

Series: Philippines 2024

Title: The Book of Life

Text: Php 4: 3

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**Philippians 4: 3: And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names *are* in the book of life.**

**Subject:** The Book of Life

**Proposition:** There are a people in this world "whose names are in the book of life."

**Divisions:** I want to show three things the book of life sets before us: 1) It sets before us the eternal election of grace. 2) It declares the eternal redemption God's elect 3) It declares the eternal security of each one whose names are in the book of life.

## THE ETERNAL ELECTION OF GRACE

In eternity, before creating the world, God chose a people in Christ "*whose names are in the book of life.*" God the Father wrote the names of every elect child in the "the Lambs book of life", "the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world", "the book of the living, written with the righteous" (Rev 3: 5; 13: 8; 17: 8; 20: 12, 14; 21: 27; Ps 69: 28).

Romans 9: 11: (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12: It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13: As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14: What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15: For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16: So then *it is* not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

God does not write a new name in heaven when men believe. Sinners are given faith to believe because God wrote their names in the book of life from eternity. Christ declared how we are made to believe on him when he said, "My sheep hear my voice and I know them and they follow me and I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish nor shall any man pluck them out of my hand." The reason men do not believe is because their names were not written by God in the book of life. Christ told the self-righteous, self-sanctifying men, "ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep."

Why then does find fault for who has resisted his will? Nay, o man who art thou to reply against God. Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it why has thou made me thus? It is not God's fault men do not believe. Fallen sinners do exactly what they want to do. They reject Christ because natural man is only willing to reject Christ. But for those chosen by God's free grace, Christ gives a new will by his power. We do what we want to do. We trust Christ to present us to God by his works because Christ has given us a new will by his power.

The book of life is the book in which God wrote the name of those he chose by his free and sovereign grace who Christ entered covenant to save and does save!

## THE REDEMPTION OF GOD'S ELECT

One, this declares the *redemption* of God's elect from eternity. In Revelation 13: 8 the book of life is called "*the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*" Before the foundation of the world, by Christ entering covenant to save God's elect, God "declared the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:" (Isa 46:10).

Christ is the whole counsel of God. The word counsel means purpose. Exalting the Son of God, Christ Jesus, to all preeminence is the whole purpose of God. In eternity, God chose Christ to be the Redeemer of his people and predestinated us to the adoption of children that Christ "might be the FIRSTBORN among many brethren." (Rom 8: 29) "it pleased the Father that ALL FULNESS DWELL IN HIM."

From eternity, God purposed that in Christ "Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other" (Ps 85: 10). In eternity God "declared...his righteousness: that he [is] just and the Justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom 3: 26).

In Christ, God ordered our salvation and made it sure before the foundation of the world. When we are brought to believe on Christ, it is the fulfillment of what God already did from eternity because God

Romans 8: 29: works all things together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called, ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE! [here is his purpose accomplished in Christ in eternity] 29: For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30: Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. 31: What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

The god that men speak of can do nothing but what they permit him to do. What kind of God do you want? God who is absolutely sovereign to determine the end from the beginning then bring it to pass? Or do you want their weak and beggarly idol who is unable to predestinate and work his will?

Two, the book of life declares the redemption of God's elect was actually accomplished in time by our Lord Jesus one offering on the cross. Christ laid down his life for God's elect alone and accomplished our redemption alone.

Daniel 12:1: And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

We sold ourselves for nought when we sinned in Adam. God's elect are redeemed and delivered only by Christ the Great Prince which standeth for the children of God's people. Christ redeemed us because our name is written in the book. "For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourselves for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money" (Is 52: 3). We owed eternal death—the second death. Christ paid the full ransom price his people owed and accomplished our deliverance. He redeemed us! Notice how these scriptures declare it is accomplished!

Hebrews 9:12: Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*.

Galatians 3: 13: Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree.

God justified his people in Christ. The work is finished! Christ has accomplished the eternal redemption for his people. As the Lord said in Daniel, "*at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.*" God is effectually calling and delivering each one, even now, regenerating us and giving us faith in Christ, declaring through our gospel, "I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have redeemed thee."

## THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF GOD'S ELECT

The book of life declares the eternal security of God's elect. Our Master told his apostles not to rejoice in the fact that he gave them certain gifts but to rejoice that their names are written in the book of life:

Luke 10:20: Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

All shall stand before Christ our God in the day of judgment.

**Revelation 20:11: 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.**

All judgment is committed to Christ. It is Christ who sits upon the great white throne, who shall judge all men in the last day. It is from his face that reprobate men shall flee and find no refuge. But all shall stand before Christ--even dead unregenerate men and regenerate--men who died physically long ago and men who remain alive when he returns--both small men and great men.

**Revelation 20: 12: And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God;**

This is why it is a terrible offense to Christ to attempt to usurp his throne of judgment, even now.

Romans 14:10: But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11: For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. 12: So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

There are *the books* and there is *the book of life*. Those who trust in their works, rather than Christ, shall be judged out of the books.

**Revelation 20: 12...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. 13: And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.**

Natural man hears that *every man shall be judged according to their works* and they think it means they can earn acceptance with God by their works.

2 Corinthians 5: 9: Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 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. 11: Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;

Picture the scales of justice. Natural man has the idea of all his good works will be placed on one side of the scale and his bad works on the other. He hopes his good will outweigh his bad. But if a man stands before God without Christ, all his works, both good and bad will be on the same side of the scale. He shall come short of the glory of God. The glory of God is Christ Jesus who is the Righteousness of God and the righteousness of those given faith in him.

*The books* hold God's record of every man's sinful works: both, their self-righteous works they think are good works, as well as all other sinful works. All man's works are all evil works because his motive in all is gain Gods' acceptance by his own works rather than Christ alone. Every work is done in unbelief, looking to self, rather than Christ alone.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

What shall happen to all who stand before God trusting in their works rather than Christ alone?

**Revelation 20: 14: And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15: And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

God's people shall be judged out of *the book of life*. The book of life contains the names of God's elect made righteous and holy by Christ's perfect works. We were resurrected in Christ and took part in the resurrection of the new birth, given faith to trust Christ has worked all our works, whereby we are righteous and accepted of God.

Revelation 20: 6: Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

What is it to have part in the first resurrection?

John 11:25: Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: 26: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Those raised from the dead in the new birth and given faith are made priests right now and reign with Christ right now and shall do so for a set time. Then satan shall be loosed for a little season to deceive the nations: that includes all people not written in the book of life. When that happens the whole world will suddenly appear like they have lost their minds. They will rejoice in pure wickedness and call it good. Much like what has come suddenly in the past few years. The devil will gather all men together to battle, as the sand of the sea. Then fire will come down from God out of heaven and devour them. And the devil will be cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 20: 6-15).

But the believers security that we shall never be deceived by the devil is because our names are in the Lamb's book of life. As the Lord promised through Daniel, "*at that time thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.*"

Revelation 13:8: And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship [the beast], whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. [but those whose name are in the book of life will not be deceived]

Revelation 17:8...they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. [but those whose names are in the book shall be delivered and declared just by Christ, by his righteousness alone]

Every sinner outside of Christ is nothing but a defiler, a worker of abomination, a maker of lies. But none who are in Christ are so. We are holy and righteous by Christ alone. When the Lord showed John new Jerusalem coming down out of heaven, the Lord said,

Revelation 21: 27: And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Christ is our only acceptance into heaven. It is because God chose us and wrote our names in the Lamb's book of life from eternity and Christ made us accepted!

This begs the question, "*How do I know if my name is in the book of life?*" There is but one way to know. Do you believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God? Is Christ all your salvation and him alone? Those whose name is in the book of life shall be called to faith and shall continue to the end trusting the Lord Jesus Christ alone as all their salvation. Our security is that God wrote our names in the Lamb's book of life from eternity so that Christ is our only acceptance with God. Do you believe on Christ? If not do so today! And if you do, faith is the evidence that God wrote our names in the book of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world! Continue running the race looking to Christ alone!

**Amen!**