

# The Bulletin

## Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Visit Our Website at:

MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

June 9, 2019

### ***“Is Your Name Written In Heaven?”***

By Brian Meade

Names are important. Names identify us, and even distinguish us from other people. And, even though there are instances where people have the same name— even then they are distinguishable. The Bible tells us that God knows our name & our identity individually (Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5). In His nature as God, He knows all things and never has any trouble with a case of mistaken identity.

The Bible also tells us that God knows the righteous and distinguishes them from the unrighteous on the earth (Malachi 3:16-18; 2 Timothy 2:19). God expresses to man that He has a book of life that has the actual names of all the redeemed in it.

Notice in Hebrews 12:22-24, *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn **who are enrolled in heaven**, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.”* That term **“enrolled”** means to be *“registered”* (NKJB)— to be or become enrolled in the public records.

This is not the only time the Bible refers to this book of the enrolled, written in heaven. It is mentioned and alluded to several times in the Scriptures.

Jesus even spoke of it to His disciples after they had just come back from the commission He gave them to the house of Israel (Luke 10:1-16). The disciples had power to heal and perform signs while on this preaching engagement (Luke 10:9). When they came back to report to Jesus, the Bible tells us, *“The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.”* (Luke 10:17). Jesus then proceeds to tell them, *“Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.**”* (Luke 10:19-20)

Jesus wanted them to know that as wonderful and exciting as it was to cast out demons and do miraculous things— it was not more of a cause to rejoice than having their names written in heaven! Because that is the greatest cause for rejoicing that we could ever hope for! To go to heaven surpasses it all!

I want to focus our thoughts on the practical side of this business of having our name enrolled in heaven:

#### **I. What Does Not Write Our Name In Heaven:**

- (2) **Good Morality Alone.** Good morality is good to have, but it cannot save us from our sins— only the blood of Christ can do that! (1 Peter 1:18-19). Some feel as though, “As long as my good outweighs my bad, I’ll be saved.” But the reality is that even one sin requires us to go to the Savior for redemption. Good morality doesn’t work! (Isaiah 64:6)
- (3) **Good Works Alone.** Very closely related to good morality salvation is a works-based salvation that is apart from God’s grace. It is way that attempts to earn salvation by good deeds only. Many irreligious people will



make charitable donations and contributions in the name of good deeds. But there are not enough good deeds to save us by that way alone! We must come to God, His way and His way alone.

- (4) **Just Being Religious.** There are many in the world who believe that as long as you are a part of some form religious service, you'll be saved. Some even go so far as to try to be involved in several different types of religions to better their chances of going to heaven. But the major flaw to such reasoning is that there is only one true religion and everything else is false! One example of this is in Acts 17:22, "*Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious."* (NKJB) Even idolatry is considered to be very religious, and so is new age teaching, Buddhism, Islam, and Protestantism. All are not the religion of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- (5) **Faith Alone.** Quite possibly Satan's greatest deception in the world today is the shortening of God's plan of salvation to just faith alone. While salvation requires faith, it involves more than just believing. James tells us, "*You believe that there is one God. You do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble!*" (James 2:19). He goes on to say, "*You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only.*" (James 2:24).  
The only faith alone you read about in the Scriptures is a dead faith (James 2:26).
- (6) **Doctrines of Men.** Jesus spoke candidly of the traditions the Jewish leaders had, as He said, '*But in vain do they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.*'" (Matthew 15:9). Jesus teaches us to accept only divine authority and not merely what men say is doctrine. The doctrines of men make our worship and service to God vain or worthless. That's why it so important to have "book, chapter, and verse" for everything we do in religious service to God (Colossians 3:17; 1 Peter 4:11).
- (6) **Church Attendance.** Just showing up at every service of the church is not all that is required of every Christian. Pulling our peg every Sunday (for churches who still do that) or having our name in a church directory somewhere is not a guarantee of faithfulness. We must actually be genuine, faithful, and obedient to God.
- (7) **Just Wishing It There.** We must also be intentional in seeking God. We cannot just hope and wish our name will be there without ever doing what is required to make it a reality (Matthew 7:21; Luke 6:46). Many want to go to heaven, but that is as far as it goes. It takes more than just blind, hopeful optimism to secure salvation.

