

The Book of Life

by Christine Wentzel

I have a question for you...

If God says He will remember our sins no more (Hebrews 10:17 and Isaiah 43:25), why do we have to have them recounted to us on Judgment Day?

That was the question posed by one of our ladies in my women's bible study class this week. Much to my dismay, none of us had an answer to that. Do you?

For our well-learned students of the bible out there, you are aware of the problem in that question. For the rest of us, let me give you some great news. That's not going happen!

Because of the loving shepherding of our pastor, we are able to pull him out of his office on any given late Monday evening for such a time as this. When the question was posed to him, he asked us to turn our bibles to Revelation 20:12-15 *And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books... and each person was judged according to what they had done.... Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Here the Apostle John is talking about unbelievers when he uses the word "dead" (dead in their sins.) Notice that when they were standing before the throne of their omniscient Judge that books (plural) were opened. Why was there more than one?

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

For every unbeliever, for everyone dead in their sins, every transgression is noted. A full accounting must be made. God is reading from the books that record all of them.

But for those who believe in their Savior's atoning sacrifice and victory over death; for those who ask to be forgiven there is a loving promise to completely forgive of which our merciful Father assures us over and over again...

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out [wiped clean, blotted out, erased!], that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, Acts 3:19

So how, you might ask, can a God who knows everything forget our sins? Because He chooses to, because He promises to. Therefore as His redeemed children we will stand with confidence before our King's throne as He opens one book, the book of Life, and sees what? Only our name...

But now, this is what the LORD says... "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. Isaiah 43:1





Season: Lent

Video: 6. Mission to the Children

Devotions: 22. At the Empty Tomb: Part 3 of 3

62. What's Your Mission?

95. What a Friend We have in Jesus!

Prayers: 13. Heavenly Father, thank you for providing us with faithful pastors...

14. Almighty God, our Fortress in times of trouble, today we celebrate the reformation...

Super Girl: 68. Have you ever been attacked, verbally or otherwise, for...

Scripture References: 2 Chronicles 16:9; Job 26:6; Psalm 33:13; Psalm 139:4; Proverbs 5:21; Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 16:17; Jeremiah 23:24; Jeremiah 29:23; Daniel 2:22; Psalm 51:1; Isaiah 44:22; Jeremiah 36:3; Ezekiel 33:11; Acts 2:38; Acts 3:20; Acts 26:20; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Hebrews 4:1; Genesis 32:28; Exodus 15:16; Isaiah 27:11; Isaiah 43:5, 7, 15, 21; Isaiah 44:2, 21

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