

## Living by the Book

Revelation 20:11-15

December 9, 2001

Peter Hiatt

*(\*If interested, please call the church for a copy of the overhead exhibits for this sermon.)*

[Peter enters stage carrying on his back a large backpack full of books.]

Man, these books are really heavy . . . but I have to carry them with me because I want to know what's good . . . because I want to *be* good. These are the Books of Judgment.

They are extremely complicated, so I've simplified and reproduced one page onto an overhead transparency so you can see. (I showed you something like this four years ago, but you need to see it again.)

This [Exhibit A] is *one* page from *one* book for *one* moment of *one* day in the fall of 1975:

The Book of Judgment, Peter Hiatt  
Page #924,465,432, 9-15-75, 3:27 PM

I have edited the book to include only three people: Bobby, Dave, and me. (There were others on the page like Alan Parsons and Susan Coleman, but Alan goes to church here, and I married Susan, so I think it's politically expedient that I delete their records.)

This is how it works:

On the left is "The Table of Good Deeds." (Of course, in 1975 I referred to it as "Categories of Cool.") On the right is "The Record of Good Deeds," measured in "UGU's" (Universal Goodness Units).

In 1975 if you had Ski Tags on your jacket, that was *really good*. Even in September Bobby, for instance, had ski tags on his jacket, so give him 2 points; I had ski tags on my jacket, so give me a "2"; Dave didn't have any ("0").

Sports was really big. Bobby was really good at sports (3 points); I was on the soccer team but wasn't that good (2 points); Dave didn't do any sports (0 points).

Girls — all the girls loved Bobby (3), and a cheerleader *talked* to me (3)! Dave — no girls (0).

Pimples — Bobby didn't have any pimples (3); I *did* have some pimples (1). Dave — one day he came to school with dried Clearasil on his face (-1).

Dumb Instruments — Bobby didn't play any dumb instruments (3); I didn't play any dumb instruments (3); Dave was the state champion cello player (-4).

Body Function Noises — Bobby didn't really have any good body function noises (1); however, I could make noises with my throat (3); David could burp the *entire alphabet* (4).

So you would tabulate up the scores, and these scores were constantly factored into historical scores. But for the sake of understanding, we'll plot the scores for this particular day, assuming we all started at zero.

1. Calculate and plot
2. Draw the "Universal Geek Line." Those above it are "The Good" (The Cool); those below it are "The Bad" (The Dweebs).

In 1975 I was ruled by The Book of Judgment. It determined who I would sit with at lunch and to whom I would say, "Hey, Dude" in the hallway. It was the reason I went out for sports I hated; it was the reason why I quit piano. I was driven in fear by The Book of Judgment — *enslaved*. It determined my moods.

If, for example, Bobby got a big zit, I rejoiced. (I was *that much closer* to my idol.)

When I was down, I could think of Dave carrying his cello across the football field while I practiced soccer. (I could judge him "last and least" and feel good about myself.)

But in 1975 I got cut from the soccer team. I don't know if I have ever been so depressed . . . not because I missed soccer, but because it knocked me down into the "Dweeb Zone."

I went behind our house beside the railroad tracks, and I wept for hours thinking, "How am I going to explain to my children and my grandchildren that I was a *dweeb*?"

That really hurt, but after a few weeks of mourning, I just changed a few categories on The Table of Good Deeds, thus lowering the Universal Geek Line. That's the beauty of it . . . but also why it's so much *work*: all the computations! It's why you kind of live in fear . . .

"What if *my* computations are inaccurate?"

"I bet *Dave's* Book of Judgment is different from *mine*."

"What if I am *Bobby's* *dweeb* — the 'last and the least' who makes him feel good about how cool he is?"

