

## **Predestination and Blotting Out**

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### **Who gets blotted out of the book of life?**

This subject is always of interest and importance to all who ponder the ways of God Almighty and what He has in store for us. Since true Christians wish to uphold God's Written Word as the basis of our faith and hope while in a restless world, it can be a perplexing quandary when we run into a Scriptural premise that seems a bit contradictory or at least confusing. Is there an answer for our mortal and limited understanding in trying to figure out why the Scriptures teach predestination unto life everlasting and at the same time teach that people can have their names blotted out of the book of life?

It seems illogical to our reasoning that if God predestined people for eternal life that when they "mess up" He all of a sudden reneges on His previously secure predestination mandate, and wipes that person's name out of the book of life. If God knew from the start that an individual would not cut the mustard, then why did He choose a person for predestined salvation in the first place? Are we to assume that a mortal sinner can upend God's powerful decrees, and in his weakness of sin negate holy predestination of eternal salvation which the Scriptures say was commanded by The Almighty before the person was even born?

Ug – headache of headaches. Do we even want to try to figure this out? Well we can't. But God is merciful to us in that He does provide answers when we have patience in reading His Word and seek the truth as children coming before a loving Father who cares for us. What saith the Scriptures? First off they tell us that predestination is true.

*“Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will.” (Ephesians 1:5)*

*“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will.” (Ephesians 1:11)*

*“For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” (Romans 8:29)*

*“Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.” (Romans 8:30)*

*“Ye have not chosen me, but I (Jesus) have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, He may give it you.” (John 15:16)*

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” (John 10:28)*

*“ 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.” (Revelation 3:5)*

*“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:5)*

*“All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” (John 6:37)*

*“But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Master, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:” (II Thessalonians 2:13)*

Therefore Christ says that since a person is pre-chosen and born into the book of life then he/she has eternal life and shall never perish. This is true because they were predestined into Christ by God, as we read above. Yet with all this, there are those who were actually at one point in time found in the book of life, but can be blotted out of it.

*“And Yahweh said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.” (Exodus 32:33)*

*“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.” (Psalms 69:28)*

*“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” (Revelation 22:19)*

So God says that He had predetermined that Christians would be conformed to the image of His Son and He justified them; plus Christ says that Christians have eternal life and will never perish since they are written in the book of life, which is predestined. But the Scriptures also show that people who are written in God’s Book of Life can be blotted out of it. Thus, people can’t be blotted out because they are locked in by God’s predestination and the overcoming blood of Christ, but nevertheless people are blotted out. How is this possible?

Who is blotted out of the book of life, and why?

One maxim that is helpful to our understanding is that whenever we come across a subject in the Bible that may seem inconsistent when comparing verses, or which results in a state of confusion, it is on our part and it is not on the part of the Word of God. In regard to being blotted out of the book of life the “problem” rests upon the fact that we have failed to realize what that term means as applied to the sovereignty of God and what our place is in His divine plan. By “God’s sovereignty” it is meant that God Almighty is supreme in what He does and He is not ever thwarted in bringing to pass all things according to His will, including predestination. In other words – He

runs the show. This is expressly true when concerning whom it is that God has predestined to have everlasting life and those whom He has not so chosen. The Scriptures record that our resurrection into the next age and on into eternity is given to us as a gift of mercy which we cannot and do not earn by any of our merits or works. This does not mean that we avoid “good works” but that those works follow after those who are already predisposed to believe. Good works are the fruit of true belief but they are not the approach to eternal salvation.

*“And when the Gentiles heard this (the Gospel preached to them), they were glad, and glorified the word of the Master: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.” (Acts 13:48)*

John Gill’s Expositor appropriately comments on this verse: “---- to eternal life”; i.e. in the book of life; and designs no other than predestination or election, which is God’s act, and is an eternal one; is sovereign, irrespective, and unconditional; relates to particular persons, and is sure and certain in its effect: it is an ordination, not to an office, nor to the means of grace, but to grace and glory itself; to a life of grace which is eternal, and to a life of glory which is for ever; and which is a pure gift of God, is in the hands of Christ”

*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Master.” (Romans 6:23)*

*“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)*

*“Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift.” [His Son] (II Cor. 9:15)*

All of God’s chosen, and so gifted, are written in the book of life. They cannot lose salvation. They cannot be “blotted out” nor do they need to worry their entire Earthly life that they “may be blotted out”. But since there are those who obviously can be “blotted out” then we must come to the conclusion that either God’s Word on salvation is a contradiction, or we have missed a dual meaning about the term “The book of life” which has not been comprehended. Since we know that the former option is not a possibility, it leaves us with the latter option as being our heretofore unknown answer.

