

# NAMES WRITTEN IN HEAVEN

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Hebrews 12:22-23 tells us that, as Christians, we “are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, *which are written in heaven.*” The letter from Jesus Christ to his church in Sardis in Revelation 2:5 also teaches that overcoming sin is a condition for Christians not to have their names blotted out of the book of life. Therefore, it is vitally important to our eternal salvation both to understand what we must do to have our names written in heaven and then to keep them written there.

## **Those in the church have their names written in heaven**

The scriptures teach that the point when we are added by God to His church is when we are baptized into Christ. For example, on the Day of Pentecost, after Peter had commanded all the people to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38), Acts 2:41 says, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Acts 2:47 says that the Lord added to the church daily such as were being saved. Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18 teach that the church is the body of Christ, and 1 Corinthians 12:13 says that “by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.” Therefore, we become a member of the church of Christ when we partake of the “one baptism” (Eph 4:5), the baptism of Christ. Since Hebrews 12:22-23 teaches that those who are in the Lord’s church have their names written in heaven, it must be concluded that the moment we are baptized into Christ is when God writes our name into the book of life in heaven.

## **Those who overcome sin will keep their names written in heaven**

When Moses was in Mount Sinai receiving the law from God, Aaron and the people of Israel made a golden calf to worship. At that time, “Moses returned unto the Lord, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. *And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book*” (Num 32:31-33). This teaches the important lesson that a child of God who falls into sin

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and does not repent will have his name blotted out of the book of life. The same principle is taught in the New Testament, as seen in Christ's letter to the church in Sardis. In Revelation 3:5, the Lord says, "*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.*" It is sad to hear so many contend that it is impossible to stop committing sin. That would mean it is impossible to overcome sin, and then no one would be able to keep their name in the book of life! In 2 Peter 2:9-14, those who are reserved unto the day of judgment to be punished and will "receive the reward of unrighteousness" include those "*that cannot cease from sin.*" If we continue to fall to temptation and never stop, then we will not be in God's house. In John 8:32, Jesus says the truth will make us free. He also said, "*Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" (John 8:34-36). The truth that will set us free by enabling us not to continue to commit sin and thus be the slave of sin is God's word (John 17:17). Indeed, God's word is written unto us that we would sin not (1 John 2:1), and by keeping that word, God's love will be perfected in us (1 John 2:5). God's word contains His armor that will give us the victory against the wiles of the devil and all of his flaming arrows (Eph 6:10-18). That is a much more encouraging outcome than perpetual defeat that causes our names to be blotted out of the book of life!

## **Why we need our names written in heaven**

Revelation 20:15 says, "*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*" Revelation 21:27 says concerning the eternal city, that "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.*" There can be no doubt that where we spend our eternity depends upon whether or not our name is written in heaven. Therefore, we need to make certain that we have our name written there to begin with, and that we then keep it there to the end.