

Begin with an End in View

God's Library Part 5

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 11th

In 2 Tim. 4:1-8 Paul compares our lives to a race that will inevitably end at a specific “finish line.” Jesus will review with us how we ran our race. Vs 1 He’ll reward those who ran it well. Vs 8 Some get discouraged or distracted (and quit). Vs. 10 Some actually try to trip us up. Vs. 14 This “finish line” (judgment) is universal and inevitable. (2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 9:27)

Rev. 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...”*

What are these “books” that will be opened for the final judgment? The Bible is clear that God is keeping careful “records” of our lives. Some of the specific records that God reveals include:

- How we respond to disappointments. (Ps. 56:8)
- A record of the decisions (choices) that we make. (Mal. 3:16,17)
- A record of God’s “design or dreams” (purposes) for our lives. (Ps. 139:16)
- A careful record of our “deeds” (Thoughts, words, actions) (Heb. 4:12; Mt. 12:36; Rev. 20:12)
- A record of God’s “Decrees” or standard. (Joshua 1:8; Eccl. 12:13,14)

These particular “books” will contain important and accurate records of our lives and be used to determine the extent of our eternal “Compensation” in either Heaven or Hell. These books have no ability to change or affect our eternal destination! There’s one other book repeatedly mentioned that will determine our eternal “Destination”. *“another book was opened which is the book of life.... And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”* (Rev. 20:12, 15)

Since the contents of this book are so critical, let’s examine what God reveals about it.

1. MOSES WROTE OF THIS BOOK Ex 32:31,32 (After the Golden Calf)

“Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.”

Notice God’s answer: Exodus 32:33 *“Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.”*

2. DAVID KNEW OF IT. Ps 69:27,28 speaking of evil people he prays:

“let them not come into thy righteousness. Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.”

3. DANIEL WROTE OF IT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAST DAYS: Da 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.”

4. PAUL Philippians 4:3

“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and [with] other my fellow laborers, whose names [are] in the book of life.”

5. JESUS REFERENCES IT:

A. Luke 10:18-20 *“...Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”*

B. IN Rev 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."*

6. JOHN REFERENCED IT REPEATEDLY IN REVELATION:

A. In reference to those who follow the antichrist.

Revelation 13:8-9 *"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."* (also Rev. 17:8,9)

B. Specifically identified in the White Throne Judgment. Revelation 20:12-15

"And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

C. Prerequisite for access to Heaven. Revelation 21:27 *"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."*

D. Warnings about tampering with God's Word. Revelation 22:19 *"if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."*

Observations:

1) There are several references to God "blotting out" names.

Exodus 32:33 *"Whoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book,"*

Ps. 69:18 *"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living,"*

Rev 3:5 *"He that overcometh, ... I will not blot out his name out of the book of life"*

Rev 22:19 *"if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life"*

This is not a reference to "losing" your salvation, since God repeatedly reminds us that our salvation is eternal. Jn. 10:28 *"I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish"* (also Jn 3:16)

This is a probable reference to the fact that there was a place for everyone in God's *"book of life"*. It's also called the *"Lamb's book of life"* (Rev. 13:9; 21:27). Those who die without transferring their trust to God's lamb (Jesus Christ) will perhaps have their name blotted out upon their death. Since Jesus died for *"the world"* (Jn 3:16) and God is not willing that *"any should perish"* (2 Pt 3:9), God may record their names in this book (at birth) to show them at the final judgment that there really was "room" for them. Jn. 8:24 *"I said ... unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, (the lamb of God) ye shall die in your sins."*

2) If our names are not identified with the "lamb's book of life", we will go to Hell! Rev. 20:15

"whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

See John 3:16-18, 36

Application: Someday you're "race" will end. What "end" do you want? 2 Tim. 4:7,8

If you're not "on track" to the "end" you (and God) desire, then it's time for some Mid-course corrections! 1 Jn 2:28, 3:3 *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, (phanero'ō: to reveal, make manifest, render apparent) we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming... Everyone that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself."*