

Put God First Part 4

Work Out to Keep your Name in the Book of Life

From the time we are saved we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and our names are written in the Book of Life. The Bible tells us about the Book of Life that as we are saved our names are written there. Also, the Bible speaks that when people sin and persist in their ways of sin their names are blotted out. God has the book of life and those who are saved their names are written in that book. Let us read now some of the Scriptures that speak about names written in the book of life and names blotted out:

“33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.” (Exodus 32:33 KJV) Those who persist in their sins they will be blot out from the book of life.

“20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven.” (Deuteronomy 29:20 KJV) There are those who are aware of their sins, but doing nothing about them to repent, their names will be blot out from the book of life.

“28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” (Psalm 69:28 KJV) Those who are such it is not fare or just to keep their names with the righteous in the book of life.

“20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:20 KJV) Jesus told His disciples and even He tells us today to rejoice because our names are written in Heaven, in the book of life.

“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.” (Philippians 4:3 KJV) Here Apostle Paul mentioned the teaching that those who labour for the Lord their names are written in the book of life. **Let us keep our good work and labor for the Lord so our names will not be blotted out from the book of life.**

Jesus said, **“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.” (Revelation 3:5 KJV)** Therefore, we need to persevere and keep diligent to the end to keep our names in the book of life.

So here from the examples of what we read there is a possibility of blotting out the names from the book of life if we will not live up to the expectations of the Scriptures and in the will of God as the Lord wants from us.

The Lord God spoke His Words and made the Written Word too in the Bible. God’s Word will never be changed, and the Lord Jesus said: **“47 And if any man hear my**

words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. 48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (John 12:47-48 KJV) The judgment of God will come according to the Word that Jesus spoke to us. Therefore, the Lord Jesus gave the responsibility to us as a church to proclaim His truth and His Word to the whole world; to go and make disciples as He commissioned us to: **“19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)** He commissioned us so people will hear His Word and according to their response God shall judge them. **Making disciples includes teaching, counseling, baptizing, nurturing and admonishing in accordance to God’s written Word of truth. The Lord God placed the responsibility over the church not only to teach but to execute His Word and maintain what is just and right in the sight of God so that the names of the saved will not be blotted out from the Book of Life.**

When sin is allowed and not judged, others might entice to do the same. **Therefore, we as church is responsible to continually check the spiritual wellbeing of all the members so that sin and wrong doing or things that displease God and contradict His Word will not be inside His church.** That is why you see us checking the brethren and find out ways to help them to grow and to present them perfect in Christ.

The following are events in the Bible that tell us under what circumstances and conditions that God would blot out from the Book of Life the names of His people who persistently fail to obey Him:

1. In the account of the golden calf: While Moses was in the mountain with the Lord forty days and forty nights fasting, the people persuaded Aaron to make an idol and he did an idol in the form of a golden calf, something which was abominable to the Lord. Therefore, when Moses came down and saw God’s people whom he brought out of Egypt involved in idol worship, dancing, partying, reveling and were naked, he took drastic measures to control the situation, he broke the idol, made it power, spread it on water, and let the people drink it. Moses, further, cleansed the people and restored them to the plan of God. Moses challenged the whole community to follow God. **“26 Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, Who is on the LORD’s side? let him come unto me. And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together unto him.” (Exodus 32:26 KJV)** Out of the whole community of the people of God only the Levites responded, and so he commissioned them. **“27 And he said unto them, Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Put every man his sword by his side, and go in and out from gate to gate throughout the camp, and slay every man his brother, and every man his companion, and every man his neighbour. 28 And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.” (Exodus 32:27-28 KJV)** As they obeyed the command of God through Moses, and were willing to put to death those who are disobedient even if they were their brothers, God blessed them. **“29 For Moses had said, Consecrate yourselves today to the LORD, even every man upon his son, and upon his brother; that he may bestow upon you a blessing this day.” (Exodus 32:29 KJV)** The Levites when they were challenged to follow God, they abandoned the people they were with, even their own brothers, and they obeyed the call of God, and because of such God blessed them.

God wants us to be bold and serious in our dedication to His service and in dealing with the people entrusted to our care. Jesus said, ***“28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matthew 10:28 KJV)*** Therefore we need to be firm, not to be afraid and to stand with God against sin.

What Moses and the Levites performed for God reminds us of with what Jesus said when he commissioned His disciples and us today: ***“32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven. 34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. 35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. 36 And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. 37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:32-37 KJV)***

Going back to the incident of ***Exodus 32*** we read the following of what Moses was pleading and praying to the Lord to forgive the people and what God answered Him: ***“30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.” (Exodus 32:30-33 KJV)*** Obviously to those who were persistent in their sin and were unwilling to turn away from their wrong doing God declared to Moses that He will blot out their names from His book, the book of life. ***We as church we need to be firm that those who persist in their sins and wrong doings we need to declare to them that their names will be blot out from the book of life if they will not repent. This we need to do perhaps they will fear God and His judgment and may repent.***

2. In the rehearsal of Moses to the Israelites: At the border of the Promised Land Moses spoke to God's people and repeated to them the Word of God, and said. ***“18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood; 19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law.” (Deuteronomy 29:18-21 KJV)***

We can clearly realize our responsibility and our accountability as the church when Moses said: ***“18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;” (Deuteronomy 29:18 KJV)*** We should define sin clearly and not to allow any wrong doing which is not clearly defined as sin. We need to point out sin and reprimand sinners because such people who move away from God's Word and instruction will influence others and promote wrong doing inside the body of Christ. Any sin in the church which is unresolved is a root that will reproduce bitter poison and affect other church members and workers and will harm the whole body of Christ. When he said, ***“whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations”*** is when the people of God follow the pattern of this world in their life styles of showing off, boasting, overspending, and in celebrating idolatrous things, like celebrating birthdays, Christmas, New Year, Halloween, Valentine, Father Day, Mother Day, etc.