Well, if you're in tenth grade and you're feeling embarrassed, let me show you a page out of The Book of Judgment from the Standard American Adult Male [Exhibit B]. It's

exactly the same layout . . . same Operating System . . . but the categories of good have changed:

Business Success  
Wife  
Kids  
Landscaping  
Snow Blower Horse Power

The Universal Geek Line is now called the “Invite Them Over For Dinner Line.” Above the line are the “Responsible Citizens”; below the line are the “Less Fortunate.” You plot for friends, neighbors, Taliban . . . it’s important to have someone like Osama bin Laden considered on your page (he doesn’t have a snow blower; his landscaping stinks) . . . the “last and the least” to help make you feel good about yourself.

Here is a page out of The Book of Judgment for a Standard Taliban Soldier [Exhibit C], except the categories of good are things like this:

Beard Length  
Beard Bushiness  
Dominance of Sassy Women  
Fighting in Jihad  
Dying for Allah

The Geek Line is now the “Jihad Line”; above the line are the “Muslims”; below are the “Infidels.”

Now, this is a Standard Jewish Pharisee page from *their* Book of Judgment [Exhibit D]. The Table of Good Deeds has been changed:

Circumcision Party  
Phylactery Length  
Not eating with Tax Collectors & Sinners  
Not being born in a barn  
Not being crucified on a cross

The Geek Line is now the “Holiness Line,” with “Righteous” above and “Sinners” below. The Operating System is competition, envy, judgment, fear.

Some of you are saying, “It’s a good thing we’re Christians instead of Jews or Muslims.” Well, *this* is a page from the Standard American Christian Book of Judgment [Exhibit E]. It has the same Operating System (competition, envy, judgment, fear); it has the same layout. But The Table of Good Deeds has been changed:

No Gross Sins  
No Cussing

Neat-o Christian Words  
(like “bless you” and “propitiation”)  
Quality Bible Cover  
Short-Term Mission Project  
Harry Potter (whether or not you’ve seen the movie)

The Geek Line is now the “Saved Line.” “Born Again Christians” are above the line. Now, we’re not supposed to judge, so the area below the line is the “I wonder if they know the Lord” zone.

Now, you’re probably thinking, “That is *so true* of Christians. I’m glad I’m not a legalistic Christian.” Well, this is a page from the Standard American Non-Legalistic Christian Book of Judgment [Exhibit F] . . . same layout . . . just The Table of Good Deeds has been changed:

Understanding your freedom in Christ  
Not being judgmental  
Graciousness  
Number of Philip Yancey books read  
Niceness to the “last and least”

But the Operating System is just the same: competition, envy, judgment, fear. So we are enslaved to trying to “be free in Christ.” We judge people on how judgmental *they* are. We’re driven to be most gracious. We *use* niceness to the “last and the least” in order to earn points.

Here’s a page from *my* Book of Judgment today [Exhibit G]. The layout is much the same; The Table of Good Deeds is now . . .

Preaching well  
Church size  
Family  
Evangelism

The Geek Line is the “God is Pleased Line.” Above it is “Good Pastor”; below is “Bad Pastor.” The neighbors who I judge myself by are people like pastor friends, Andrew Trawick, Tim Brewer, Dave Jones.

This is an amazing thing, but Jesus was in Dave Jones. He turned out to be one of my best friends; he was the best man in my wedding. We worked in ministry together, but I still battled the Book of Judgments. So when Dave preached at Youth Group (and he was good), I would secretly hope his message didn’t go well . . . because then I’d look better.

My friend Tim had a larger church than I did. But in a depression he asphyxiated himself, leaving behind a wife, children, and a confused church. Something inside me wanted to say, “Yeah! . . . I won!”

I remember the night I held Dave Jones in my arms as he sobbed, “Leslie [his wife] is leaving me.” Something in me wanted to rejoice.

I’ll be honest . . . When Andrew Trawick comes back from those mission trips to places like Mozambique where thousands come to Christ, it will get me depressed. Why? Because in that same time *I* didn’t lead anyone to Christ. So what’s my wish? That thousands of people *didn’t* get saved? I might as well just wish ‘em all to Hell! . . . to guard my ego.

Do you see what I end up doing? — Hating my best friends, hating the kingdom, maybe even hating God. And then when I see this, I hate myself . . . condemn myself.

