

GOSPEL / THE BOOK OF LIFE

A Gospel Message by George Bates. The Meeting House. Randalstown. Co., Antrim. Northern Ireland. UK.

READING:- REVELATION 20 : 10-15

*Our reading tonight is found in **Luke 10**.*

*In this chapter we are reminded that **The Lord** Jesus Christ is not only **The Saviour of the world**, but that He is also **Israel's promised King**, ...
and in that particular capacity,
He had come first to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

*We see Him here sending forth **70 "Lambs among wolves."**(vrs3)
into the harvest.*

*They have not been saved very long,
and He refers to them in **Verse21**,
as **"babes"** (or young in the faith.)*

We don't know any of them by name!

They are just ordinary people with a zeal to witness for Him, that the Lord has raised up, and gifted, and chosen to go forth for His sake.

***They are sometimes** referred to as Apostles, and so they are, in one sense of the word, **but not in the technical sense** of the word, as Peter and the rest of the **12 Apostles** were.*

*Our Lord Jesus had already sent out the **12 Apostles** at an earlier time, in **Matthew ch.10**, but now He is sending **the 70**, to go forth healing the sick and preaching **"The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you"**.*

*It was only after **the death, and burial, and resurrection**, of Our Lord Jesus Christ, that **a new commission** was given to His disciples, which embraced all Nations, **including us**.*

***Mark 16:15**, "And He said unto them,
Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

*Now in **verse 10** as He is giving them their **commission and instructions** for the journey ahead, he says, "**But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you:***

***notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you."** It is important that we don't miss what is being said to them here!*

These rejecters have lost their opportunity, and their response counts, and has been recorded in Heaven!

*They hadn't realize how much depended upon their God-given opportunity!
Their rejection has clearly been laid at their own doorstep!*

*(Then our Saviour said), "**But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom**, (That's where the filthy sin of Sodomy got its name,) than for that city."*

*I want you to notice carefully here that there will be **various degrees and different depths** of punishment to suffer in Hell, according to "**the deeds done in the body.**" (or "**according to your works.**")*

*Nevertheless, remember, **all hell is hell**, and is absolute and horrific, and without mercy. **The rich man in hell was no Hitler, but he received no mercy.***

***The vengeance of God** will express itself, as it must, in degrees that transcend all human ability to comprehend.*

*Then **the fiery Saviour** swings around and looks at the little towns around the Lake of Galilee, where He had worked such mighty miracles, and says "**Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.***

But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgement, than for you".

*Now **with eyes aflame**, He looks at the very place where He did more miracles than any other place on earth, in the days of His public ministry, and He says "**And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be thrust down to hell.**"*

*Take Christ's own word for it, that **there is a hell**, no matter what anyone else will ever tell you.*

Why did He say that to Capernaum?

*Because although Capernaum was **so highly favoured**, that Our Wonderful Saviour even lived there, yet **they** failed to repent.*

*Listen, dear unsaved one, and never forget it, **God-given privilege brings responsibility.***

You have been privileged by God in some way, haven't you?

Where you born into a Christian home? Or maybe you had a Godly Sunday School teacher. Or perhaps one of your work colleagues is a Christian. Don't be thinking that's an accident!

*The Lord Himself has taken time and thought, to make sure that you are without excuse, **and that** you know the Gospel very well indeed.*

*But that privilege **has laid on you**, a great responsibility to response to God's caring, planning love for you.*

Now watch verse 17 ,

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

And He said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

*Dear unsaved one, will you please notice that **Our Wonderful Saviour, expected all 70 of these men to know, beyond all shadow of doubt,... that their names were written in Heaven, and to rejoice because of that fact. For if it is, then you will never experience the pains of Hell.***

***Is this not** totally foreign to the belief that you have in your imagination, **that after we die we go through a sort of a trial in Eternity**, and if our good works outweigh our bad works, then Saint Peter will let us in.*

But if our bad deeds outweigh our good deeds, then we are for hell.

***That is all Harry Potter stuff and nonsense**, and you will never find anything even remotely resembling it in God's word, the Bible.*

*Again I say, **Jesus expected these men to know**, that their names were already written in Heaven.*

***Just like the unsaved rich man** that the Saviour told us about in **Luke chapter 16**, **tormented in the flames of hell, and the poor beggar Lazarus**, who went to paradise.*

***Their Eternal destinations were already determined on earth**, long before they ever died.*

*If your heart gives one final heave tonight, and then lies forever still,
is it the Joys of Heaven, or the Horrors of Hell for you?*

IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN THERE?

