

Not one is missing

The prophet Isaiah declared that the Lord proclaims our name. 'Lift up your eyes ... and see who has created these stars, the One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name. Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, not one of them is missing.' How can it be said that none is missing? It is because names are erased and blotted out of the book of life. We must take this very seriously. The obligations of redemption are upon us. For those who rebel against this, their name will be erased from the book of life. However, when He calls us, there is great joy in heaven over one soul saved. Our name is recovered and everything foreknown for us springs forth from our name.

We cannot respond to Him unless He first calls us by name. But more than this, unless we are called by His name, we will not hear Him proclaim our name. Written within our name is the capacity to do everything that He has ordained for us. Nevertheless, we will not fulfil our name unless we abide in His name. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. Our first response upon hearing our name is to present ourselves to God. The obligations of redemption are clear. You were bought with a price. You are not your own, therefore, glorify God in your mortal body. We are to present our bodies as slaves to righteousness. When we do so, we are God's freemen. Like Jesus Himself, no one takes our life from us. When we present ourselves as slaves of righteousness, the Lord gives us a work and authority as His slaves, commending us to be faithful until He comes.

References:

Isa 40:26 Rev 3:5
Ex 32:33 Luke 15:7
James 2:7 Isa 43:7
Prov 18:10 1 Cor 6:20
1 Cor 7:23

Further Study

Isa 40

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 8

Names blotted out

It is a terrifying thought that the Lord will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven. This is true for that particular grouping of people, and indeed for many others. We have been admonished from the days of Moses, lest our hearts turn away from the Lord and bitterness becomes our portion. We know this to be true of Esau. Because of bitterness, he could find no place of repentance. The name and lineage of Esau, like Cain and many others, has been cut off. These things are not complex or obscure. If we do not depart from first love, then we will bring forth fruit to eternal life. However, if we fall from first love, then sin will revive, bringing forth fruit to death. We are either slaves of righteousness or slaves of sin.

If we are a slave of righteousness, then our name is recovered and He commends us to first works. We must 'fill out' our name by doing these works. Our eternal reward and entry into His eternal kingdom is completely dependent upon us 'filling out' our name. When the children of Israel sinned grievously against the Lord, Moses asked the Lord to blot his own name from the book of life. The Lord replied to him, 'Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book'. We rightly conclude that it was impossible for Moses to be blotted out of the book even though he was offering to lay down his life for the people. Moses was doing the work of God and thus filling out his own name. Consequently, the Lord said to Moses, 'Go now, lead the people where I told you'. Each one of us will be judged according to our works which have been written in the Lamb's book of life.

References:

Ex 17:14 Ex 32:33-34
Deut 25:19 Heb 12:17
Gen 4:11-13 Rom 6:16-23

Further Study

Ex 32

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 9

A sanctified name

Every name brought forth in the Eternal Covenant has been written in the Lamb's book of life. As the Father of spirits, our heavenly Father has ordained an identity and prescription for us. He is the Father of spirits and the Father of lights and every good and perfect gift comes from Him. According to the covenant, He has sent His only Son into the world as the 'one Seed' in whom every name is inscribed. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to sanctify each one of us as an individual identity in this new creation. When we present ourselves as a slave of righteousness, the outcome for us is sanctification. This means that the unique, individual name which has been ordained for us will be filled out and completed. Speaking in the negative, Jesus said to the church in Sardis, 'I have not found your works perfect before God'.

We can say that sanctification comes to us as a gift from the Father by the Holy Spirit. And as an outcome of this, sanctification will be made complete when we 'fill out' our name. This is the meaning of perfect love and perfect works. Every one of us will stand before the judgement seat of Christ where our name will be proclaimed. Not one will be missing. Nevertheless, we should fear. There are many whose names are erased and blotted out from the Lamb's book of life. Perhaps they never presented themselves to God. Perhaps they began well, but did not continue. Presenting ourselves is a continual and perpetual activity of priesthood. Moses was to present the priests before the Lord so that they could serve in the tabernacle. And the priests were to present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

References:

Rev 3:2 Heb 12:9
James 1:17 Gal 3:16
Rom 6:16 1 John 4:18
Mal 3:3 Lev 7:35
Rev 20:15

Further Study

Psa 139

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 10

We are not our own

We have been redeemed by the precious blood 'as of a lamb' and, consequently, the obligations of redemption are upon us. The alternatives are quite clear. Either we are a slave of righteousness or a slave of sin. In that respect, no man is free. We are a slave to the one to whom we present our members. The great joy for us as Christians is that we present ourselves in exactly the same way that the priests of old presented the offerings to the Lord. When we yield our members to the obligations of redemption, we recognise that we are not our own. It is with joy that we become slaves of God and slaves of Christ. We should remember that it is to slaves that the Master gives authority and a work. This work is symbolised in the white garments of priesthood. This was the daily attire of the priests of old as they went about the service of offering.

When we present ourselves alive to God, our name is revived as a son of the Father. And accordingly, we are heirs of salvation and heirs of eternal life. But the heir is no different to a slave. The first benefit to us is the self-knowledge which comes when our name is revived and we are known. Indeed, we can know as we are known, even if only 'in part' as Paul said. It is within this context that the apostle Paul then compels us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. We know love, because Christ laid down His life for us. When we present our bodies as living sacrifices, we begin the life-long course of laying down our life for the brethren. In so doing, we demonstrate that we have the love of God.

References:

1 Pet 1:19 Rom 6:16
1 Cor 6:19 Mark 13:34
Rev 19:8 Heb 11:7
Gal 4:1, 7 1 Cor 13:12

Further Study

Rom 6

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 11

The work of love

We have been considering together for a long time the word of the apostle Paul, that we present our bodies as a living sacrifice. This is the work of God; the work of offering. If we have presented ourselves as slaves of righteousness, then He has indeed committed to us an authority and a work. When we present our bodies as a living sacrifice, we demonstrate that the love of God is abiding with us and in us. By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us. And by this we know that we have the love of God because we lay down our lives. We are to be living sacrifices for the sake of another, thus demonstrating that we love the brethren. If we do not do this, then the love of God cannot abide within us.

In this very same way, we demonstrate that we are a kingdom of priests. We do not receive our inheritance as sons until the day of resurrection. Having received a name and a work, we are to continue in first love. And this work is to continue until the resurrection when the church, that is the bride, the Lamb's wife, is set forth with the glory of God. The fine linen in which she is clothed is the righteous works of the saints that have been fulfilled. We can rightly say that the church will have completed her works. Indeed, they are perfect works. And in this, love will have been perfected. This is the work of our priesthood, even as it was for the Lord Himself. Everything which He does comes forth from offering. In this way, He is our great High Priest. And in this same way, we are a kingdom of priests.

References:

Rom 12:1 John 6:28
John 9:4 John 15:9
Rev 21:10-11 Rev 19:8
1 John 3:16-17 1 John 4:17

Further Study

1 John 3

Daily Proverb

Proverbs 12