

- God's Plan of Salvation:
1. Hear - Romans 10:17
 2. Believe - Mark 16:16
 3. Repent - Acts 2:38
 4. Confess - Romans 10:10
 5. Be baptized - Acts 22:16
 6. Live faithfully - Revelation 2:10

Announcements:

Sick: Mrs. Carswell, Mr. Dowling, Mr. Hadley, Ms. Kim (Ashley Law's mother), Lamar Mathis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Newsome, Mrs. Owens, Ms. Ward, Mr. Winns.

Out of Town: Mr. and Mrs. Nick Law

If you would be interested in any of the following ways to study the Bible, feel free to let us know:

- Home Bible Study - We will come into your home or other place you feel comfortable and study the Bible with you. Bible questions are welcome in these studies and we will seek to give a Bible answer.
- Correspondence courses - We will be glad to mail you a correspondence lesson that you can fill out and mail back to us and we will send you the next lesson.
- Call us with your Bible question - #503-707-6014.
- Visit our website: www.oakgrovechurchofchristjenningsflorida.com
- Come and visit - We always strive to have good, practical Bible instruction at each of our assemblies.

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“The Book of Life”

By Derek Long

The Bible speaks about “the Book of Life” in different places. What does the Bible reveal to us about “the Book of Life”? Let’s examine some things we can learn from the Bible about the Book of Life.

The Book of Life is a record of those who are faithful to God. One’s name being in the Book of Life means one will be allowed to enter heaven (Revelation 21:27). The final judgment as it is described in Revelation 20 depicts a separation of people based upon whether their name is in the Book of Life or not (Revelation 20:11-15). Verse 15 plainly states, “Anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire” (NKJV). It is of eternal significance whether are name is in the Book of Life or not. Our eternal destiny hinges upon having our name written there.

The book of Revelation stresses people whose names are written in the Book of Life remain faithful in trying circumstances. Revelation 13 describes a beast arising from the sea. We are told from the mouth of the beast comes, “blasphemy against God, to blaspheme His name, His tabernacle, and those who dwell in heaven” (Revelation 13:6, NKJV). The beast is

clearly in opposition to God. Revelation 13:7 tells us, “It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation” (NKJV). The beast not only speaks against God but fights against the people of God. When the beast brought such opposition against the people of God, we are told, “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” (Revelation 13:8, NKJV). Many people compromised in the face of such opposition but those whose names are in the Book of Life did not compromise and worship the beast. In order to have our name in the Book of Life, we cannot compromise even in the face of intense persecution. Revelation 17:8 points out a similar fact that while the world is marveling at the beast those who are written in the Book of Life will not marvel at the beast. To make application in our own lives let’s remember we cannot become conformed to the world around us and still have our names written in the Book of Life (Romans 12:1-2).

Revelation 13:8 depending upon the translation one reads might speak about people’s names being written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world. When people read this they sometimes assume people’s names are written in the Book of Life before they are born and there is nothing they can do to change whether their name is there or not. Such a view runs into problems though when we consider the Bible teaches a person’s name can be removed from the Book of Life. In His concluding remarks to the church at Sardis, Jesus says, “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 con-

fess his name before My Father and before His angels” (Revelation 3:5, NKJV). If Jesus will not blot out one’s name from the Book of Life if they overcome, what will happen if a person does not overcome? The natural answer is their name will be blotted out from the Book of Life. A warning at the end of the book of Revelation says, “For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and 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” (Revelation 22:18-19, NKJV). A person who takes away from the word of God is warned his part in the Book of Life will be taken away. While the exact phrase “Book of Life” is not used, Moses asks God to, “blot me out of You book which You have written (Exodus 32:32, NKJV). God response was, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book” (Exodus 32:33, NKJV). God does not say it is impossible for someone whose name is written in My book to have it blotted out. Instead, God says those who sin will be blotted out of His book. In response to the argument which might be made by some that such people were never really saved to begin with, how can one’s name be blotted out of a book if it were never there to start with?

Let’s make sure it could be said of us that, “are names are in the Book of Life” (Philippians 4:3, NKJV).