

THE BOOK OF LIFE IS THE BOOK OF BOOKS

Phil 4:3 "Whose names are in the book of life."

Even in Solomon¹'s day, when books were laboriously written by hand on scrolls, it could be said, "Of making many books there is no end,"(Ecc 12:12).

Today the number of books in the world is fantastic. We can find many volumes on almost any subject which we wish to study. There are few small towns or villages where there is no library. It would be difficult, indeed, to estimate the number of books in the largest libraries of the world. It is truer than ever today, "Of making many books there is no end."

Were we given the assignment to find the one most important book of all, the book of books, could we ever carry out our task? Would a lifetime be long enough to just read the titles of all the books in existence?

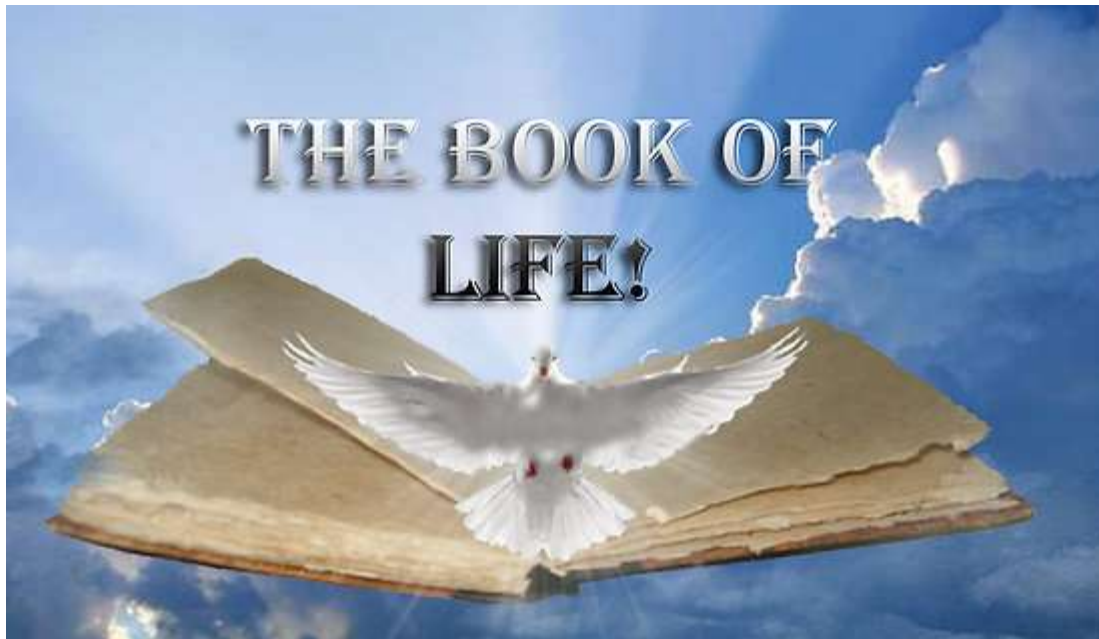
However, there is a golden book, a writing far more valuable than all the other books combined. Our text tells of that book.

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1. THE KEEPER OF THE BOOK

There are many registers with lists of names, such as the city directories, telephone books, birth and marriage records, etc. But the great volume in the hands of the Lord has the most important list of names.

This roll of names is mentioned several times in the Old and New Testament. For example, Moses said, "And if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written," (Ex 32:32). And the Lord Jesus said, "I will not blot out his name out of the book of life,"(Rev 3:5).



God is the Keeper of this wonderful scroll. He is errorless and infallible, He has the perfect memory. His word is final, there is no appeal from His decisions. God has entered the list of names in eternity. "According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will," ([Eph 1:4-5](#)).

The Lord told St. Paul to continue to preach in Corinth, "for I have much people in this city," ([Acts 18:10](#)). Many names of the Corinthians were written in the book of life, and Paul was to preach the Gospel of Christ crucified to them, and so bring the elect of God in the city to faith and salvation.