We need to ask “What is the *nature* of the book of life and what is the entire story of that book within the history of our Saxon Israelite race as recorded in the Scriptures?” We’ll need to dig into this from both the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures. When we set about to dig for the “buried treasure” about this most amazing life book we find revealed a stark difference between the status of those written in “the book of life” and those written in “the book of life from the foundation of the world”.

As the story of the divine life book unfolds we become aware that “the book of life” is a symbolic term used to describe all those who profess to be in the covenant of God through Christ. That is: the visible church [Ecclesia in NT Greek]. This can include those who truly are covenant Christians by chosen election (predestined), and those who say they are but really are not and were never chosen. This whole group makes up the entire assembly of the visible congregation in the Earth. The book of life in this manner is a roster of all those who profess to be Christians, who attend a church, are members of a ministry, who have home services in the name of Christianity, or even solitarily profess Christ. All these comprise God’s House of the collective and visible assembly in the Earth. Within this visible house of God we will find two groups of people. True (real) Christians, and false (self deceived) “Christians”. This is born out in the Scriptures with reference to the visible body of Christ, that is to say: the external church [Ecclesia in Greek]. Only God for absolute certainty knows who is who.

*“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?”* (Romans 9:21)

*“Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Master knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

*But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.*” (II Timothy 2:19,20)

The vessels of honor (true Christians) and the vessels of dishonor (false Christians) all profess Christ and are all listed in the visible “roster” just as a team has a roster of all who are members. In the

final end only the “gold and silver” will have made it through the refining fire of God’s dynamic plan of the ages because they were predestined to do so and are enabled by the mercy of God to do so. The “wood and earth” (dry, void of spirit, and earthly) shall be revealed at the appointed time and they will be removed or “blotted out” of the assembly roster (the book of life, the visible assembly) because they were never really true to “the team” in the first place but were self deceived and dishonor God by entertaining false doctrine, divisions, and heresies while residing in the House (the visible assembly). They do not permanently belong in the book of life (the visible assembly roster list).

So too the parable of the sweeping fish net (Mt 13:47-49) which collects and draws together both good and bad “fish”. But while hidden in the water these cannot be distinguished apart. Only after brought out for keen examination is the difference known, so believers and unbelievers continue in the same assembly, until the final verdict reveals the dissimilarity. And it is here we see the difference between being entered into “the book of life” and having been entered into “the book of life from the foundation of the world”.

The “book of life” *represents* God’s Christian assembly in the Earth. The term is a metaphor likened to a list of all who are in the *visible* assembly, both “good and bad fish” taken up into the Christian net of God’s House. But at judgment, the unchosen are cast away.

Matthew 13:

*47 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:*

*48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away.*

*49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,*

*50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”*

The “book of life from the foundation of the world” represents a roster of those who were predestined and chosen by grace unto everlasting salvation and who cannot be dissuaded by false doctrines

that rob and destroy the covenant in Christ. The general heathen population of the world (never in the book at all) can be so dissuaded because they are not found listed in the “book of life from the foundation of the world”.

*“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.”* (Revelation 13:8)

*“The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.”* (Revelation 17:8)

This furthermore proves the “flip side” in that there are those who are written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world who will not worship the beast and who cannot be deceived. It is these whom Christ refers to when He says:

*“And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”* (John 10:28) These cannot lose their predestined salvation or their loyalty to Christ even if enticed by false prophets. They are firm in The Faith (Jude 1:3) by way of predestination decreed by God the Father before the foundation of the world.

The difference between the two distinctions of the nature of the “book of life” may be drawn from a position of who joined the “team roster” when, and under what conditions. A coach may well choose an elite team of players and then vacate the training camp for a visit home. When upon his return to the training camp he finds many others not of his choosing to have joined the team and signed unto the roster (the team’s book). The teammates may all profess to be on the team, wear the team uniform, go through the team drills, and ride on the team bus. But not all members actually belong to the coach’s chosen team from the foundation of it. All these may actually represent the team in the public’s eyes but the coach knows whom he has chosen and he may rid the team of the imposters any time he decides.