I think Scripture calls all these books “The Law.” And the energy by which I play this game is called “The Flesh.” When I live by the Book of Judgments I walk in death. I can’t live gracefully. With all these books on my back I can’t dance well, sing well, laugh well, live well. Ironically, trying to be good I *can’t* be good. I’m always preoccupied with the books and how I measure up.

Calculating,  
Scheming,  
Posturing,  
Posing . . .

It’s a terrible burden to carry. And I can’t lose myself; I’m enslaved to myself.

Jesus said, “Unless you lose your life you’ll never find it.” I’m unable to get beyond myself, so I certainly can’t love others, I can’t love God, and I hate myself.

I John 3:14: “He who does not love abides in death.” *Death*. The walking dead.

In Genesis 2:16 God said, “Adam [man], you may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” At the Dragon’s tempting, Adam doubted God’s goodness, trusting the law instead of God. He ate and he got the law library and lost God. He ate and got knowledge of good and evil . . . the knowledge he was naked, bad, and dead. The walking dead.

Revelation 20:11: *And I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead .*

. .

Remember in the last paragraph John saw the “living,” those who “live with Christ on earth,” the first resurrection . . .

*. . . the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.*

The dead are judged by the things in the books according to their deeds. Jesus said, "Judge not that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged." That is, "If you want to play by the book, you'll *get* the book."

Have you ever wondered why it is that across the globe people have a knowledge of good and evil? We argue about the details, but people live with these books in their hearts and minds, constantly keeping score, trying to be good.

It's because we all know deep inside that we have a Creator, He *is* good, and He *has* books. We exist in fear of those books, constantly preparing our defense, for we know that one day the books will be opened and there will be an accounting.

Jesus revealed on what that accounting is based. He said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment, and the second is like it. Love your neighbor as yourself. On this rests all the law and prophets."

By loving your neighbor you love God.

In Matthew 25 Jesus said this:

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. . . .

He will say to those at his left hand, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food . . . thirsty and you gave me no drink . . . a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me."

Then they also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me."

If you want to live by the book, God *is* keeping score. He's in Lazarus by the gate; He's in the "last and the least." They sit on thrones judging nations. He's in them in judgment. You may even do many mighty works in His name . . . feed the "last and the least," but He may still say, "Depart, I never knew you" (Matthew 7).

The goats say, “When did we see you?” Well, they *didn't* see Him . . . *ever!* They just saw the “last and the least” and a way to score points. (Just by judging someone “the last and the least” I judge Jesus Christ “last and least.” Remember that when He walked this earth almost everyone judged Him “last and least” . . . a baby in a food trough . . . a peasant on a cross—cursed.)

So living by the book, God is everywhere in my world as *judgment*. And just by playing the game, trusting the books, I hate my neighbor, so I hate God, and then I hate myself. And I broadcast to the heavenlies, “Yes, I stole the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” *Guilty*.

Well, if we dare guess at God’s Book of Judgment, I imagine it would be something like this [Exhibit H]:

The Table of Good Deeds would be summed up as: LOVE . . . the Lord with all you are, and your neighbor as yourself.

The Record of Good Deeds: Children of Adam — Dead.

When I compute “The Good” and “The Bad,” what is it God requires? — Perfection. How are we doing? Well, Osama bin Laden is dead. Mother Teresa, apart from God, is also dead. Aram, me, you . . . dead, in our trespasses and sins.

So what good are the books or the knowledge of the books? — They tell us we need a Savior. They tell Adam [mankind]: “A walk with God is better than a law library.”

“And now, Adam, you will meet the pinnacle of good. Jesus means ‘God saves.’ You’ll see the Savior.”

Well, in Revelation 20, on the last day books are opened (Tables of the Good and Records of Good Deeds), and “another book” is opened: one book—the Book of Life. In chapters 13 and 17 of The Revelation we read that this book contains names written from the foundation of the world, before Adam fell. *Names* . . . it doesn’t say *deeds* but *names*.

