

What does it mean in Rev. 3:5 when it says: I will not erase his name out of the book of life? Does this mean it is possible to lose your salvation?

Well if it does mean that then it would contradict a lot of other Bible passages which clearly teach that if you are truly a member of the family of God through faith in Christ you will continue in that family forever.

What Scripture passages do you have in mind?

For example, the Lord Jesus Christ said, the one who comes to me I will never cast out (John 6:37). He also said, I give them eternal life and they shall never perish, and no one will be able to snatch them out of my hand (John 10:28).

Those statements seem to be very clear. What, then, does Rev. 3:5 mean? It is important to notice that Rev. 3:5 is a promise, not a threat. The Lord is promising not to do something, not threatening to do something. In other words, He is not threatening to blot anyone's name out of the book of life; He is promising not to do that. So this is really a very reassuring promise that the one who believes in Jesus as his personal savior from the penalty of sin will never lose the gift of eternal life. Of course the most important thing is not the interpretation of this verse: it is that you know that you yourself have this gift of eternal life. Whoever receives Him shall never perish but has everlasting life.

In the light of world conditions should Christians be preparing for a coming crash by stockpiling food, buying gold, etc.?

I think the Lord J.C. answered that question in at least two places. First, when He gave us the model prayer, the prayer we call the Lord's prayer, He said that we ought to pray "Give us this day our daily bread." This hardly seems to allow for stockpiling; rather it emphasizes our daily dependence on Him.

Does this mean, then, that a Christian should not plan ahead? Should he not, for instance, buy ~~half~~ a side of beef?

No it can't mean that, for Paul tells us that it is proper for parents to provide for their children (2 Cor. 12:14). But the Lord said we should not lay up for ourselves treasures on earth (Matt. 6:19). Stockpiling is probably more than planning ahead, it is likely laying up for oneself food. However, if a Christian still thinks this is the wise thing to do, then he will have to eliminate all selfish motives and be willing to share his stockpile with others who may be caught in the same crash.

What about buying gold?

Of course, Christians will not be here in this world when that time of great judgment known as the tribulation comes on the earth, so we won't need a hedge against that greatest crash that is coming. ~~But even for unbelievers gold will be of little use during that time.~~ If right now the believer thinks it's a good investment, that's one thing. But if he's buying gold in order to have some escape from some crash before the tribulation comes, that may involve selfish motives which can't be justified. Job reminds us that wisdom is much more important than gold (Job 28:16).

Well, then, should an unbeliever, ~~who need not be concerned about selfish motives,~~ buy gold to help him through the coming tribulation?

He can buy it if he wants, but it won't help him. God said that in that awful time gold will be more plentiful than people (Isa. 13:12). So he had better be concerned about himself, not his gold. The only hope an unsaved person has is in the salvation that J.C. offers. If you do not have a Savior, don't try to find one in gold or any other form of investment; receive J.C. as your Savior. He is the deliverer from the wrath to come.