We find this scenario to have been the case in ancient Israel as the book of life represented a roster of all who were in national Israel. This included those who could be removed from that national covenant roster (the book of life) **and** those who could not be removed from it (because they were spiritually written into the true national covenant book of life from the foundation of the world).

Both the true believers and false temporary believers were in the national assembly “book of life” when Moses, commissioned by God, brought them out of Egypt. Jude reminds us that things haven’t changed from those ancient days. We can have vessels of dishonor right in the New Testament assembly just as Israel’s national assembly had false claimants of the covenant back then.

*“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness (false NT teachers within), and denying the only Yahweh God, and our Master Jesus Christ.*

*I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that Yahweh, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.” (Jude 4,5)*

We know that “*them that believed not*” were written into the book of life of national Israel because God said that He would have to remove them from the book. Let’s see what God did when the people made the golden calf as Moses was on the Mount conversing with Yahweh:

Exodus 32:

*30 “And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto Yahweh; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.*

*31 And Moses returned unto Yahweh, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.*

*32 Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

*33 And Yahweh said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.”*

Moses was a sinner as we all are. But he couldn’t be blotted out because he was a true covenant believer in Christ even at that time

(Hebrews 11:26). By the predetermined mercy of God it was as if Moses was free from sin because he was written in the book of life from the foundation of the world. By the blood of Christ Moses' sins were absolved and removed from the equation "before the foundation of the world". However, as Jude explains, those who really did not believe although were in the national assembly book of life were destroyed – blotted out of the book – blotted out of the visible "church in the wilderness" (Acts 7:38)

This answers our question of how a person may be in the "book of life" (the visible assembly) yet blotted out of that book. "*Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel.*" (Romans 9:6) Only those who are written in the book of life from the foundation of the world are of true covenant Israel through the blood of Christ, even though many in the assembly, listed in the book of life temporarily are not eternally saved believers by predestination.

Yahweh said: "*Let me alone, that I may destroy them, and blot out their name from under heaven: and I will make of thee a nation mightier and greater than they.*" (Deuteronomy 9:14) Moses pleaded with Yahweh to not destroy Israel at Mt. Sinai for the sake of Yahweh's reputation. The divine destruction was then delayed for a while, but overtook Israel eventually when that generation was not permitted to enter the Promised Land because "of their unbelief". That is -- the land of Canaan (the rest from 40 years of wandering), for they died by the plague before Yahweh, and their carcasses fell in the wilderness, before they came to it. (Numbers 14:29,37,45).

Let's keep in mind that all of these people fulfilled the obedient covenant requirement of circumcision (the sign of being on the "roster") and were officially in "the church in the wilderness". Yet they were blotted out of life in the new Kingdom land, never entering into that next age. This was highly prophetic in itself and held clear ramifications as to the latter day New Testament assembly concerning a person's spiritual status. The Scriptures clearly record that a person is either chosen by predestination for everlasting life in God's Kingdom or not. Any attempts of our own actions at entering the Kingdom by hope of a voluntary deed have not one thing to do with it. Sins will keep you out of the Kingdom. We all have sinned.

The Savior's atonement must apply if entrance is to be achieved but that atonement does not apply to all. To illustrate: A New Testament member joined into the "book of life" (the visible assembly membership roster) can no more count on water baptism to get into the eternal Kingdom any more than those Israelites who were circumcised could depend on that sign to secure entrance into the promised land. Nobody becomes a true Christian by getting water baptized. That is false doctrine primarily espoused by the Roman Catholic Church. It is a false hope doctrine that will send a person down the wrong path of other false doctrines of man's religion in a domino affect of destruction. A true covenant Christian already was a true covenant Christian before he/she was born into this life because God is sovereign and God says so. The Almighty need not explain why He has chosen certain ones in the manner He has; nor does He need to justify His will.

The fact that He has done what He has done is all the sufficiency we need to agree with His righteousness. God knows what is in each person's heart even if a person is deceived by that heart. Such a person can be in the congregation (written in the book of life) which represents God's House in the Earth yet be following the drunkenness of false doctrines of unrighteousness:

Deuteronomy 29:

*"18 Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from Yahweh our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood;*

*19 And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:*

*20 Yahweh will not spare him, but then the anger of Yahweh and His jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and Yahweh shall blot out his name from under heaven."*

There is one baptism (Ephesians 4:5) and it is of the Spirit of God.