To the Hebrews, names were persons. These are persons who have entrusted themselves to the Lamb on the throne. It’s the *Lamb’s Book of Life*. Jesus said in the book of John, “Truly, truly, he who hears my word [Remember that the Word rode out at the beginning of this chapter] and believes him who sent me has eternal life [already alive!]. He does not come into judgment [condemnation] but has passed from death to life.”

How can that *be?!?* Paul tells us. “For our sake God made Jesus to be sin, who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God (II Corinthians 5:21). Jesus is called the Second Adam. His righteousness is imputed to us by faith as a *gift* from God.

[Exhibit H]:

To me as a gift,  
    To you as a gift,  
        To Aram as a gift,  
    To Mother Teresa as a gift,  
    To Osama bin Laden . . . I *hope so*,  
For God desires that none should perish.

The Operating System is *grace*, and He *is* “The Good” — not a *what*, but a *who*.

Paul wrote, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’).”

I suspect that tree, the cross on which Jesus was crucified, was the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Jesus was crucified, cursed by the law on our behalf. Colossians 2: “And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having cancelled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross.”

At the cross God opens His books. For the children of God, judgment was the cross of Christ. Jesus said, “*Now* is this world judged.” At the cross God opens your books (with their legal demands), and with His own blood through all your history—past, present, future—He stamps “CANCELLED” on every debt.

Greed—CANCELLED  
Lust—CANCELLED  
Fornication—CANCELLED  
Adultery—CANCELLED  
Murder—CANCELLED  
Abortion—CANCELLED  
Judging Dave Jones at the football field— CANCELLED

CANCELLED, CANCELLED, CANCELLED . . . “By my blood” . . . “Drink of it, all of you.” [Peter is looking through books on the communion table and stamping them.]

Paul goes on in the same verse and writes, “There [on the cross] he disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in Jesus.”

Do you see what Paul is saying? This is not just “Be Happy Psychology.” This is the very heart of your battle with the Ancient Dragon. You conquer Him by “the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony,” applying the blood of the Lamb to every moment of your life. You must believe you are *entirely* forgiven and *thoroughly* loved. Then every point of sin is transformed into a point of grace.

Instead of Jesus waiting in judgment, He’s waiting to show you His *grace*. And every sin is transformed from shame into a demonstration of love, for every sin was on that cross



and now reminds you of Easter and tells you how much God loves you and how good He truly is. And every moment you step on the head of the Old Serpent, for He has no ground on which to accuse.

Satan has been disarmed. Yet he is the Accuser and the Father of Lies, so although my certificate of debt has been cancelled, Satan made Xeroxed copies (like Juan Carlos said). His only hope against me is making me believe falsified documents, making me doubt the grace of God and the blood of Christ—that I'm totally forgiven and thoroughly loved. For then I live by the old books . . . I begin to condemn myself and walk in death, doing the work of the Accuser *for* him. That's how he takes me out of the battle and keeps me from doing the "works of God."

They asked Jesus, "What must we be doing to be doing the works of God?" And Jesus said, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom he sent."

Revelation 20:13: *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.*

Theologians argue about whether the saints (the sheep) are even *in* this scene. If we *are*, we're not being condemned for sinful deeds. However, in Revelation 22:12 Jesus says, "I am coming soon with my reward to repay everyone for his deeds."

Well, if my evil deeds were judged and paid for at the cross, what deeds are *these*? If my record of condemnation is cancelled, what record is *this*? If I'm not paid for evil deeds, what deeds *am* I paid for?

"The King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'

"Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?'"

I don't think they saw Jesus *there* because they saw Him *everywhere*. And He wasn't waiting in the "last and least" to condemn them, He was everywhere in grace and waiting in all His brethren to be loved and to love . . . and to reward them with all His kingdom.

"And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.'"

And I bet they don't even remember . . . because they *weren't keeping score*.

They weren't conscious of the Books;  
They weren't conscious of themselves;  
They weren't conscious of the "last or least";  
They were conscious of Christ.