Truly, since God is the Master of the Rolls, and does the recording of the names, this book, then, is the book of books.

2. THE NAMES IN THE BOOK

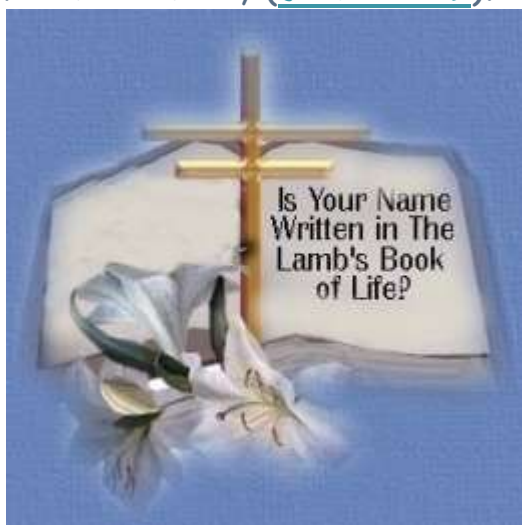
Paul states in our text, "And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life." Only the names of the true believers in Christ will be found in the

divine record. The unbelievers are certainly not listed in the book of life, their names are in the book of death.

God's scroll separates the world into two, and only two, classes of people: God's children in Christ and the children of Satan; the children of life and the children of death. There are no other divisions of the human race in the eyes of the Lord.

It should be the serious concern of every person that his name be listed in this most important register. How can we know, how can we be certain that our names are inscribed in this book of books? If we put our trust and faith in Jesus as our only Savior and Redeemer, then we know that we are born again of the Holy Spirit and God is our Father in Christ.

This is positive proof that our names are recorded in the golden book. God is sincere and earnest, He does not call us, and convert us, with the idea of dropping us again. "God our Savior will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of truth,"([1Tim 2:4](#)) When we were baptized we became God's Children by faith in Christ. We also have this assurance, "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ,"(Phil 1: 6). Of His sheep (believers) Jesus says, "No man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand,"([John 10:29](#)).



Of course, no Christian should ever become indifferent, careless, or live in false security, for it is possible to lose our salvation through our own folly. Hence the admonition of Jesus, "**Hold that fast** which thou hast, that no man take thy crown," ([Rev 3:11](#)). In that sense, our names can be blotted out of the book of life. What a warning for us all. Even the great Apostle Paul was deeply concerned, "Lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway," ([1Cor 9:27](#)). This is also what Paul means in this same letter to the Philippians, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling," ([Phil 2:12](#)). Were there no danger of falling from faith, we would not need to pray every day, "And lead us not into temptation."

3. THE OPENING OF THE BOOK

The holy record will decide every man's eternal destiny when it is opened. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; 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," ([Rev 20:12](#)).

What will happen to those whose names are not written in the Master's rolls? "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire," ([Rev 20:15](#)). Those whose names are written in the heavenly scrolls will inherit life, eternal life with God in glory in the new heaven and new earth. Washed pure and white in the blood of the Lamb that once was slain, they will serve God in His temple night and day.

There is another book which is often called the book of books. This holy Scripture was given to us by inspiration of God and is errorless and infallible. The Word of God was given to us to bring us to faith in Jesus and thereby save us. In that sense, the Bible, which is also called the Book of Books, serves the book of life.



May we all diligently use the inspired Scriptures to strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope, and prepare us for the great and final day. "When the roll is called up yonder," may we hear our names read from the Book of Books. AMEN

PRAYER. O Lord, Thou Keeper of the Book of eternity, we thank Thee that Thou hast entered our names in Thy marvelous book, and hast brought us to faith in our dear Savior. Keep us from false security and temptations, that we lose not our precious inheritance. Keep us faithful unto death that we may receive the crown of life in Jesus. Bless our mission endeavors, bring in the lost, gather Thy people unto Thee. We ask Thy blessings upon all our work, for Jesus' sake. AMEN.