

The Name That Counts

The Book of Life Pt 1

CENTRAL QUESTION:

What does it really mean to have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and how do you keep it there?

PASTOR'S NOTE BEFORE WE BEGIN:

As a minister, there is one primary goal. It is not to do funerals. It is not to do weddings. It is not to baptize or dedicate children. The one primary goal of a minister is to lead people to Christ. This message comes from that place. The goal is not to push any denomination or pull from any scholar. The goal is to stay tied to the Scripture and give you what the Word of God says.

I. THE END GAME (WHY THE BOOK OF LIFE MATTERS)

Key Scripture: Revelation 20:11-15

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

The Book of Life is mentioned 8 times in the Bible:

1. 1 time in the Old Testament (Psalm 69:28) — the names of the righteous are recorded
2. 1 time in the New Testament outside of Revelation (Philippians 4:3) — Paul references those whose names are in the Book of Life
3. 6 times in the Book of Revelation

What John Saw:

John the Revelator had a vision of Judgment Day in Revelation chapter 20. He saw a great white throne. A throne is a seat where the king sits. The only one sitting on that throne is the King of

kings and the Lord of Lords. John saw God sitting on the throne, and he saw that the earth and heaven fled. There was no place to hide.

We Are All Going to Stand Before God:

- Rich or poor, king or pauper, famous or unknown — every person will stand before God
- You may think you are getting away with something. But someone is recording it. Someone is writing it down.
- Romans tells us every one of us will give an account

Key Truth: The only book that counts is the Book of Life. The church roll does not count. Being on the country club does not count. Being part of a great organization does not count. The only thing that counts is that your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

The Two "Whosoever":

- John 3:16 — *"For God so loved the world, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* You want to be this whosoever.
- Revelation 20:15 — *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."* You do not want to be this whosoever.

II. THE TWO SETS OF BOOKS AT THE JUDGMENT

At the throne, there are two distinct sets of books. This is important.

A. THE BOOKS OF DEEDS (PLURAL)

These books record what every person has done. Good or bad, it is all written down.

Matthew 12:36 — *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."*

2 Corinthians 5:10 — *"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."*

Every idle word. Every action. Everything done in the body. It is in these books.

Illustration from the Sermon:

Picture Colin standing before the judgment seat of Christ. His name is not in the Book of Life. God opens the books of deeds and says, "Colin Johnson, let me look. Oh, there you are. You've been busy. I see where you went to church on the first Sunday of June 2026. But right here — you did this. And right here — you did that." It's all in the book of deeds.

Note for Young People: If you have come to the age where you know the difference between right and wrong, you do not want your deeds written in these books without your name covered in the Book of Life.

B. THE BOOK OF LIFE (SINGULAR)

This is the book that contains the names of the righteous. It belongs to the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8).

Revelation 21:27 — Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter the holy city, which is heaven.

C. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOUR NAME IS IN THE BOOK

When your name is in the Book of Life, Jesus becomes your attorney. He stands before the Father and says, *"Wait, Father. That one's covered. Don't even look in those other books. That one's covered because his name is in the Book of Life."*

The Bible says your sins are as far as the east is from the west. They are cast into the sea of forgetfulness. God does not see them anymore. Everything written in the books of deeds is covered by the blood of Christ.

D. WHAT HAPPENS IF YOUR NAME IS NOT IN THE BOOK

Revelation 20:15 — *"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."*

Revelation 21:27 — Only those written in the Lamb's Book of Life may enter heaven.

The Book of Life is the end game. It is the final word.

III. CAN YOUR NAME BE BLOTTED OUT?

The Hard Question: If my name is in the Book, can it be removed?

There is a teaching going around that says once your name is in the Book, nothing can take it out. Nobody can put you out of God's hand. But the question is not whether someone else can take you out. The question is whether you can walk away from God's hand yourself.

A. THE CHURCH AT SARDIS

Revelation chapter 3 deals with the seven churches. The church at Sardis had been born again. They had followed God. But God tells them, "I have some things against you. You have the form of godliness, but you are not godly."

Revelation 3:5 — *"He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels."*

The promise is to the one who overcomes. The implication is clear. If Sardis does not straighten up, their names will be blotted out. This is not the pastor's words. This is the Word of God.

