

Three Books

The world is filled with books of all kinds. Solomon “hit the nail on the head” when he said “*of making many books there is no end, and much study is wearisome to the flesh,*” Ecclesiastes 12:12. One person in a sparsely populated, poverty-stricken, run-down portion of the world — with a book — can be entertained, learn great principles, be introduced to far-away places, and be mentally carried to the far-flung regions of the universe. The world would be a much poorer place if there were no books! However, the world would also be better if some books had never been written! For example, if Charles Darwin had never written **The Origin of Species**, and if similar books of infidelity had never been published, society would be decidedly better off. The same could be said of the uninspired manuals, catechisms, confessionals, and creed books penned by countless religious leaders — books which contradict the Bible and contribute to the spread of religious division. The new converts at Ephesus did the right thing when “*those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all;* as a result of such action on their part “*the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed,*” Acts 19:19,20. And while we are referring to the burning of books, we would hasten to add that all books depicting pornography, and which condone and glamorize immorality should also be placed on the burn pile!

This writer has no idea how many books have been written which have both graced and disgraced the human race, and to which no further reference will be made in this article. However there are three books which are very important, and which should occupy our attention more than all other books combined. Specifically, I am referring to (1) the Bible, (2) the book of life, and (3) the book of your life. We shall now give consideration to each of these books.

The Bible

“Bible” is from *biblios* which means “a book.” Because of its importance, we stress that “the Bible is **the** book of books.” I verily concur with Patrick Henry who said “the Bible is worth all the other books which have ever been printed.” I also agree with John Flavel who said “the Scriptures teach us the best way of living, the noblest way of suffering, and the most comfortable way of dying.” The word “*book*” first occurs in Genesis 5:1 in which mention is made of “**the book of the genealogy of Adam,**” and which begins a chapter tracing the lineage from Adam to Noah. Reportedly, the word “*book*” occurs 188 times in the Bible.

The reason for describing the Bible as “**the book** of all books” is because it came from God! It is God’s gift to man; it was “*given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work,*” 2 Timothy 3:16,17. It contains the precepts of God and through His “*precepts,*” we “*get understanding,*” Psalm 119:104. God’s word is “*a lamp*” to our feet and “*a light*” to our path, Psalm 119:105, 130. God’s word is able to make us “*free*” from our sins, John 8:32; by it sinners can be drawn unto God, John 6:44,45. God’s word “*is able to save*” our “*souls,*” James 1:21, and by it we may obtain that heavenly “*inheritance,*” Acts 20:32. Apart from a working knowledge of the scriptures, no person is really educated, for apart from the Bible we

have no real concept of where we came from, why we are here, or where we are going. For these reasons, I agree with Theodore Roosevelt who said “a thorough knowledge of the Bible is worth more than a college education.” In fact, I would further add that “a college education” without a knowledge of the Scriptures can be a dangerous thing! Yes, the Bible is “**the book** of all books,” so I urge you to read it to be wise, believe it to be comforted, and obey it to be saved!

The Book of Life

There is such a book! The first mention of this “*book*” occurs in Exodus 32:32 wherein we read of Moses making intercession for the Israelites, and asking God to “*forgive their sin,*” and even saying “*if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written.*” In Philippians 4:3 the apostle Paul made mention of his “*fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of life.*” In Luke chapter ten we read of Jesus sending seventy people out to preach, and of their *returning “with joy”* because “*even the demons*” were “*subject*” to them through His “*name,*” verses 1-17. But Jesus said “*do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*” To the saints at Sardis Jesus said “*He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from **the Book of Life**; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels,*” Revelation 3:5. In Revelation 13:8 mention is made of “***the Book of Life*** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” It is vitally important for your name to be written in “*the book life,*” for in Revelation 20:15 we read that all whose names are “*not found written in **the Book of Life***” will be “*cast into the lake of fire!*” According to Revelation 21:27, “*only those who are written in the Lamb’s **Book of Life***” will enter into that heavenly city!

In view of the facts just mentioned, every sane person should want his name written in “*the book of life.*” However, it should be apparent that the names of those who are “*dead in trespasses and sins,*” Ephesians 2:1, are not recorded in “*the Book of Life!*” This is why it is so important for penitent believers in Christ to be “*buried with*” Christ in the waters of baptism, so that they might rise from that watery grave and “*walk in newness of life,*” Romans 6:3,4.

The Book of Your Life

To the saints at Corinth the apostle Paul said “*you are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men; clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of flesh, that is, of the heart,*” 2 Corinthians 3:2,3. In a very real sense your life is likened to a book — a book in which **you** are doing the writing, and which God and others are doing the reading. Each day we add a sentence; each week we add a paragraph; each month we add a page; each year we add a chapter, and by life’s end all the chapters will have been written. Of course, some books are longer than other books, and some books are better than other books. But it is a fact that **you** are the one who, figuratively speaking, is writing the book of **your life**.

Most of us have read certain books and concluded that the writers thereof should have taken a course in writing before they undertook the writing of those books! So it is with each one of us as we add pages to the book of our life. Without a working knowledge of the Bible, “**the book** of books,” one really doesn’t know how to go about writing “the book” of his own life. Hence, we urge you to “*study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth,*” 2 Timothy 2:15. Make sure that the words, sentences, paragraphs, pages, and chapters in “the book of your life” harmonizes with what is

recorded and authorized in “**the book** of Books,” and you can thereby be assured that your journey through life will be crowned with happiness and success, that God will be pleased and others will be greatly benefitted as they “read” the book of Your Life. With this being near the beginning of a new year, what better time could there be to start paying closer attention to the contents of **the book of your life**? —Bobby Witherington