*"One Master, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5)*

*“For by one Spirit are we all baptized (immersed) into one body, whether we be Judeans or of the Nations, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)*

*“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:*

*That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also **after that ye believed**, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”* (Ephesians 1:11-13 i.e. The Spirit coincides with true belief (not water baptism). A person is gladly water baptized because he IS a Christian, not to become a Christian. Water baptism represents the true one baptism – immersed in Spirit unto life in Christ.)

*“But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Romans 8:11)*

Since there is only one baptism (spiritual) which is unto life everlasting, then water baptism is formally a representation of the one true baptism. A person can be water baptized and join the visible body of believers and even represent the House of God in the Earth. In this way he has been written into the book of life (for now) just as many were written into the congregational book of life of ancient Israel and were circumcised. But if that person was never written into the book of life from the foundation of the world (predestinated) he has climbed into the book in a way that is not lasting or valid and will be removed in a future appointed time, just as those circumcised self- deceived “believers” within ancient Israel were “blotted out” of the book. They didn’t really believe. They assumed they believed.

Summarizing then: The Book of Life represents the roster of all who are in God’s visible assembly in the Earth. Neither water baptism nor circumcision are capable of securing entrance into the eternal promised Kingdom because those actions are symbolic in scope. Likewise, neither then is inclusion in the Book of Life (Christ’s visible church membership) an assurance which guarantees against a “blotting out” from that book. We have noted repeated Scripture

showing this Gospel truth. Only chosen and predestinated Christians wear the robes of righteousness freely given them by their Savior, the Holy One of Israel. Only these cannot be blotted out of the book of life.

The understanding and submission to the truth of God's sovereignty concerning predestination of salvation unlocks other perplexing issues that have bothered our limited reasoning as men. The example of an unbelieving husband or wife being sanctified by a believing spouse is one such matter we can now review since we have grasped the significance of how a person can be blotted out of the book of life. We know that in all Scriptural honesty a person must be a true believer if he/she is to be a party to the eternal covenant of God in Christ. Yet some say that if a husband or wife shows no signs (or fruit) of being a sincere Christian that individual is still sanctified by his believing spouse and he/she is brought into the eternal Kingdom because of it. The verses cited are:

I Corinthians 7:

*"12 But to the rest speak I, not the Master: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away.*

*13 And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him.*

*14 For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy."*

Are we to say that the unbelieving husband or wife would become holy, or be a true Christian, by the mere fact of a connection with a Christian? Hardly, for this would do violence to the Word of God in many places the reader should well know. It would be contrary to Scriptural truth.

But if we see these verses in context with the truth that the book of life represents the entire visible assembly of the House of God in the Earth (which it does), then we realize that this husband is tied into a Christian home and is included in God's plans to use him presently for the sake of the children not having a split family. The husband is not destined for the eternal Kingdom but he is in a Christian home

which may be used of God for God's great purpose throughout the marital life. The wife or husband in this case can be "sanctified" (set apart) for God's use in the visible community, but it has nothing to do with being justified to enter everlasting life prepared for the true saints of God.

This may prompt husbands or wives who have a dedicated spouse and think that they may ride their saintly spouse's coat-tails into the Kingdom (while all along they disgrace the name of Christ by their improper actions) to rethink their evidence of proper fruits or lack thereof. Nobody will be fooling God by citing these verses to Him and retorting "Hey, my spouse was loyal to you, how about letting me into your Kingdom". It doesn't work like that. I Corinthians 7:12-14 is stating that an unbelieving husband or wife should remain in the Christian immediate household as one with the believing spouse for the sake of the children. In other words he/she is sanctified (set apart) by God to stay in the family and God will not curse the union because of pify for the children. However, the unbelieving spouse is not sanctified unto life eternal within the scope of these verses.

Additionally, if one of the spouses was not a believer in the first place, they may divest themselves from any direct or indirect connection with the book of life (visible assembly roster) on their own and should not be badgered back into the house: *"But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace."* (verse 15) Paul says here that desertion in such a case, and attended with such circumstances, is a breach of the marriage contract, and a dissolution of the bond, as is unfaithful adulterous relations in a marriage of two believers (Mat.19:9) God isn't bothered if a non-believer wishes to voluntarily remove himself from His book's list, the registry of the assembly community, -- if he wants out "let him depart".

