

The Book of Life

Philippians 4:3 (NASB 1995)

"Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

Introduction

Imagine standing before the throne of God on the last day.

The books are opened. Every deed, every word, every thought is known before Him. Nothing is hidden. Nothing is forgotten.

Then another book is opened—the Book of Life. This is the Book where the names of those who will enter Heaven are written.

Suddenly, only one question matters: **Is my name written in that book?**

On that day, your education will not matter. Your bank account will not matter. Your achievements, titles, and possessions will not matter. The only thing that will matter is whether your name is found written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

This morning, I invite you to think about these words from the Apostle Paul. Writing to the believers in Philippi, he mentions some faithful women and fellow workers "whose names are in the book of life."

What a wonderful statement!

Can you imagine Paul saying that about you?

"His name is in the Book of Life." "Her name is in the Book of Life."

I do not know of a greater blessing than that. Jesus confirms that (Luke 10:20).

The phrase "Book of Life" captured my attention, so I searched the Scriptures to discover what God says about it. Today, I want us to consider five questions:

1. What is the Book of Life?
2. Why is it so important?
3. Is my name written there?
4. What warnings does Scripture give?
5. How can I have assurance of salvation?

I. What Is the Book of Life?

The phrase "Book of Life" appears eight times in the Bible—once in the Old Testament and seven times in the New Testament.

In Revelation it is often called **the Lamb's Book of Life**.

Why the Lamb? Because this book belongs to Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

The Book of Life contains the names of those whose sins have been washed by the blood of Christ. It is the register of God's redeemed people. It is the citizenship record of Heaven.

In ancient cities there was often an official register of citizens. If your name was on the register, you belonged to that city and enjoyed all its privileges.

Likewise, if your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life, you belong to God's Kingdom forever and you will enjoy all its privileges forever.

John the Apostle describes a solemn scene: *"And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life"* (Revelation 20:12).

John saw books opened before God's throne, including another book called the Book of Life.

This book carries eternal significance because it reveals who belongs to Christ.

II. Why Is the Book of Life So Important?

Because our eternal destiny is connected to it.

Jesus described a future day when all nations will stand before Him. He will separate people as a shepherd separates sheep from goats.

To one group He will say: *"Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"* (Matthew 25:34).

To the other He will say: *"Depart from Me"* (Matthew 25:41).

There are only two eternal destinies:

- Eternal life.
- Eternal judgment.

There is no third option. There is no middle ground.

And Revelation says: "*If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire*" (Revelation 20:15). These are sobering words.

The Book of Life reminds us that eternity is real. Heaven is real. Hell is real. Judgment is real. And salvation through Christ is real.

Therefore, nothing is more important than knowing whether our names are written there.

III. Is My Name Written in the Book of Life?

This is the question that concerns all of us. The Bible teaches that God chose His people before the foundation of the world.

Paul writes: "*He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world*" (Ephesians 1:4).

Before the mountains were formed, before the stars existed, before you and I were born, God knew His people. This is the wonderful doctrine of God's sovereignty.

At the same time, the Bible also calls every person to repent and believe the gospel.

God's sovereignty and human responsibility are both taught in Scripture. How they perfectly fit together is part of God's mystery.

But this much we know: If you belong to Christ today, it is because God's grace reached you long before you ever sought Him.

What wonderful comfort!

Jesus told His disciples: "*Do not rejoice that the spirits are subject to you but **rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven***" (Luke 10:20).

What should make Christians rejoice the most? Not success. Not spiritual gifts. Not accomplishments. Not miracles.

But this: **Our names are recorded in Heaven.**

If you have repented of your sins and placed your faith in Jesus Christ, then you are a child of God. Your sins have been forgiven. You have been born again. Your citizenship is in Heaven. Your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Praise God for that every day.

IV. What Warnings Does Scripture Give?

God's Word not only gives comfort; it also gives warnings. Warnings are acts of God's love. A loving parent warns a child not to run into the street. Likewise, God warns us against turning away from Him.

1. Those who worship the beast.

Revelation speaks about those whose names have not been written in the Book of Life because they follow the beast. The beast here refers to the end time prophecy. The beast will blaspheme the name of the Lord. Everyone whose name has not been written in the Lamb's book of life will follow the beast and worship him for 42 months (Revelation 13:5-8). Those who would not worship the beast will be killed (Revelation 13:15).

The warning is clear: Do not give your allegiance to anyone or anything other than Christ.

2. Those who practice evil and refuse repentance.

Revelation also speaks about those who love and practice falsehood, immorality, and idolatry. This does not mean believers never struggle with sin. It means a life of continual rebellion against God without repentance. True believers stumble, but they return to Christ. They repent. They seek forgiveness. They do not make peace with sin.

3. Those who reject the will of God.

Jesus said: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven"* (Matthew 7:21).

These people had religious activity. They had religious language. But they did not truly know Christ.

The lesson is simple: External religion cannot save us. Only a living relationship with Jesus Christ saves.

Can a Name Be Erased?

This question has been debated by Christians for centuries. Jesus says in Revelation 3:5: *"I will not erase his name from **the book of life.**"*

Some see this as a promise of eternal security. Others see it as a warning to persevere. I believe this verse is primarily a wonderful promise from Christ. He assures His faithful followers that He will never abandon them.

At the same time, the Bible repeatedly calls believers to remain faithful and warns against apostasy. The point is not to make genuine believers live in fear. The point is to encourage us to persevere in faith and continue following Christ.

The Christian life is not a game of: "He loves me; He loves me not." God is faithful. Our salvation rests in His grace. Yet His people are called to continue trusting, obeying, and following Him.

V. How Can I Have Assurance of Salvation?

This is where the sermon becomes deeply personal.

Perhaps someone asks: "Pastor, how can I know my name is written in the Book of Life?"

Let me ask you a few questions: Do you believe and confess before others that Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Do you believe that He died on the cross for your sins? Have you repented of your sins? Have you trusted Him as your Savior and Lord? Do you desire to follow Him and obey Him?

If your answer is yes, then take comfort. The Scripture says: "*Whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life*" (John 3:16).

You are God's child. You belong to Christ. Your name is written in Heaven. And nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A Word to Those Who Are Unsure

Perhaps some are listening today, and they are uncertain. Maybe you have attended church for many years. Maybe you know the Bible. Maybe you have tried to be a good person. But you have never personally trusted Christ.

Friend, your goodness cannot save you. Church attendance cannot save you. Religion cannot save you. Only Jesus saves.

The Lamb of God shed His blood so that sinners like us could be forgiven. Today He invites you to come to Him. Repent. Believe. Trust Him. Call upon His name. And you too can rejoice that your name is written in Heaven.

A Word to Believers

Believers, never lose your wonder at this truth. The God who created the universe knows your name. The King of kings has written your name in His Book.

When you feel forgotten by people, remember: Your name is known in Heaven. When you struggle with trials, remember: Your name is written in Heaven. When you face suffering, remember: Your name is written in Heaven. When death comes, remember: Your name is written in Heaven.

This world is not your home. Your true citizenship is above.

Conclusion

One day every one of us will stand before God. The books will be opened. The Judge of the living and the dead will do what is right.

On that day, nothing will matter more than this question: **Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?**

If you belong to Jesus Christ, rejoice! Your sins have been forgiven. Your future is secure. Your home is Heaven. Your name is written in God's Book forever.

And if you have never trusted Christ, today is the day of salvation. Come to Him. Repent of your sins. Believe in the Lamb of God. Trust the One who died and rose again. For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

And then, with joy unspeakable, you too may rejoice that your name is recorded in Heaven.

Amen.