - although they have been advertised - will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at 66-679-2042. Contact Jenny Sparks or Samantha Owens. **No personal checks accepted. Money orders, cashier's check or cash. We accept debit and credit cards but charge a convenience fee of \$4.00 of the total price.**

## KING

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counted for, he called for a light to see for himself. The imagery here is amazing.

Because of despair, he was ready to end his life, but for the intervention of the saved.

The church has a mission to be the voice crying out, "Do yourself no harm!"

The light that was called for to see the evidence of the goodness of God is also

telling.

May the church continue to share the light of the Gospel of Jesus.

A moment that started in bewilderment ended in praise with the jailer and his household saved.

The decisions we make will impact our households first for years to come.

What must I do to be saved? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."