The realization that the book of life represents all of the assembly people as visibly seen (both "saved" and "unsaved") it furthermore explains how some could have witnessed great things of the Holy Spirit and then be lost to a falling away. The external assembly of God's House contains those who cannot lose salvation, and also those who never actually possessed it. God permits it for a greater purpose of expanding His Earthly arrangement of history.

Hebrews 6:

*“4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,*

*5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,*

*6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”*

“Once enlightened” is not the same as “once eternally saved”. Those who are written in the book of life of the *external* congregation of the House of God, but are not chosen by *eternal* predestination certainly can and have witnessed all of the Spirit filled happenings that have taken place within the House of God. These verses do not speak of or refer to the elect in Christ who are His by predestination from the foundation of the world and who cannot lose their salvation. The antichrist Jews themselves actually “tasted” (witnessed) many miracles performed by Christ yet they were far from God’s Kingdom promises. Those mentioned by Paul here in Hebrews 6 were never true believers. Their “repentance” was superficial. They were fruitless “thorns” who were in the House of God and yet received the water of the Word by being in the assembly, but their end is destruction and not life everlasting. Paul so states this in the following verses of this chapter:

*“7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:*

*8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned. (i.e. – blotted out)*

*9 But, beloved, **we are persuaded** better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.”*

Of what “better things” was Paul persuaded? The things that belong to true believers ordained unto salvation from the foundation of the world. “*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 5:13)*

True believers know. There is no doubt in the mind or heart of the true believer. He can do nothing of his own to secure eternal salvation and he admits it. Christ has done it all for the true believer and we can lean ON His name (reputation and authority) that He has secured everlasting life for us.

There surely may be in each local fellowship those who have professed Christ and been party to prayer, healings, and services, yet we are told that some of these joined to the Christian body of believers never were true to the eternal covenant in Christ. Such ones as these can be rooted out by God at any time or they may leave on their own.

*“They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.” (1 John 2:19)*

“This passage proves that these persons, whatever their pretensions and professions may have been, were never sincere Christians. There could not be a more positive affirmation than that which is implied here, that those who are true Christians will continue to be such; or that the saints will not fall away from grace.”—*Barnes New Testament notes on I John 2:19*

The message contained in Hebrews 6:4-9 (pg. 13 “those who fall away”) runs parallel to the teaching that “branches” can be pruned off of Christ’s own “vine” and be discarded for burning. As I John 2:19 says “made to be manifest that they were not of us”.

John 15:

*“1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.*

*2 **Every branch in me** that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

*5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him**, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

*6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.”*

This section in John has been used to teach that Christ’s true faithful can lose eternal salvation because they reside in the vine (Christ) but can be purged out of it depending on their works. But that doctrine is non-Scriptural and is based on a reasoning that is not aware of the true nature of the book of life. Christ clearly states here that there are those who are “in Him” (v.2) yet they *do not abide* in Him (v. 5). Only those who abide in Him can bring forth fruit. This is another example of the same principle of the book of life in that the book is a roster of all within the *visible* assembly, which roster contains those who profess Christ superficially and those who are predestinated unto eternal life. Just as the superficial Christians of the visible roster (the book) can be blotted out, so too those who are in the vine yet do not really abide in Christ can be purged out. We saw the same with ancient Israel. The entire congregational nation was sanctified (separated) as a vehicle to be used of God, but within were those who could be “cut off” “blotted out”. Not all were real chosen spiritual Israelites but they were all listed in God’s book and they all represented Him as His nation.

This also sheds more light on the meaning of “many are called but few are chosen” (Mat.22:14). Many may be called Christians in a congregational assembly but few are chosen from the foundation of the world. Neither the “briars and thorns” of Hebrews 6:8 nor the “withered branches” of John 15:6 can bear fruit of the works of the Spirit. But both are nominally “in Christ” however they do not truly “abide” in Christ. They will be pruned out because they don’t really belong with the “herb blessing” (Heb.6) or the “true vine branches” (John 15) and never possessed salvation from the beginning.

*“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*

*Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.” (Mat.7:13,14)*

*“Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:”* (Romans 9:27) The implication is a remnant only.