In the New Testament, parallel to the above Scripture is written in the book of ***Hebrews 12:15***, ***“15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;” (Hebrews 12:15 KJV)*** ***Again God put the responsibility on the church to admonish the person who is in sin so that to be saved and so that sin will not spread and affect others.*** We read the same in the book of James, ***“19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.” (James 5:19-20 KJV)*** ***The church should rebuke sinners that may repent and turn back to God. Likewise the church should not keep sinners without correction inside the church.***

There are church members who just come to hear the message thinking they will receive blessings from God as long as they hear God's Word. But that is not correct; if they hear God's message and do not repent or respond to what God wants them to do, then they are putting themselves in danger and under judgment and curse as we had read. ***“19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: 20 The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. 21 And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant that are written in this book of the law.” (Deuteronomy 29:19-21 KJV)***

We as church need to admonish such people so that God's wrath will turn away from them when they repent. In the same manner when we admonish sinners with God's instruction, we free ourselves from God's wrath and anger because we do our part.

Nevertheless this is what God said about those who hear the Word of God and then just throw those Words behind their back: ***“16 But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? 17 Seeing thou hatest instruction, and casteth my words behind thee.” (Psalm 50:16-17 KJV)*** They hear the

message but they throw at their backs, therefore, there is no salvation for such people unless they repent.

3. In the encounter with Simon, the sorcerer: Another event in the Bible that gives us more insight when God will blot out the names of those who continue to do sin is the story about Simon, the sorcerer who became a believer upon the preaching of Philip in Samaria. *“9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries. 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. 23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity. 24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.” (Acts 8:9-24 KJV)* Peter recognized that Simon’s heart was not right with God because he thought that he could buy the gift of God of the Holy Spirit with money. Peter recognized that he had gall of bitterness that we read in verse 23, the same of what we read about the gall and wormwood in **Deuteronomy 29:18** and the root of bitterness that we read in **Hebrews 12:15**. Simon true was a sorcerer and became a believer and was water baptized, but he was not converted and still his heart was full of bitterness and a captive of pride and boasting. Peter rebuked Simon to free him from the sin of greed, wrong motive, boasting, showing off, love of power and bitterness and to prevent others from being contaminated.

Good number of people in the New Testament church even long time they are believers and they are serving the Lord, but they have wrong heart and in wrong motive in the service and in the ministry; that is because they are not truly converted, The role of the church is to help those people to come out from their wrong doing, making them see their sins, and help them to understand better God’s ways, and the plan of God that he has for them and also to let them feel the love of God so that they can see the way to repent, return back to God and to walk humbly with Him and to serve Him in the correct way.

My dear and beloved: The Lord may come back again at any time, as well as your life might be ended at any time. The question is this: Are you ready for such moment? Are you ready to meet the Lord? Is your life is right and clear with God?

Let us fear God and continue to work out our salvation with fear and trembling. Let us come to God and to His true love, knowing and aware that our names are written in Heaven, in the book of life and we need to keep and maintain them there by living the righteous life following the Scriptures and what ordained for us to do and live for God.

If you are not in the right path as we had discussed today in the message, living in sin, persisting in doing wrong, you are having bitter root and you are in wrong motive and your heart is not right with God, then today God is calling you to come back to Him and to repent of your sins and to start a good start with Him.

My Prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that showed me clearly that I need to live in holiness and righteousness so that my name will not be blot out from the book of life.

Confess your sins and renounce them. Lord I confess and renounce the following sins _____, Lord I renounce the following flesh and worldly desire _____. Lord I renounce doing my own will. Lord I renounce my wrong motives, bitterness, envy, boasting, worldliness, and taking advantage of your grace.

Lord I commit myself to allow the fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, joy, peace, humility, self-control, patience, perseverance, long suffering, faith and faithfulness to appear in my life and to go on and serve you in a better way reflecting the character of you Jesus in my life so others may see you in my life.

Lord, I pray for us as a church to help us to follow up and care spiritually for our members and observe their lives to grow in your love and in obedience to your will. Lord help us to reach sinners and backsliders and help them to come back to you and with a correct understanding so that they will be restored and start to serve you.

Lord, we pray that once again you will refill us with your love and your Holy Spirit and that you will enable us to do this ministry of love, reconciliation and restoration, and you will help us to reach new people and new places, and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us, and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Put God First Part 4. Work Out to Keep your Name In the Book of Life. Exodus 32:33. Deuteronomy 29:20. Psalm 69:28. Luke 10:20. Philippians 4:3. Revelation 3:5. John 12:47-48. Matthew 28:19-20. Exodus 32:26-29. Matthew 10:28. Matthew 10:32-37. Exodus 32:30-33. Deuteronomy 29:18-21. Hebrews 12:15. James 5:19-20. Psalm 50:16-17. Acts 8:9-24.

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