"Are you in the Book?"
Revelation 20:11-15

C.I.T.—Those whose names are in the Book of Life will be acquitted on the Great Day of Judgment.
C.I.S.—Make sure your name is written in the Book of Life.
Purpose—I want to encourage those whose name is already in the book with assurance and those who are not to accept Christ.
Introduction—If God said, "Why should I let you into Heaven?"

I. A Judgment to Face

a. Great White Throne, earth and heavens flee
    i. God's Sovereignty—Great throne
    ii. God's Holiness—white
    iii. God's Omnipotence—creation flees
    iv. God's Omniscience—no place to hide
b. Resurrection of the Dead
    i. Great and small—all of them
    ii. Sea, death, and hades gave up their dead.
        1. People who died at sea.
        2. People who were buried in the ground.
        3. Souls who were in Hades.
    iii. Resurrection of the dead
        1. John 5: 25-30
        2. Revelation 20:4-6
    iv. These then represent the resurrected who are facing judgment and condemnation.
c. Judgment of the Resurrected
    i. Books of deeds—these "books" recorded all of the actions, thoughts, and motives of every person.
    ii. Book of Life—represents the register of citizens for life—a metaphor that is found throughout Scripture of a list of saved people
    iii. They faced judgment based on what was found in the books.
d. Hebrews 9:27
e. Illus.—Find out about days that will happen in the future: Test on syllabus, certain physical exams, loved ones are going to die one day, one day you will become the second most important man in your daughters' life, and then this judgment.
f. Application
    i. We will all have to face the music for what we have done.
    ii. We cannot get away from it.
    iii. You will not get away from what you have done, God will not forget it, it is written down and will be recalled.

II. A Punishment to Fear.

a. The books will reveal that we all are guilty against a holy God.—Romans 3:23
b. The Second Death—Lake of Fire
    i. **Rev. 19:20**—fire, burning with sulfur
    ii. **Rev. 20:10**—devil—eternal torment

iii. **Rev. 20:14**—Death and hades—death, sin, etc. will be thrown in
iv. **Rev. 20: 15**—Those not written in the book of life will be thrown in

c. **Romans 6:23**—The second death is the punishment for sin.
d. Illus.—Hopefully parents will forget
e. Application
   i. Almighty God will not forget.
   ii. He is just and must punish sin.
   iii. He cannot simply overlook or forget it because he is a just and holy God.
   iv. This punishment will take place.

III. A Savior to Follow

a. The Book of Life
   i. Everyone is guilty of sin and therefore worthy of death.
   ii. However, there is an appeal process—the Book of Life.
   iii. The Lamb's book of life contains the holy and righteous and forgiven.
b. For these, Jesus paid the penalty for their sins and therefore they are free.
   i. **Romans 5:8**—died to take our place
   ii. **Romans 8:1**—no condemnation
c. Illus.—Wyatt—Civil War
d. Application
   i. John 5:24
   ii. Hear, believe, and follow Jesus.
   iii. When we make the initial decision to follow Jesus, he applies his death to our account and pays for our sin.
   iv. **Romans 6:23**—eternal life in Christ

Conclusion

- If I am to stand before God, I will not talk about how great I am, but will simply say, "check the Book."
- Is your name written in the book?
- Have you made the initial decision to follow Jesus.
- Decision Cards

Stephen Olford <u>Not I But Christ</u>—pg. 50

"He tells of an incident during the American Civil War when men were drawn by lot to join the army. A man named Wyatt was called up to fight for the South. He was the sole breadwinner for his very large family. Realizing this hardship, another young man named Pratt volunteered to go instead. He was accepted and drafted to the front, *bearing the name and number of Wyatt*.

Eventually Pratt was killed in battle, and having died as the substitute and in the name of the other man, the full name of Wyatt was recorded as killed in action. At a later date Wyatt was again called up for service, but at the recruiting office he calmly stated that *he had already died*. When the entry was researched, it was discovered that although the real

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Wyatt was alive and well, he was *dead in the eyes of the authorities* because he was identified with his substitute. Therefore, he went free.... In the same way, when Jesus died, I died, and therefore, I am free.”

John 5:25 "Truly I tell you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. [26] For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted to the Son to have life in himself. [27] And he has granted him the right to pass judgment, because he is the Son of Man. [28] Do not be amazed at this, because a time is coming when all who are in the graves will hear his voice [29] and come out-- those who have done good things, to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked things, to the resurrection of condemnation. [30] "I can do nothing on my own. I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, because I do not seek my own will, but the will of him who sent me.

Revelation 20:4 Then I saw thrones, and people seated on them who were given authority to judge. I also saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and who had not accepted the mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. [5] The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. [6] Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

Hebrews 9:27 And just as it is appointed for people to die once-- and after this, judgment--

Romans 8:1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those in Christ Jesus,

John 5:24 "Truly I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not come under judgment but has passed from death to life.

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I. A _____ to F_____
II. A _____ to F_____
III. A _____ to F_____