It has always been only a remnant that has carried the torch of true worship of the Scriptural *“faith which was once delivered unto the saints”* (Jude 1:3) That remnant in any given age could be larger or smaller, that is possibly 10% of a national population or as low as 0.01% depending on circumstances. Of course this is only a sheer guess for example sake as only Yahweh knows His own truly chosen ones. It seems evident however that in America the Saxon Christian Israelite remnant was at a higher percentage in 1776 as opposed to today which is obviously very small. We appear to have come full circle to our ancient predicament as we remember the words of Ezra the scribe, *“And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from Yahweh our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail (solid hold) in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.”* (Ezra 9:8)

But aren't we told that all Israel shall be saved?

*“And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:”* (Romans 11:26)

This verse does not say that all *Israelites* (Strong's Grk.#2475) from all ages will be saved. It refers to the national state of *Israel* (Strong's Grk.#2474) according to the promises of God that He would in time restore the nation to its proper state of dominion in the Earth. Prophetic “Jerusalem” is the New Jerusalem of God's latter day Kingdom Israel nation. As hopefully the reader knows, this does not mean “Jews” but those of the seed of Isaac today called the Saxon Christian race gathered from the various nations.

*“At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of Yahweh; and all the nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of Yahweh, to Jerusalem: neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart.”* (Jeremiah 3:17)

*“Yahweh also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but Yahweh will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am Yahweh your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.” (Joel 3:16,17)*

*“Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.” (Micah 7:18)*

*“Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the mercy to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old.” (Micah 7:20)*

In the phrase “all Israel shall be saved” (Rom.11:26) we take note that in the Greek text it is an adjective phrase. That is: “saved” here is a verbal adjective. It describes a state of the nation Israel when this age comes to fulfillment. We may liken this to an example such as “all birds will be blue” as opposed to “all birds will be caught”. There is no direct verb action upon the word “Israel” in this sentence as if to say “all Israelites are going to be saved”. It is only an indirect verbal action. Rather it describes the state of the perfected nation which will be made up of the predestined chosen remnant from the ages at resurrection and therefore “all of the nation of Israel at that time shall be a saved Israel (comprised of those predestined for salvation)” --- the confirming witness is in Joel 3:17 (above) “then shall (new) Jerusalem be holy (adj.), and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.” – which means the same as “all Israel (national) shall **be saved** (adj.)”, that is – holy.

A word of clarity is in order so there isn't a misunderstanding that “good works” mean nothing. They do. They just aren't the mode for anyone securing salvation because the Scriptures record that God in the person of Jesus Christ has saved His chosen ones. Furthermore salvation is a gift and a gift cannot be earned. A gift is freely given to the recipient. The true Christian is even more humbled than ever to realize how great a gift has been given us by God considering the

darkness of sin in our lives. The key factor is that God's chosen remnant individual will not be dominated by sin in his life although the carnal side will always be a struggle until we are resurrected anew from death in the grave. Scriptures make a definite difference between those who are repeated habitual sinners and enjoy it (Gal.5:21); and those who are children of God and stumble in sin at a weak time and repent of it (stop the sin) with contrite confession to the Father (I John 1:9). There has been a significant misquote of a well known verse relating to this. Most English Bibles have these words of Jesus as:

*"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* (John 14:15)

These are good words indeed but they miss the point made by our Savior in the Greek New Testament text. The literal Greek of this verse reads:

*"If you should be loving me, you will be keeping my commandments"* (Concordant Literal New Testament, pg.263)

This was a statement of fact by Jesus, not an "if/or else" situation, or a suggestion. This is what a chosen remnant believer son or daughter of God does. He/she follows Christ. Our Master repeats this a few verses later:

*"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* (John 14:23)

In this way good works are revealed as the proof that a person is elect and predestined for salvation. The individual wants to obey God and does. And the reason he does is because Christ said that those who love Him will be keeping His commandments. But the works don't earn a person's eternal life, a belief that is ego based and doomed to fail – "Look what I did – I quit cussing, I stopped using drugs, I got water baptized, I celebrate God's Feast days – (etc., etc)" Good works as opposed to bad works affect a person's or nation's blessings and curses in the "here and now", but only God Almighty can save a person from the eternally lost state of being a sinner. And it is clearly a gift He has done for us that we cannot ever earn by

works. If men could have been saved by their own good works, there would have been no need of salvation by the Redeemer.

