

It's In The Book

If you wanted to find out the most accurate value of a vehicle, you would use what is known as the Kelly Blue Book. For information on who holds the record for an event, such as who holds the record for eating the most hot-dogs in the shortest amount of time, world's fastest runner, or some other topic of interest, you would want to go the Guinness World Records book. Then of course, there are other record books such as Scholastic Book of World Records, The World Record Book of Paper Airplanes, The IGFA World Record Game Fishes book, etc. Just about every sporting category has its own record book. These "official" books are the ones to go to for factual, accurate information. Some may say that they are the worlds fastest runner but, their name is not in the book. So, no matter how fast they may be, they cannot hold the title because their name is not in the record book, and that is what counts.

There are multitudes of people who say they are going to Heaven when they die however, the question must be asked, "Is their name in **THE Book**?" When asked if their name is in **THE Book** they may say, "It must be because I am a member of xxxxx Church." "I am a pastor, Sunday school teacher, I have been baptized, I am a generous financial giver, etc." All of this may sound good, but the question remains, "Is their name in **THE Book**?" If their name is not in **THE Book**, then whatever they may believe and say does not matter. There are two books that determine if a person will go to Heaven. The first book is God's Word, the Bible. In the Bible we read about another book and that book is called the "book of life." References about the "book of life" are found in the following verses: Philippians 4:3, Revelation 3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12; 20:15; 21:7; 22:19.

The "book of life" is a catalogue of names, a register of those who have repented of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have received Him as personal Saviour. In Luke 10:20 Jesus, when talking to those who trusted Him as Saviour said, "... your names are written in heaven." This same Jesus also said, when talking to those who did not believe on Him, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." {Luke 13:3, 5} The Bible is very emphatic about repentance and perishing when it says, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:15} By the same token only those who are born again {truly saved} will go to Heaven for God's word 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." {Revelation 21:7} **It's in THE Book!**

Church membership, baptism, good works, benevolence, none of this can save a person. "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." {Ephesians 2:8-9} Talking to a religious man Jesus said, "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except thou be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." {John 3:3} We also read, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned, but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:16-18} Our sin debt was paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" {1 Peter 1:18-19} **It's in THE Book!**

The **ONLY** name that matters, the **ONLY** name that can save a lost soul is the name of Jesus Christ. **It's in THE Book!** "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none [not even one] other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." {Acts 4:12}

If you confess to God that you are a sinner, if you repent of your sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ you trust Him as your personal Saviour, what assurance do you have of being being forgiven and saved? Well, **it's in THE BOOK!** "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." {Romans 10:13} "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." {1 John 5:11-13}

Well friend, do you know if your name is in the book of life? If not, then I encourage you to repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour. The Bible and the book of life are the only books that matter and **it's in THE Book!**

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2018