

THE BOOK OF LIFE

Philippians 4:3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. According to TIME magazine's list of the top 100 events of the Millennium, Number 1 was the printing of the Gutenberg Bible.
 - 1. Since then, untold numbers of books have been written.
 - 2. Some are of such a nature that they never should have been printed (pornography, etc.).
 - 3. Other books are useful and/or entertaining. (How-to books, novels, etc.).
- B. An author who writes Mystery and Thriller novels has a contest "Kill a Friend, Maim a Buddy." If you enter this contest, you can submit the name of a friend and family member and she will include the name of the winner as the victim in her next book.
- C. While it would be an honor to be mentioned in a book on the NYT Best Sellers list, it is much more important to be found in *The Lamb's Book of Life*.
- D. Today I want to talk with you about a VERY IMPORTANT book that is *currently* being written, even as we speak.
- E. The phrase "Book of Life" is found 10 times in the Bible, with 9 of those times in the book of Revelation.
- F. Let's study about the Book of Life and determine if we are found within its pages:

I. WHEN A PERSON IS SAVED FROM SIN HIS NAME IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE, Philippians 4:3.

- A. Paul's fellow workers names were written in the book of life, **Philippians 4:3**.
"And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life." (NKJ).
- B. Those not written in the book are serving Satan. **Revelation 13:8**.
 - 1. So they worshiped the dragon who gave authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, verse 4.
 - 2. All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in *the Book of Life of the Lamb* slain from the foundation of the world. **verse 8**.
- C. Faith, repentance, confession of Christ and baptism for the remission of sins are the requirements (**Hebrews 11:6; Acts 17:30; Acts 8:37; Acts 2:38**).

II. YOUR NAME CAN BE BLOTTED OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE.

- A. Remaining faithful to the Lord is a continuing process, **Revelation 2:10**.
- B. Jesus' letter to the church in Sardis, **Revelation 3:1-5**.
 - 1. Though he said they were "dead," he told them to "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain," v.1-2.
 - 2. He told them that they needed to remember and repent, v.3.
 - 3. "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." v.5.
 - 4. His promise NOT to blot out that who overcome shows there is the possibility of some being blotted out.
- C. A warning as John closes out the book of Revelation, **Revelation 22:19**. "[A]nd if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part from the Book of Life**, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." (NKJ).

III. THOSE WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE SAVED, REVELATION 21:27.

- A. It will be the greatest of all days "when the roll is called up yonder."
 - 1. It will be the greatest assembling ever.
 - 2. It will mark an end to things on earth.
- B. An end to all suffering, pain and sorrow, **Revelation 21:4**.
- C. Can you imagine what it will be like to hear Christ call your name?
 - 1. He knows his own - by name.
 - 2. What a joy to hear Him who died for us to call our name.
- D. Those written in the Book of Life have something to really rejoice about, **Luke 10:18-20**.
 - 1. "Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven." (NKJ).
 - 2. After Paul mentioned those whose names are in the Book of Life, he followed up with "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" **Philippians 4:4**
 - 3. "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." **Philippians 4:7**.
- E. ONLY those in the Book of Life will be found in Heaven.

IV. THOSE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE WILL BE LOST, REVELATION 20:12, 15.

- A. The most frightening thought is the realization that your name is not in the book of life and you are GOING TO BE LOST.
- B. The Book of Life will be present at judgement. **Revelation 20:12-15**
 - 1. According to this picture of the Judgment, at least three books will be opened: “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, *which is the Book of Life.*” v.12.
 - 2. We will be judged by what is written in those books. v.12.
 - 3. “And anyone not found written in *the Book of Life* was cast into the lake of fire.” v.15.
- C. Remember the danger we discussed already: A person can have his name removed from the book. **Revelation 3:5; 22:19.**
- D. Thank God you have the opportunity to change that and have your name written in the Lamb’s Book of Life!

CONCLUSION:

- A. Notice that it is the LAMB’S Book of Life. Not *MINE* nor *YOURS*.
- B. It is not up to *US* to make the roll nor keep the list *CURRENT*.
- C. Is *YOUR* name written in the book of life?
- D. It is up to *US* to have our name written there.
- E. If your name is *NOT* there *do something about it NOW*.

Ricky Phillips
Martin Church of Christ
Martin, TN

www.martinchurhofchrist.org