*I was reading **a true story** recently about **a young explorer**, who **chartered a flight** to take him to the distant regions of Alaska's **barren and uninhabited Northern area**.*

*This took months of **advance preparations**.*

His provisions alone weighed 1,400 pounds, and then he had an entire box of notebooks, and 500 rolls of film, and all his camping equipment.

*When he arrived he kept **a log** of his movements and experiences, and descriptions of **the magnificent scenery**, and **unusual wild animals**.*

*He was **so happy** as the first week passed, until suddenly, the terrifying realisation flashed into his mind like a bolt of lightning.*

***He had completely forgotten about the return journey home**, and had made absolutely no arrangements or provision for it.*

***As the months passed by and his young life drew to a close**, he recorded in his diaries that he couldn't believe how stupid he had been, **not to use a little foresight and to re-book the plane for his departure**.*

*His cameras and equipment were all arrayed around his dead frozen body, when **a Rescue Team** eventually found it, many months later.*

***Dear unsaved one**, Allow me to take you on a journey through the scriptures tonight, with The Holy Spirit's enabling.*

*I want you to come with me to **a place of no return** that you are already destined for, and let me show you the only way that you can make provision now, **to be sure that you will not be forever doomed and eternally lost.***

Turn with me if you will to

Revelation ch.20:10-15

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

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, according to their works.

And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

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

*There are "Books" (or Divine records,) that will be opened in your presence one day, ... containing **a chronicle, or a journal, or a log**, of all your works and deeds, and even your thoughts.*

Now be assured that no one has any chance of ever entering Heaven through these.

Romans 3:22b-23 states,

"For there is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God".

You cannot be saved by good behaviour, or by good works of charity, or by keeping the commandments.

Now it is right and proper that we should try to do these things, but they are not a way of salvation.

*We all have **a built in inability** to keep **all the commandments, all the time**, and the Law of God is like a bicycle chain, if you break one link, you have broken the whole chain.*

Romans 3:20 states, ***"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."***

*We read again in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, "**For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."***

*Paul the Apostle says in **Titus 3:5**,*

"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

Almighty God keeps Divine records you know. And nowadays even we have learned to record mountains of information on **records**, and **tape recordings**, and **CD / DVD discs**, and **videos**, and **computers**.

BUT GOD CAN RECORD THINGS FAR BETTER THAN MEN.

*It's a well known fact that each one of us has **a built in memory bank**, that has recorded every word, thought, action and deed, **whether you can recollect it or not.***

***They all lie buried in your subconscious mind**, like a sound, and smell, and sense, video recording.*

*If those brain cells could be re-run, and played back, your whole life would flash before your eyes, as the word of God cries out **"See thy way in the valley, know what thou hast done"**.*

***The information** that is **contained and written** upon God's records at **the Great White Throne of Judgement**, will Eternally damn souls in the molten waves of literal Fire, in **Gehenna**, forever.*

***Now for the sake of simplicity, the Scriptures refer to these records as being stored in "books"**. Because everyone that has ever seen a Bible, knows what a scroll or a book is.*

*God's word makes reference to **various books** that He has on His bookshelf.*

***In particular**, the Bible has a lot to say about another book, (or record,) that will also be opened at **the Great White Throne of Judgement**.*

*It is **this** register that is all important in determining whether a soul goes to Heaven or hell.*

***This book does not contain the names of holy people who excelled in goodness**, but of sinful souls who have been forgiven and saved through the precious sacrificially shed blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God.*

In verse 12 John the Apostle said

***"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 according to their works"**.*

And verse 15 states

***"And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire"**.*

*Those who are tormented in the Lake of Fire forever, are **condemned at the Judgement Bar on two counts**.*

***Firstly**, the records of their past works and evil deeds, will expose their sinfulness and ungodliness,*
...

***placing them forever under the curse of the Broken Law of God, beyond redemption**, and becoming the basis for evaluating, the depths and degrees of Hell they must suffer.*

***Secondly**, Searching THE BOOK OF LIFE will establish beyond doubt, that they have had their names blotted out, and thereafter they belong only to **the realm of the eternally unforgiven dead**.*

*Dear unsaved one, can you not see how **vitaly important** it is that you should have your name in the Book of Life **on that day**?*

WHAT IS THIS BOOK OF LIFE?

Well for the sake of time, I want you
just to **listen carefully as I read** some Scriptures to you, that will help you to understand what it is,
if you will.

Whenever Moses was up Mount Sinai with God receiving the Ten Commandments, and eventually
came down from the Mount, ...
**you will remember that he was aghast when he saw the nakedness of his people, dancing around
the Golden Calf in their idolatry,**
and he smashed the two tables of stone, upon which the Commandments were written.

We read in Exodus 32:31-33,
" And 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.
And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my
book".

We have got to be very careful here that we don't **superimpose**, or read into God's word, something
that isn't there.

Moses didn't say "Blot me out of the Book of Life", but ...
"... blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.

Whenever **King David**, was praying against his enemies, and at the same time was **prophetically**
speaking of Judas Iscariot in a day that was to come, in **Psalms 69:28**, ...
he said **"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous."**

You can see here this clear reference to **"the Book of the Living"**, can't you?

So you have it in **the Law**, and you have it in **the Psalms**, and you have it in **the Prophets**.

For Daniel says in **ch.12:1b**,
**"and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the
book."**

So we have seen that **Moses** was well aware of
"The Book which God has written." ...

And **King David** also knew about **"the Book of the Living"**
and that there really is a **Divine Register of the names** of all who have an association with life!

Every individual person, **presently** living on the planet earth, **at any given time**, is in it!

But their names will be blotted out, if they eventually die without Christ,
And God can also blot names out of "the Book of the Living," if they sin against Him, any time He
wants.

He can blot out a man or a woman's name **prematurely**, and the Scriptures are full of untimely

deaths.

He did it with Korah and his company, by opening the earth and swallowing them up into hell!

**He did it with Nadab and Abihu,
by burning them off the face of the earth!**

**He did it with Judas, when he tried to hang himself from a tree at the edge of a cliff, and the branch refused to hold him, and broke, ...
and he fell and hit the ground, and all his bowels gushed out, as his soul entered into perdition!**

He did it with King Herod, who was lifted up with pride.

Acts 12:23, ...

"And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost."

Their names, (like all the rest of the unsaved dead,) were in the Book of Life for a limited period, and were eventually blotted out.

Paul the Apostle spoke about these things when he said in

Philippians 4:3b ...

"... help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow labourers, whose names are in the book of life."

And John, the beloved Apostle, quoting the words of Our Risen Lord says in Revelation 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."

You really need to understand that some people's names are kept in there forever, whether they physically die or not!

We read of a third book that I want to bring to your attention, in Revelation 21:27, where it says

"And 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."

Here is a Divine book that absolutely no one can ever be blotted out of!

"The Lamb's Book of Life", for Our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ has promised, "I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish..."

I want to make it perfectly clear tonight that TWO GREAT LIES are exposed here in Revelation 20 straight away.

In verse 12 John, the beloved Apostle, peering into the future with his prophetic eyes said, "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 according to their works".

*I want you to **notice exactly who is sitting on the Great White Throne.***

*John says that it is **God!***

*And we know that **it is the Lord Jesus Christ**, because the Lord Jesus Christ is **God the Son.***

*And in **Acts 17:31** the Apostle Paul tells the people of Athens, as he stands preaching on Mars Hill,
"... (God) **hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained;**
whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead."*

*It can't be anyone else but **THE RESURRECTED LIVING SON OF GOD!!!***

It's not the Devil that we see sitting on the Great White Throne, is it?

*Nor has **he** any say in the matter, has he?*

*For Hell belongs to God,
and Jesus told us that it was **"prepared for the devil and his angels".***

*It wasn't prepared for them **to live in**, mark you ...
But it was prepared for the devil and his angels to **be tormented in,**
"day and night, for ever and ever".*

So that's the first lie cleared up.

***Secondly**, **This Great White Throne of Judgement is not a trial** to see who gets into Heaven and who goes to hell.*

Not one soul in this vast crowd is acquitted, or pardoned, or hears the verdict "Not Guilty"

*Every solitary person who stands there is **dead**, because **their names have been blotted out of the book of life**, and they are doomed forever.*

*No names are entered into **THE BOOK OF LIFE** on that day,
for God's word says,*

***"And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire"**.*

*If your name is not **already in there**, then there is **no escaping the Wrath and Vengeance and Punishment of God** on your poor lost sinful head.*

WHY AM I TELLING YOU THIS TONIGHT DEAR UNSAVED FRIEND?

*Because **there has to be** A DEFINING MOMENT in your life, if your soul is to be saved by Grace.*

A MOMENT OF REPENTANCE before God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

A MOMENT OF TRUTH AND DECISION.

***You are being given that great opportunity right now**, and Heaven will record your response in this meeting.*

*Poor, lost, precious souls can only be saved during
their day of opportunity,
while they are alive on earth,
and while their names are still in the book of life.*

*That's why the Saviour told His 70 returning disciples, not to be taken up with the fact that they can cast out demons in His name, but to **"Rejoice because your names are written in Heaven"**.*

Another question that is asked is, ...

Why are they searching the Book of Life for their names, whenever they already know that none of their names are there?

They are emphasising the justness and fairness of the Grace of God, through the fact that their names could have been there, if only, God's loving master plan for them, had been allowed to operate in their lives.

*God has absolutely **"no pleasure in the death of the wicked,"** and He is **"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** (11 Peter 3:9)*

***There was no reason whatever,
why their name should not have been there,
but they despised God's mercy, and they rejected God's Grace, and they felt that they were far too busy to worry about what the Bible's says,
and they damned their own souls in hell forever.***

*Dear unsaved one, don't you realise that you are naked before God in your sins, and you are facing the full force of God's judgement, ...
and every single sin will be brought into Judgement?*

Real judgement!

Fearful judgement!

Eternal retribution from God!

*God's word admonishes us in **Proverbs 27:1, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."***

*I have tried to make it clear that God has a Divine register of all the living, and **your name is now in it!***

But the names of all those who die without Christ are no longer in it!

*In Eternity, no one will have their name found in that book **by chance, like a Lottery.***

Or by accident, without a reason,

*But for those who **during that limited time of opportunity,**
repent of their sins, before God, and receive Jesus Christ **"By Faith"** as their own and personal Saviour,*

***THEY RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE AS A GIFT OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD,
and their names are in The Lamb's book of Life forever!***

So that on THE JUDGEMENT DAY, if a **born again redeemed believer** was to look into **the Lamb's Book of Life** for their name, and then into **The Book of Life**, they would find that they balance perfectly!

It is an extremely serious thing, even here on earth,
when THE JUDGE on the Bench has heard all the evidence, and knows exactly what you have done, **and he looks down at you personally,**
and says,
"I hereby sentence you to death.
You shall be taken out and hanged by the neck until dead, and may God have mercy on you soul."
That would be terrifying!

But how much worse is it going to be, if the Spirit of God is striving with your soul, seeking to bring you in repentance to the Lord Jesus, for the last time, ...
and yet once again you refuse His offer of mercy, and God will
**"Blot your name completely out of
The Book of Life".**

You will never have any **association** with life of any kind ever again!

Nothing but **Physical death**, and **Spiritual death**, and never ending **Eternal death**.

You will remember every opportunity that God gave you to be saved, and how callously you cast them aside as a thing of naught!

You will wish, (like the young explorer in Alaska,) that you hadn't been so foolish, not to make provision for getting Home!

As you are **flung headlong by Angelic hands** into the molten waves of literal Fire, to be tormented without mercy,
for all the long, unending Eternity!

Sometimes we sing together,
**"What can wash away my sin?
nothing but the Blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the Blood of Jesus."**

LISTEN POOR SINNER WITHOUT CHRIST IN THE MEETING!
The only Remedy for our Ruin in the entire Universe, is **the sacrificially shed blood of the Lamb of God**, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Almighty God hath said, in
Exodus 12:13, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you"

He has made peace through the blood of His cross!

The Precious Blood of God's Sacrificial Lamb answers every accusation of the enemy, in the Atonement!

***In the context of Hebrews Chapter 9 verse 22, we are told that
"Without the shedding of (Christ's) blood is no remission!"***

*There is no forgiveness!...
No pardon!...
No Salvation without it!
But it had to be shed! and it was!*

*Let me assure you that **He can bind up the broken-hearted and let the oppressed go free!***

"For there is power, power, wonder working power, in the Precious Blood of the Lamb."

There is Power to deliver you from The penalty of sin...

There is Power to Purchase you out of the slave market of sin!

There is Power to redeem you out of The prison house of sin...

There is Power to cleanse you from
the poison and plague of sin.

There is Pardon through the blood, to bring you God's forgiveness!

There is Power to liberate you from
The domination of sin...
Leave all your fears and habits and weakness to Him, and **come now, just the way that you are!**

give us ***"Peace through the blood of His cross."***

PREACH THE CROSS GEORGE!!!

A young man rang me on Friday afternoon under deep conviction, and locked in a struggle with the Devil.

I explained to him from the scriptures, how he could be saved and know it, but the battle was raging for his soul.

*At one point in the conversation I told him, **"Only the sacrificially shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God, can cleanse you from your sins and set you free"***

*The tone of his voice changed for a moment and he asked me, **"Can it cleanse me from great sins?"**
(I knew he was serious!)*

If we have committed a crime then obviously we must pay our debt to society and that is a separate issue, but, as far as God's salvation is concerned "I don't care if you are a mass murderer"

"There is power in the blood of the lamb to make you whiter than the snow in God's sight"

The man got saved and hasn't stopped telling people since!!!