## II. What Does Write Our Name In Heaven:

- (1) **Obedying the Gospel.** Obeying the gospel is coming to Jesus by faith (Hebrews 11:6; Mark 16:16), by repentance from dead works (Acts 17:30; Hebrews 6:1), confession of our faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism for the remission of our sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16). The blood of Christ saves us and we are thus written in heaven. (Galatians 3:26-27; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- (2) **Living as a True Christian.** We then must live in a sincerity, faith, commitment, & sacrifice (Romans 12:1-2) to be pleasing to God.
- (3) **Keeping God's Word.** Obedience to God's word is a must (John 14:15; 1 John 2:3-5; 5:2-3) for the child of God. God teaches us how to live by His word (Ephesians 4:20-32; Colossians 1:10-12). The Bible is key to salvation.
- (4) **Faithfulness.** We must keep the faith (2 Timothy 4:7; Revelation 2:10).
- (5) **Working in God's Kingdom.** "*And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.*" (Philippians 4:3) If we want our name to be there too, let us work and labor for God (Hebrews 6:10-12; Revelation 14:13).

## III. What Blots Our Name Out of Heaven.

- (1) **When Sin Overtakes Us.** In Revelation 3:5, Jesus tells us, "*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.* But what if we do not overcome? (Exodus 32:30-32; Rom. 6:1-2; 2 Peter 2:20-22)
- (2) **False Doctrines.** When we leave truth to embrace the false ways of error, we no longer have God (2 John 9-11). False doctrines overthrow our faith (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; 2 Peter 2:1-3) and are not harmless!
- (3) **Unfaithfulness.** Jesus said in Revelation 2:10, "*Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*" Again, what if we are not faithful?
- (4) **Disobedience.** The high price of the disobedient child of God is losing the reward of heaven (1 Corinthians 10:1-12; Hebrews 4:11).
- (5) **Apostasy.** Many followers of Calvinism believe you cannot commit apostasy from the faith, but the word of God speaks differently! (Hebrews 6:4-6; 10:25-27) We CAN choose to leave God, which is what apostasy is by definition—"a defection, revolt.... "to forsake," (Vine's Expository Dictionary)

**News and Notes:** Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Martha Norvell (Mississippi Care), June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, Gaddy Hall, Janis Johnson, Daniel Holloway, Tammy Kilgore (Jerry's niece), Betty Hurst, Peggy Harville (cancer), Linda Harris, Katie Ward Coburn, Kathryn's grandmother, Hazel Corner, Clay Ford, & Allison (12 year old girl that received burns from a house fire/ 80% of her body was burned), Karey Trimble was taken to the hospital here in Corinth Friday. And Carolyn Ferrell (Brandi Meade's sister) had back surgery this past Wednesday in Ky.

**Gospel Meeting** at the Southside Houston Congregation starts today!  
(Details in the foyer)

**Those Who Serve:**

**Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:**

**Opening Prayer:** Tim Harris Jr.  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #1:** "What's Wrong With Denominationalism?"

**Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:**

Jerry Kennemur  
The Book of Acts (Jason Longstreth)  
*Page 43, Question #5*

**Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:**

**Announcements:** Russell Briggs  
**Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading:** Paul Johnson  
*Acts 20:28-30*  
**Song Leader:** Chris Callahan  
**Lord's Supper:** Russell Briggs  
**Assisting:** Nathan Meade & Adam Harris  
**Preaching:** Brian Meade  
**Sermon #2:** "How To Find The Church of the New Testament"  
**Closing Prayer:** Lee Busby

**Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.**

**June 12th:**

**Auditorium Bible Class:** Russell Briggs  
Ezra, Nehemiah, & Esther (Mike Willis)  
*Page 51, Question #16*  
**Invitation:** Paul Johnson  
**Song Leader:** Adam Harris  
**Closing Prayer:** Paul Busby