So they loved because they had been loved by Christ. In short, they weren't trying to be good, they just *were* good.

I work so hard at trying to be good to impress God and impress you. On Judgment Day trumpets will sound and . . .

Jesus will say something like this: "Peter Hiatt, on August 7, 1987, at 5:15 PM, you gave me a cup of cold water. Enter the kingdom."

And I'll say, "But what about the sermons? I don't even *remember* giving you cold water."

"Exactly. You weren't trying to be good. You *just were*. And now you know good and evil, not because you are evil and dead, but because you're forgiven and alive and I've made you good. You actually love."

So what am I saying? **Try harder to love!?** No. Confess that you don't . . . and receive His love. It's called *grace*. Jesus taught, "The one forgiven much loves much."

Richard Wurmbrand said that several years ago in the province of Besarabia, Romania, the Soviet army marched into a particular village. They rounded up all the Christians, some 200 of them, and took them into a field and forced them to dig their own graves. They were to be shot.

When they were finished the captain said, "Whoever renounces Christ can go home immediately." Some decided to be shot. Some renounced their faith. While they were returning to the village and the executions were about to begin, a man came running from the village to the field screaming. All the villagers knew who he was. The man had been expelled from the church for "gross sins." He had seen his sin. He came running from the village shouting, "Shoot me too! Shoot me too! I'm a bad Christian, but a *bad* Christian is *also* a Christian. A bad Christian *also* has the right to die for Christ. Shoot me too!"

He wanted to die for Jesus. "Greater love has no man than this, that he lay down his life for his friend." Jesus was his "friend."

Jesus must have turned to the angels and said, "Oh, there is my new creation made with my blood!" He wasn't a bad Christian, he was a *new creation*.

Forgiven much, we love much. Open your eyes. If you call Jesus your Savior, you've been forgiven much.

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Pray this prayer with me:

“Lord Jesus, I confess I'm a sinner. I have believed that I could be justified by the works of the law. And I've walked in death. Thank you for dying for me. Thank you for saving me. I think I love you, Jesus. Be my Lord. I want to be with you forever.”

If you prayed that prayer for the first time in your entire life, let me tell you, you just found out that you are what we casually call “a Christian.” And your name was written in a Book from the foundation of the world. And God is showing you just how good He truly is, so that you can enjoy Him in ecstasy—Paradise—for ever and ever and ever. Amen.

You've been forgiven much, so go fulfill the entire law. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Further Reading

But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. . . . Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

-Revelation 20:5-6 (NKJV), 11-15 (NAS)

“The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, that all may honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. Truly, truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.”

-John 5:22-29

“And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work [ergon].”

-Revelation 22:12

Then they said to Him, “What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answered and said to them, “This is the work [ergon] of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”

-John 6:28-29

But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God--not because of works [ergon], lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works [ergon], which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

-Ephesians 2:4-10

For as many as are of the works [ergon] of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.” Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”) . . . .

-Galatians 3:10-13

And you, who were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, having canceled the bond which stood against us with its legal demands; this he set aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the principalities and powers and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in him.

-Colossians 2:13-15

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry and feed thee, or thirsty and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger and welcome thee, or naked and clothe thee? And when did we see thee sick or in prison and visit thee?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.’ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?’ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.’ And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

-Matthew 25:31-46

“Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.’”

-Matthew 7:21-23

“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

The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

-Revelation 17:8

For whatever is born of God **overcomes** the world. And this is the victory that has **overcome** the world--our faith. Who is he who **overcomes** the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

-I John 5:4-5

But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

-I Corinthians 4:3-5

It is a consoling idea, that before God we are always in the wrong.

-Soren Kierkegaard

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death.

-Romans 8:1-2

\*Exhibit A

\*Exhibit B

\*Exhibit C

\*Exhibit D

\*Exhibit E

\*Exhibit F

\*Exhibit G

\*Exhibit H

*\*If interested, please call the church for a copy of the overhead exhibits for this sermon.*