

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of September 6, 2020

THEME: "The Book of Life"

LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE

Sunday Read Revelation 20:10-15

"Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." The most important book in the universe is the Lamb's book of Life in heaven! It records the names of all humans who are in the family of God, who have the right by their faith in Christ as Savior to be called a child of God. God has recorded these names in the registry in heaven and it will be the book of final judgment at the Great White Throne, of which our Bible reading for today speaks. This will occur at the conclusion of the Millennial Reign of our Lord as King of kings. At that time, the bodies of all those who died without ever confessing sin and receiving Christ as personal Savior will have to answer for their sins. Their mistake was that they rejected God's offer of forgiveness. Their name was not in the Book!

PERFECT LAW

Monday..... Read Psalm 19:7-11

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul." Man's laws, however noble the intent, fall far short of perfection. There have been some very good ones, just as the Constitution of the United States of America, but even those honorable statesmen demonstrated their fallibility by including in this supreme law of the land a provision for amending. That is an admission that it was not perfect. God's Word has never had the need to be updated. It is perfect, both historically through all the ages of man, and it is perfect for today. Not to abide by the law of God means trouble because man is imperfect. When the United States put the Bible out of her system of public education, they trained our youth with inferior laws, and that has led us into an age of spiritual darkness. Without the supreme authority, it has been difficult to ascertain what is right and wrong. It is now left for debate, and there is disagreement and finger pointing for the problems. The problem is we abandoned the perfect law of God, the real determinant of what is right and what is wrong, the very thing God told us would happen in Isaiah 5:20: *"Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil: that put darkness for light, and light for darkness."* The only solution is to return to the perfect law of God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

DIVINE PARDON

Tuesday..... Read Isaiah 55:6-11

"Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." The most thrilling news a person who has been sentenced to a death penalty could possibly receive is that they have been the beneficiary of a pardon. They are now free! To have that declaration of freedom because God has issued a pardon from the penalty of eternal death in hell is a possibility for every human being because Jesus had come to fulfill the law and the prophets as He mentioned in Matthew 5:17: *"Think not that I have come to destroy the law and the prophets, I am not come to destroy, but fulfill."* Jesus did that as a substitute for all people, and God applies His payment for sin as the sufficient payment for any and all who confess their sins and

receive Him as personal Savior! This is the greatest offer ever made by anyone! Eternal life is a free gift paid for by the blood of Jesus on the cross at Calvary. It is the epitome of love: God's love for mankind!

FOREKNOWLEDGE OF GOD

WednesdayRead Revelation 13:4-8

"And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." Yes, our omniscient God with perfect foreknowledge was able to write the names of all human beings who would become people of faith even before He had created one person. God knew about you and me from before His creation and recorded our names in His family registry long before we heard of Jesus. This is good, because there are those who wonder how a person could be condemned to eternal death if they had never heard of Jesus. God knows whether or not they would believe if they heard, and He will send someone with the Gospel message anywhere if He knows a person in a remote part of earth would respond to His offer of eternal salvation. No one who would believe will be left unreached. No unbeliever will have a legitimate excuse, and will suffer that sentence at the final judgment.

FAMILY OF GOD

Thursday Read John 1:9-14

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He the power to be called the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." Of all the many benefits of accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord of our lives, perhaps the most precious is that God considers us part of His family. That means that God, the Creator of the universe, is our Father in a relational sense. Many call God the Father of creation, and that is true, but that simply means He is our Maker. To receive Christ means we are in a personal relationship with Him in His family, that we have been born into His family as Jesus explained in John 3:1-7. Jesus accentuated this relationship when He taught us in Matthew 6:9 to pray by addressing God as *"Our Father who art in heaven."* God is our Provider, our Protector, our Divine Parent!

SOWING SEEDS

Friday Read Psalm 126:2-6

"They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him." As children of God, we are in the family business! And what is the business of God our Father on His earth today? It is exactly what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18: *"I will build my church."* Much of the Old Testament is about the nation of Israel, another major project of God when He chose the descendants of Abraham to be His nation through which He would work on His planet earth. It is into that nation that He sent His Son to be the Savior and ultimately the King of kings. First, He would build His Church comprised of those who place their faith in Jesus His Son. That is the message God wants all to hear. That is to be accomplished by Christians sharing God's truth, what Jesus called planting seeds of truth into the minds of others so they will know how to get right with God. The Holy Spirit can then use those seeds planted in the hearts of people to take root and bring forth fruit.

FAITHFUL WITNESSES

Saturday Read Revelation 3:7-11

"I know thy works: behold I have set before thee an open door; and no man can shut it; for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name...Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon the whole world, to them who are upon the earth." In this letter to the Church at Ephesus, that is written for our instruction, we see that believers who *"keep the word."* honor

God. Well, the final instruction that Jesus gave before returning to heaven was that His people should be His witnesses and take the gospel to the entire world. The United States is part of that world, and every city, town, suburb, and country is part of that world. God has His witnesses everywhere, and we are privileged to be His witnesses where we are. The question is whether or not we place that sharing His truth to build the church as a high priority. It certainly is our highest privilege!