

---

# CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

---



- I. [Sermon Recap](#)
- II. [Study Guide](#)
- III. [Devotional Material](#)
- IV. [Small Group Resources](#)

FEBRUARY 23, 2025  
COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH  
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

# I. SERMON RECAP

---

This Easter, Pastor Gary focused on the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the "Lamb's Book of Life." This book is portrayed as a divine record maintained by Christ, the Lamb of God, containing the names of those who have embraced His sacrifice and teachings, marking their salvation and promise of eternal life.

Pastor Gary underscored the significance of understanding the resurrection's importance. He emphasized that it is the resurrection, alongside the crucifixion, that completes the faith, providing it with meaning and purpose.

The Lamb's Book of Life highlights Jesus's role as the sacrificial Lamb who removes sin. Pastor Gary encourages the congregation to embody Christ's meekness, illustrating true strength through humility and submission to God.

He warns against seeking fulfillment in worldly pursuits and stresses the importance of finding richness in Christ. Pastor Gary differentiates between being 'good' and being 'forgiven,' prompting listeners to seek mercy and forgiveness rather than judgment.

The sermon stresses the need for transformative personal change and a genuine relationship with God as evidence of one's inclusion in the Book of Life. Congregants are urged to invite God to illuminate their hearts, fostering a heartfelt commitment.

In conclusion, Pastor Gary calls individuals to let go of the weight of emptiness and embrace Christ's presence, ensuring their names are in the Lamb's Book. He urges the congregation to seek a personal relationship with Christ as the ultimate source of life, purpose, and fulfillment.

## Chapters

### Chapter 1: The Significance of Easter and the Resurrection

Introduction to the importance of Easter and the resurrection of Christ.

### Chapter 2: The Lamb's Book of Life

Explanation of the Lamb's Book of Life and its significance.

### Chapter 3: Living the Resurrected Life

Discussion on how to live a life transformed by the resurrection.

### Chapter 4: Invitation to Embrace Christ

Call to accept Christ and experience true life transformation.

## II. STUDY GUIDE

### Key Points

- The Lamb's Book of Life represents God's mercy and the record of those who have accepted Christ
- True life begins when we enter a real, interactive relationship with Jesus
- The resurrection of Christ is an answer to doubt and an antidote to the fear of death
- Believers should seek a tangible, life-changing faith rather than just intellectual assent
- Empty lives can be filled through surrendering to Christ and embracing His purpose
- God sees, hears, and understands everyone, addressing our deepest needs

### Scripture References

**1 Corinthians 15:1-6:** Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

- This serves as the first recorded creed of early Christians.
  - Thought to be circulated within early Christian circles before being written by Paul, based on 15:3
- There is a consensus among scholars that this was written before 35 AD, but seemingly all agree that the latest possible date was 41 AD.
  - Written within three years of Paul's conversion to Christianity.
- Addresses all of the core elements essential to Christianity.
  - Christ died for our sins
  - Was buried
  - Was raised on the third day
  - Appeared to, and is corroborated by, his disciples.

**Philippians 4:3:** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

- This passage shows that the Book of Life (or Lamb's Book of Life) was not a special revelation to John alone, but a concept that early Christians were already acquainted with.

**Revelation 13:8:** All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

- The beast, or the antichrist, is prophesied to be the second member of the unholy trinity, and to come from the Earth with horns like a lamb. (Rev 13:11)
  - It is supposed to be the complete antithesis of the Lamb of God, being Jesus.
- This verse illustrates the safety and security we, as believers, have because of the sacrifice Jesus, the true Lamb of God, made.
- There is a misconception that Christians will be tricked into receiving the mark of the beast and therefore worshiping the antichrist (See Rev 13:14-18); however, this verse (Rev. 13:8) gives clarity to the fact that those who will be deceived are those whose names are not written in the Lamb's Book of Life. We, as believers, should have security in the fact that we can discern the true Gospel and those that are counterfeit.

**Matthew 5:5:** Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

- This comes from Jesus' sermon on the mount.
  - It can be found in the introductory portion known as "The Beatitudes."
  - The Sermon on the Mount is recorded in all four gospels.
- Meekness and humility are both very strong calls that Christians should follow. See also: (Mat. 11:29, Mat 21:5, Psa 147:6, Eph 4:2)

**Revelation 5:12:** In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

- This is a vision revealed to John on the Island of Patmos when he was sent to exile there.
- The verse previous explains that these voices came from thousands of angels.
- This takes place right after Jesus takes the scroll of the seven seals (which only the true Lamb of God can open) out of the right hand of God the Father (Rev 5:2-7).
  - The seven seals are too theologically dense to get into here, but in summation, it is a series of end times judgments that God will execute. (Rev 6:1-7, 8:1-5)

**Isaiah 53:7:** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

- This is a prophecy from the major prophet Isaiah, who offers some of the most profound depictions of the coming Messiah.
  - Here is a link to some prophecies that can be found in Isaiah and their NT fulfillment in Jesus.  
<https://www.preceptaustin.org/messianic-prophecies-in-isaiah>

**1 Peter 1:18-19:** For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold

that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

- The Apostle Peter's, Cephas, first letter. Written from Rome (though he refers to it as Babylon) with the intention of being circulated through other churches in Asia Minor, where non Jew-Christians were being persecuted by Greeks and Romans.
- Peter originally thought non-Jewish Christians needed to be circumcised; this led to many disagreements, and even a physical fight, with Paul.
  - Peter's radical transformation to try and reach the Gentiles can be seen in this letter.

