

hard. Oh, can I bear the piercing thought. What if my name shall be left out.

When one submits to become a Christian, he then is enrolled in the Commonwealth of Heaven. As well as a church book roll on earth. But here is a fidelity - there are many names who have perhaps been entered on the church roll. Some of them may be as infants - who have been baptized. But have through the years failed to acknowledge and stand for Jesus Christ. The sadness here is unspeakable to think how many blots and erasures there are upon the book by reason of failure with people, who once made an attempt to follow this way of life but dropped out without finishing the race.

There are some names which shall never be blotted out. They are true faithful followers. Though they are blotted out of the rolls on this earth - but God here has a book of remembrance.

He says I will confess his name before my father and before his angels. You get the impact of this. The man who requires us to confess him before men is the one Christ Jesus, who is going to confess us before the Father which is in Heaven. It is then the least that we should think of doing. Is coming and making our confession of faith in him on this earth. Now people may have their names put on church rolls in different ways. They may be cannonized. Yes, many names may be there in the book and the newspaper, in the church records of some humble congregation. But isn't it wonderful to be on the records of the redeemed. There are names which the owner will not be ashamed of. These certainly are wonderful words spoken by our Lord.

If we had time to go back in history and take some of these men like Peter Waldo, in 1170, he who heard a Christian hymn and then went on his way to preach the good news of Jesus on the streets. And his followers, the Waldenses

as a church began to sow seed in a dark world. But because of a holy crusade in 1208 by authority, they were wiped out.

✓ Or we think of John Wycliffe, 1320, who read the book and translated it into the language of the English people. Went up and down the countryside preaching the riches of the grace of God. After he died, because he died before the church could cease him, they dug up his body and burned it publicly and scattered his ashes on the river swift.

✓ Or the man John Huss, 1367, who read the translation of the Bible and began to preach in Bohemia and thousands turned out to hear him and were converted. They sentenced him to be burned at the stake. They put a crown on his head. The great heretic. On his way to the stake, and he said, with joy I wear this crown of shame for the love of him who wore the crown of throns.) He sang a hymn and prayed a prayer.

✓ In 1452 Savon Arola, a flaming evangelist, by Papal council he was denounced and condemned to hang. He was first hanged and then he was burned with fire.

✓ In 1528, in Vienna, Balthazar Hubmeir was (burned) at a stake by the church. His faithful (wife) which he loved, was (crowned) for her love and devotion to Jesus. This man preached from the original Greek and Hebrew language. And year after year he baptized 6,000, 8,000, 12,000. Because of his preaching they burned him at the stake and drowned his wife.

✓ Felix Mantz, of the city of Zurich, read the Scriptures in the streets and in the fields. And thousands listened to him and the church condemned him. And they said, so he lacks water - lets give him lots of it. And they drown him in the river Lammont.

✓ In 1628, John Bunyon made (shoe laces) in prison and passed them to his blind daughter Mary. One of the famous and yet pathetic passages in English literature describes him looking through the bars at prison at the little blind girl who sold his shoe laces to help support this Baptist preacher's family, the 12 years he stayed in jail for preaching the Gospel.

✓ At Sardis they had a (few names) that were immortal - I will not blot your name out. From the church roll in this life - yes. But from the church of the first born whose names are written in Glory.

✓ In 1617 the 21st of October Martin Luther was excommunicated from the church. His soul was co-signed to ever lasting Hell and damnation. But God said I will not blot your name out of the book of life.

And they shall walk in white, these men of the cloth, of the vestment. Who dressed like the minister. They were excommunicated, defrocked, and when they brought John Huss to the flame - they began to tear off the ministerial garb. And so we say, fine, burn it up. Burn it up. But the Lord said, I will clothe them with white raiment. Expressive of their office - because they are worthy.

You who have ears, listen to what the spirit has to say. Ex. 32:32 - Noses said, forgive them of their sin. Concerning the golden calf. Blot me out of thy book.

Ps. 69:28 - let the wicked be blotted out of the book of the living. And not be written with the righteous. He was praying concerning the wicked. Those who had crucified Jesus.

✓ Covenanters in Scotland were hunted and shot down like animals. These poor humble people would gather in their cottages and go over their Scriptures and pray to God. They would covenant together to read the Bible.

There was a faithful couple, John Brown and Isabelle, his wife. The minister who performed the ceremony of their wedding informed her to hold him close to your heart. John Brown had 20 sheep - that was his living but he loved God. He read the Scriptures in the homes of the people, and led in prayer. They hunted him and tracked him down and a man in the church by the name of Claverhouse took six soldiers to shoot him before his own humble cottage. They brought out his wife with a baby in her arms that she could witness the execution of her husband. John Brown asked if he might pray. He sat down and prayed and then stood up fearlessly with great courage. The soldiers lined up before him to execute him. They looked at the man of God, looked at his courage and his noble wife and baby - all six men put down their guns and said we can't do it. Then Claverhouse cursed them in the name of the church. Took his pistol and walked up to John Brown and blew out his brains. When he fell in his blood - he turned to Isabelle Brown and he said, and what do you think of your husband now. She replied, sir, I thought much good of him in life - and now much more in death.

For they are worthy and I will confess their name before my Father and the angels. So here is a message of hope and salvation that lives in fire and in blood. And it lives today. And we ought to bless his name that we are a part and that we belong to that blessed company of God's immortal saints.