Also in Revelation: In chapter 2 and chapter 3, God tells another church He will remove their candlestick. He will remove them.

B. THE WARNING FROM 2 PETER

2 Peter 2:19-20 — *"For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning."*

Peter is speaking about ministers who left the faith. These were people who had escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of Jesus Christ. They were born again. Then they became entangled again and were overcome. The latter end was worse than the beginning.

C. THE REALITY

- You can be born again and walk away
- You can taste the goodness of God and still turn your back on Him
- Just like a couple married 20 years who looked unshakeable and one day one of them walks out, people break and give up
- The pastor has personally watched people who moved in the Spirit, who ministered and served God, and then something happened and they walked away

This is not a reason for fear. It is a reason for faithfulness.

IV. HOW TO KEEP YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK

Revelation 3:3 — *"Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent."*

Three words: **Remember. Hold Fast. Repent.**

A. REPENT DAILY

We need to repent of thoughts. We need to repent of actions. We need to repent of knowing what we are supposed to do and not doing it.

James 4:17 principle from the sermon: It is a sin to know to do good and not do it.

The pastor's personal example: He was in a place of business and felt the Holy Spirit tell him to pray for a woman with two kids. He ignored it, went to checkout, got in his truck, and started to leave. The Lord spoke to him again. He went back. The woman immediately began to cry. Her husband of 19 years had just left her. She told the pastor, "I told the Lord today, if you don't help me, I don't know what I'm going to do." She said his prayer gave her the strength to go on. We don't know what's on the other side of obedience.

B. HOLD FAST EVERY DAY

Salvation is not a one-time event you coast on. It is a daily walk.

- Every morning: Ask God to help you live the life, put someone in your path you can witness to, and keep you from making mistakes
- Every night: Ask God to forgive your trespasses and help you forgive those who trespass against you

One is either in a relationship with God or they are not. There is no in between.

C. LIVE IT OUT

The greatest preaching you do is in your life. It is in how you live and how you present yourself.

The Pete Story: The pastor had a worker named Pete — rough past, long hair, had seen a hard life. The pastor witnessed to him with words for months and made no headway. Then one day on a job site, a crowbar broke and split the pastor's head open. Blood was pouring. Pete was standing right there watching. The pastor's response was, *"Thank you, Jesus. Hallelujah. Glory. Thank you Father it wasn't my eye."* He got the first aid kit, doctored the wound himself, and went on about his work. That Friday when the pastor was writing out checks, Pete walked over and said, *"Preacher, what time does church start Sunday morning?"* He said, *"If any man can do what you did — just got hit in the head and still give God praise — I want what you've got."* That Sunday, Pete came to church and gave his heart to the Lord. His whole family followed.

The point: It is not always what you say. It is what you do.

D. WATCH YOUR THOUGHTS, NOT JUST YOUR ACTIONS

Jesus in Matthew 5 and 6 tells us it is not just about outward actions. It is about the heart and the mind. It is not just the act, but the thought behind it. We cannot take our relationship with God too lightly.

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Your name in the Book of Life is the only thing that counts on Judgment Day. Keep it there by holding fast, repenting daily, and living a life that backs up what you say you believe. If your name is in the Book, the blood of Christ covers everything in the books of deeds. If it is not, everything you have ever done stands against you. There is no in between. One is either saved or not.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION:

1. If you were to stand before the great white throne today, would your name be found in the Book of Life?
 2. Are there areas of your life where you have turned away from the faith you once confessed?
 3. What does it look like for you to "remember, hold fast, and repent" on a daily basis?
 4. Who is watching your life right now, and what is your example teaching them about Jesus?
 5. Is there something God has been asking you to do that you have been putting off? What is on the other side of your obedience?
 6. When was the last time you started your morning asking God to help you live the life and ended your night asking for forgiveness?
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Scripture References for Further Study:

Revelation 20:11-15 | Revelation 3:1-5 | Revelation 3:3 | Revelation 13:8 | Revelation 21:27 | Psalm 69:28 | Philippians 4:3 | 2 Corinthians 5:10 | Matthew 12:36 | 2 Peter 2:19-22 | John 3:16