**Rom 8:16:** The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

- The Spirit of God, which dwells within us and we know to be fully God, testifies to the Father on our behalf.

# III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

---

## Day 1: The Lamb's Book of Life

Question: How does the concept of the 'Lamb's Book of Life' impact your understanding of salvation and eternal security? In what ways might this metaphor change how you view your relationship with God?

Reading: Revelation 21:22-27

Devotional: The concept of the Lamb's Book of Life reminds us of God's personal love for each individual. This isn't just a metaphorical ledger, but a representation of God's intimate knowledge of us. Today, reflect on what it means to have your name written in this book. How does knowing that God sees you, hears you, and understands you impact your daily life? Consider how you can live in a way that reflects your gratitude for this divine recognition. Pray for a deeper awareness of God's love for you.

---

## Day 2: Embracing Meekness

Question: Pastor Gary emphasizes the importance of meekness and submissiveness in a world that values power and control. How can we cultivate these qualities in our lives without feeling weak or powerless?

Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Devotional: In a world that often equates power with force, Jesus presents a radical alternative: blessed are the meek. The sermon reminds us that meekness is "power under control." Today, consider areas in your life where you might be striving for control or recognition. How can you instead embody Christ-like meekness? Reflect on how surrendering to God's will, rather than asserting your own, might bring unexpected blessings and peace. Ask God to help you cultivate a spirit of meekness in your interactions with others.

---

## Day 3: From Emptiness to Fullness

Question: Pastor Gary talks about the 'heaviness of emptiness' and the futility of trying to fill it with worldly things. How have you experienced this in your own life, and what has helped you find true fulfillment?

Reading: John 10:7-10

Devotional: Pastor Gary speaks of the "heaviness of emptiness" that many people carry. Jesus promises life, and life abundantly. Today, examine your heart. Are there areas where you feel empty or burdened? Bring these before God in prayer.

Reflect on how Christ's resurrection power can fill these voids with purpose and meaning. Consider practical steps you can take to open yourself to the fullness of life Jesus offers, perhaps through service, worship, or deeper engagement with Scripture.

---

#### Day 4: Mercy Over Justice

Question: The sermon contrasts being a 'good person' with being a 'forgiven person.' How does this distinction challenge or affirm your understanding of salvation and Christian living?

Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Devotional: The story of Napoleon and the mother pleading for mercy for her son reminds us of our own need for God's mercy. We often want justice for others but mercy for ourselves. Today, meditate on the undeserved grace God has shown you. How can you extend this same mercy to others in your life? Reflect on situations where you might be holding onto judgment rather than offering forgiveness. Ask God to help you see others through His eyes of mercy and to be a channel of His grace in your relationships.

---

#### Day 5: Resurrection Power in Daily Life

Question: What does it mean to you to pray 'Light me up' as mentioned in the sermon? How might this simple prayer change your approach to spiritual growth and surrender?

Reading: Romans 8:9-17

Devotional: The resurrection isn't just a historical event, but a present reality for believers. Paul speaks of the Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead, living in us. Today, consider how this resurrection power might manifest in your daily life. Are there areas where you feel spiritually "dead" or stagnant? Pray for the Holy Spirit to bring new life to these areas. Reflect on how you can live more fully in the reality of Christ's resurrection, allowing it to transform your attitudes, actions, and aspirations. Ask God to help you walk in newness of life today and every day.

# IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

---

## Small Group Guide: The Lamb's Book of Life

### Opening Prayer:

### Key Takeaways:

1. The Lamb's Book of Life represents God's record of those who have accepted Christ's sacrifice and salvation.
2. Being in the Book of Life means being seen, heard, and understood by God.
3. True life begins when we have a real, interactive relationship with Christ.
4. The resurrection of Christ is the epicenter of all things and offers hope, power, and transformation.
5. We often live far beneath what God wants for us due to our own choices.

### Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions that we often become desensitized to the significance of Christ's death and resurrection. How can we maintain a sense of awe and gratitude for what Jesus has done?
2. Discuss the concept of "meekness" as described in the sermon. How can we cultivate this quality in our lives?
3. The pastor talks about the "heaviness of emptiness." Have you experienced this in your life? How does a relationship with Christ address this emptiness?
4. How does understanding that your name is in the Lamb's Book of Life impact your daily life and decisions?
5. The sermon emphasizes that eternal life begins now, not just after death. What does this mean to you practically?



6. Reflect on the statement: "Light me up." What areas of your life do you need God to "light up" or transform?

#### Practical Applications:

1. Daily Reflection: Spend a few minutes each day this week meditating on what it means to be in the Lamb's Book of Life.
2. Word Budget: Try the pastor's suggestion of having a "word budget" for a day. Be intentional about speaking only when it's an improvement on silence.
3. Generosity Challenge: Look for an opportunity to be generous this week, remembering the church's example of helping those who lost homes.
4. Prayer Focus: Pray the simple prayer "Light me up" each morning, inviting God to work in your life.
5. Sharing Hope: Identify someone in your life who may be carrying the "heaviness of emptiness" and find a way to share the hope of Christ with them.

#### Closing Prayer: