



Who's Name Will Be Blotted Out?

A Teaching Outline

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Whose name be blotted out of the book of life?

Revelation 3:5

'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

To be "clothed in white" means to be set apart for God and made pure. Christ promises future honor and eternal life to those who stand firm in their faith. The names of all believers are registered in the Book of Life. This book symbolizes God's knowledge of who belongs to him. All such people are guaranteed a listing in the Book of Life and are introduced to the hosts of heaven as belonging to Christ

God will deny those who deny Jesus.

Luke 12:8-9

Also I say unto you, whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denies me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.

We deny Jesus when we:

- (1) Hope no one will find out we are Christians,
- (2) Decide *not* to speak up for what is right,
- (3) Are silent about our relationship with God,
- (4) Blend into society, and
- (5) Accept our culture's non-Christian values.

By contrast, we acknowledge him when we:

- (1) live moral, upright, Christ-honoring lives,
- (2) look for opportunities to share our faith with others,

- (3) Help others in need,
- (4) Take a stand for justice,
- (5) Love others,
- (6) Acknowledge our loyalty to Christ, and
- (7) Use our lives and resources to carry out his desires rather than our own.

The memory of Amalek would be blotted out.

Exodus 17:14

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this in a book as a memorial and recite it to Joshua that I will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven."

Aaron and Hur stood by Moses' side and held up his arms to ensure victory against Amalek. We need to "hold up the hands" of our spiritual leaders as well. Shouldering some responsibility, lending a word of encouragement, or offering a prayer are ways of refreshing spiritual leaders in their work.

The Levite brother was to raise up children for the memory of his brother.

Deuteronomy 25:19

"Therefore it shall come about when the LORD your God has given you rest from all your surrounding enemies, in the land which the LORD your God gives you as an inheritance to possess, you shall blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven; you must not forget.

This law describes a "levirate" marriage, the marriage of a widow to the brother of her dead husband. The purpose of such a marriage was to carry on the dead man's name and inheritance. Family ties were an important aspect of Israelite culture. The best way to be remembered was through your line of descendants. If a widow married someone outside the family, her first husband's line would come to an end.

The memory of the enemy has perished.

Psalm 9:6

The enemy has come to an end in perpetual ruins, and you have uprooted the cities; the very memory of them has perished.

God upholds our just cause; he is our vindicator (one who clears us from criticism and justifies us before others).

In this life, we may face many injustices:

- (1) We may be falsely accused and misunderstood by friends and enemies;
- (2) We may not be truly appreciated by others for the love we show;
- (3) The true value of our work and service may not be duly rewarded;
- (4) Our ideas may be ignored.

But God is to be praised, for he sees and remembers all the good we do, and it is up to him to decide the timing and the appropriateness of our rewards. If we do not trust him to vindicate us, then we will be susceptible to hatred and self-pity. If we do trust him, we can experience God's peace and be free from the worry of how others perceive us and treat us.

David calls for the memory of the wicked to become to pass.

Psalm 109:15

Let them be before the LORD continually, That He may cut off their memory from the earth;

This is another of the imprecatory psalms, a call for God to judge the wicked. (For an explanation of imprecatory psalms, was not taking vengeance into his own hands; he was asking that God be swift in his promised judgment of evil people. David's words depict the eventual doom of all God's enemies.

The name of the wicked are blotted out forever.

Psalm 9:5

You have rebuked the nations, you have destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name forever and ever.

**If God choose to blot out Israel's sins, Moses request
that his name be also blotted out.**

Exodus 32:32-33

"But now, if you will, forgive their sin--and if not, please blot me out from your book which you have written!"

The LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of my book.

God was ready to destroy the whole nation because of their sin. But Moses pleaded for mercy, and God spared them. This is one of the countless examples in the Bible of God's mercy. Although we deserve his anger, he is willing to forgive and restore us to himself. We can receive God's forgiveness from sin by asking him. Like Moses, we can pray that he will forgive others and use us to bring them the message of his mercy.

How could God relent? God did not change his mind in the same way that a parent decides not to discipline a child. Instead, God changed his behavior to remain consistent with his nature. When God first wanted to destroy the people, he was acting consistently with his justice. When Moses interceded for the people, God relented in order to act consistently with his mercy. God had often told the people that if they changed their ways, he would not condemn them. They changed, and God forgave them as he had promised.

Overwhelmed by the actual sight of the blatant idolatry and revelry, Moses broke the tablets containing the commandments which had already been broken in the hearts and actions of the people. There is a place for righteous anger.

However angry Moses might have been, God was angrier still—he wanted to kill all the people. Anger at sin is a sign of spiritual vitality. Don't squelch this kind of anger. But when you are justifiably angry at sin, be careful not to do anything that you will regret later.

When Jesus gave his life, God's anger was fulfilled.

Nehemiah asks God to remember his loyal deeds.

Nehemiah 13:14

Remember me for this, O my God, and do not blot out my loyal deeds which I have performed for the house of my God and its services.

Because the Levites were no longer supported, they had returned to their farms to support themselves, neglecting their Temple duties and the spiritual welfare of the people. Spiritual workers deserve their pay, and their support ought to be enough to care for their needs. They shouldn't have to suffer (or leave) because believers don't adequately assess and meet their needs.

The former things will not be remembered.

Isaiah 65:17

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind.

We have a pictorial description of the new heavens and the new earth. They are eternal, and in them safety, peace, and plenty will be available to all.

In the new heavens, your name shall remain.

Isiah 66:22, 23

For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the Lord, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the Lord.

Isaiah brings his book to a close with great drama. For the faithless there is a sobering portrayal of judgment. For the faithful, there is a glorious picture of rich reward: "So will you always be my people, with a name that will never disappear."

The contrast is so striking that it would seem that everyone would want to be God's follower. But we are often just as rebellious, foolish, and reluctant to change as the Israelites. We are just as negligent in feeding the hungry, working for justice, obeying God's Word, and taking up his causes. Make sure you are among those who will be richly blessed.

John saw a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 21:1

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

The earth as we know it will not last forever, but after God's great judgment, he will create a new earth (see Romans 8:18-21; 2 Peter 3:7-13).

God had also promised Isaiah that he would create a new and eternal earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22). The sea is gone as well; in John's time, the sea was viewed as dangerous and changeable. It was also the source of the beast (13:1).

We don't know how the new earth will look or where it will be, but God and his followers—those whose names are written in the Book of Life—will be united to live there forever. Will you be there?

The New Jerusalem is where God lives among his people. Instead of our going up to meet him, he comes down to be with us, just as God became man in Jesus Christ and lived among us (John 1:14). Wherever God reigns, there is peace, security, and love.

Those whose names have not been blotted out of the book of life will live eternally with Jesus.

An invitation is given to open your heart's door.

Rev. 3:20

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

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Holy Bible: Living Bible Translation

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Additional comments and charts are taken from: *Life Application Study Bible*. Illinois: Tyndale House
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