*“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration (not water), and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”* (Titus 3:5)

*“But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”* (Isaiah 64:6)

*“If I justify myself, mine own mouth shall condemn me: if I say, I am perfect, it shall also prove me perverse.”* (Job 9:20)

*“For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of Him that calleth;”* “As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” (Romans 9:11,13)

*“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)

It is these who are saved by the grace of our eternal King who are written in the book of life from the foundation of the world because they are both called and chosen. It is these who shall never be “blotted out” of that book. King David himself testified in many Bible passages that He knew that Yahweh God had saved him for all of eternity. Yet David also knew that in God’s “book of life” (the national “church” roster) there are to be found the unrighteous quite deserving of divine retribution.

Psalm 69:

*“12 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards. 13 But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O YAHWEH, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.*

*27 Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.*

28 *Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

29 *But I am poor and sorrowful: let thy salvation, O God, set me up on high.*”

Those who “sit at the gate” are the respected assembly ordained magistrates, judges, and princes, who at the city gates listened to cases brought by the people and decided judgments of law. (Ru 4:1 La 5:14 Zec 8:16.) Yet David knew their hypocrisy and how they even turned against him as King. These sorts are unrighteous and yet are **in** God’s “roster book of life” or David would not have prayed that they should be “blotted out”. This is a prime example of how both the unrighteous and the righteous can be written in the book of life.

But who are the righteous except those whom God has made righteous, not by any so-called respected church position or duty, but by the sacrifice of His only begotten Son?

*“For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Corinthians 5:21)

*“For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness (works), have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God (His grace).”* (Rom.10:3)

*“Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began”* (II Timothy 1:9)

The teaching that the book of life contains only the righteous but that these can lose eternal salvation by doing “evil works” is not true. It denies the sovereignty and the predetermined will of God. The problem with this deceiving doctrine of men is that it “cubby-holes” the mode of salvation back into the ego trip of salvation being the result of our works. It renounces the great truth of spiritual reality in that sinful man is hopelessly lost forever and cannot under any circumstance save himself. Salvation is also not The Cross *plus* some church action to “make sure” or “help out” God’s plan. That mode of thinking only adulterates what God has said is purely His. He Himself has saved His own. Eternal salvation is not The Cross *plus*

“doing good” “attending holy days” “getting water baptized” “passing out Christian tracts” or any other deed. Eternal salvation is by The Cross –period! And it was God’s merits, not our, by which everlasting life has been secured.

Here is where false doctrine enters in to mesmerize unsuspecting people into believing that sacraments of priestcraft hold the “way” to life everlasting. (ala – pray on beads, drink communion wine said to be divine blood, get water baptized their way, crawl to an altar on knees, rub oil on people or items trying to chase out evil, kiss a statue, on and on and on).

What has happened in several institutional sects is that honorable Christian memorials (baptism, bread and wine, feast days, etc.) have been transformed into sacraments intended to be rituals of our efforts in attempts to make God do something. Or worse – if we do enough of these sacraments supposedly we can earn our way into eternal life. These are imperfect thoughts of “religion” and actions of the “lost”, not of the remnant of God’s elect in Christ. Not one person truly chosen in Christ “before the world began” can nor will lose eternal life. God Himself has promised it.

The Scriptures equally proclaim that those who profess Christ while lusting in evil works, using the Cross as a free ticket to sin, never were chosen in the first place. (Gal.6:7,8; Rom.1:18; Gal.5:19-21), Therefore “works” do have their place – proof of love for our Savior.

In conclusion the Scriptures reveal, as we have seen, that the visible national assembly of God’s House contains all the names of those representing that house in the Earth, and that this “roster” is the Book of Life. Both the unrighteous and the righteous of Saxon Israel are written therein for the purpose of God’s great plan. The heathen races of the world never were in the Book of Life at all and are outside of this discussion. The unrighteous of God’s House (false “Christians”) will be blotted out in due time. *“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Eternal salvation is a free gift that Yahweh God Almighty has given to His chosen elect sons and daughters. His Word promises that God has no intention of blotting out His chosen sons and daughters from

the book of life written from the foundation of the world. Yahweh God has eternally saved us and that worry is forever off of our backs. We are now free to teach and pursue the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in the Earth with all the zeal, energy, and strength that The Almighty has bestowed upon us. Hallelujah!