

Is Life a game?
Will you be a winner?



Life has been compared to a race (2 Tim 4:7). A race is a competition – a game of sorts. Everyone is on the field of play and I would imagine they are expecting a prize/reward at the completion of the game (as Paul did: 2 Tim 4:8). How many games does a person engage in without first reading the instructions on how to play? How can you expect to win at any game without first following the instructions. Failure to follow the rules of the game will get you disqualified. Example in a foot race. If you don't wear the correct uniform, start begin the starting line , follow the prescribed path and cross the finish line – how do you expect the judges to give you a prize?

You have to be in never-never land to expect to get a prize for not following the rule of the game especially if the rule book is easily obtained either at a bookstore, online or just requesting one from a group that is always eager to pass them out (you might even find rule books in hotel rooms).

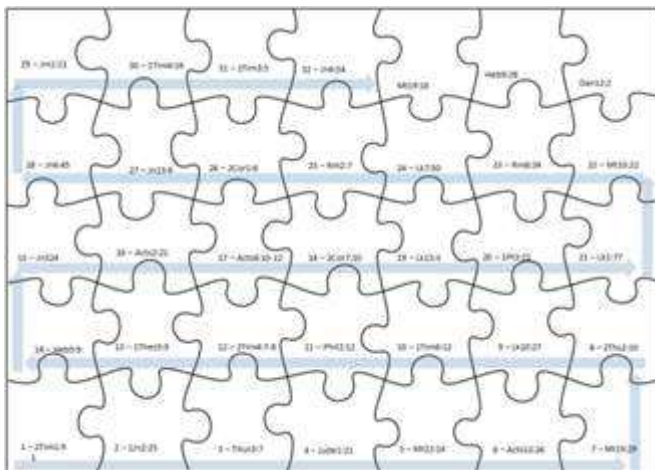
There are many games and puzzles that occupy our time. Winning at a game might get you written in a book somewhere. There is no puzzle more important to solve than "Are you written into the Book of Life or have you been blotted out?" (Ps 69:28, Rev 20:15)

How do you know if you have been written in or blotted out of the Book of Life? Is there a way to get and stay written in the book of Life? What are the steps if there is any?

In the Bible there are many verses that speak about salvation. In this study there is a simple task one just needs to find the actions that a person must do to be saved. On the accompany worksheet is a puzzle with scripture verses. Each verse connects an action which is linked to salvation/eternal life/everlasting life. The goal of this exercise is for you to read the verse and jot down in the puzzle piece a few words that describe the action that one needs to take for salvation.

Puzzle Pieces 1 thru 5 are Jesus' actions. Jesus is so generous that he has given you the first 5 puzzle pieces. Pieces 6 thru 32 are your action, things that you are responsible for, like it or not. After you have placed down the 32nd piece Jesus gives you the last 3 pieces (33, 34 & 35).

Everyone may have a different take on the scripture verses but the intent of the verses listed is to show that there are actions required of an individual to receive salvation.



Now get started!

-- God's actions --

1 RSV 2 Timothy 1:9 who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not in virtue of our works but in virtue of **his own purpose** and the grace which he gave us in Christ Jesus ages ago,

2 RSV 1 John 2:25 And this is what he has **promised** us, eternal life.

3 RSV Titus 3:7 so that we might be justified by **his grace** and become heirs in hope of eternal life.

4 RSV Jude 1:21 keep yourselves in the love of God; wait for the **mercy** of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

5 RSV Matthew 22:14 For many are **called**, but few are **chosen**."

-- A Person's actions --

6 RSV Acts 13:26 "Brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you that **fear God**, to us has been sent the message of this salvation.

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Side note: One should fear Jesus who alone has the power to destroy both the Soul and Body (Mt10:28)

7 KJV Matthew 19:29 And every one that hath **forsaken** houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

8 RSV 2 Thessalonians 2:10 and with all wicked deception for those who are to perish, because they refused to **love the truth** and so be saved.

9 ASV Luke 10:25-28

25 And behold, a certain lawyer stood up and made trial of him, saying, Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

26 And he said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

27 And he answering said, Thou shalt **love the Lord thy God** with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

28 And he said unto him, Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.

10 RSV 1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith; **take hold** of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

11 RSV Philippians 2:12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, **work** out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

12 RSV 2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have **fought** the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Side note: Paul fought for the truth since he loved and obeyed the truth. If you or any Church doesn't love the truth then they won't fight for it – evil will be allowed to fester and grow eventually destroying that nation. You must take a stand – Choose this day whom you will serve (Josh 24:15). If you choose Jesus then be prepared to be attacked and to counterattack.

13 RSV 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to **obtain** salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

14 RSV Hebrews 5:9 and being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation to all who **obey** him,

15 RSV John 5:24 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.

16 RSV Acts 2:21 And it shall be that whoever **calls on the name** of the Lord shall be saved.'

Side note: Call on Jesus, hearkens to ask and you shall receive (Mt 7:7) but when you ask make sure you do it with the proper intent (Jm 4:3)

17 RSV Acts 4:10-12

10 be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well.

11 This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, but which has become the head of the corner.

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is **no other name** under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

18 RSV 2 Corinthians 7:10 For **godly grief** produces a repentance that leads to salvation and brings no regret, but worldly grief produces death.

19 RSV Luke 13:3 I tell you, No; but unless you **repent** you will all likewise perish.

Side note: Key step (repent). God must first grant you the ability to repent in order for you to repent (2 Tim 2:25-26, Acts 5:31). Demons believe and tremble (James 2:19) but they can't repent and they are not saved.

20 RSV 1 Peter 3:21 **Baptism**, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a clear conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

21 KJV Romans 10:10 For with the **heart man believeth** unto righteousness; and with the **mouth confession** is made unto salvation.

22 RSV Matthew 10:22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who **endures** to the end will be saved.

Side note: How much endurance do you need? Until the affliction goes away by your death (Mt 10:22), another close verse that backs this up is Heb 12:4 which states resistance may entail you losing some of your blood.

23 RSV Romans 8:24 For in this **hope** we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?

24 RSV Luke 7:50 And he said to the woman, "Your **faith** has saved you; go in peace."

Side note: 1 Pt 1:9 shows the end of your faith is the salvation of your souls

25 RSV Romans 2:7 to those who by **patience** in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

26 RSV 2 Corinthians 1:6 If we are **afflicted**, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer.

27 RSV John 15:6 If a man does not **abide** in me, he is cast forth as a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire and burned.

28 RSV John 6:45 It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Every one who has heard and **learned** from the Father comes to me.

Side note: In order to be taught and learn you first must submit yourselves to a teacher, study and be ready for trials and test (2 Tim 2:15)

29 RSV James 1:21 Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with **meekness** the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

Side note: implanted word will be written in the hearts and minds of Jesus' people (Heb 10:16)

30 ASV 1 Timothy 4:13-16

13 Till I come, **give heed to reading, to exhortation, to teaching**.

14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Be diligent in these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy progress may be manifest unto all.

16 Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. **Continue in these things**; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee.

Side note: if the student did not learn the teacher did not teach. If we are to teach others we would need to spend considerable time in the bible to know what and how to teach.

31 RSV 2 Timothy 3:15 and how from childhood you have been **acquainted with the sacred writings** which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Side note: Sacred writings of the day was the old testament (Jn 5:46). How many new testament churches/Christians have ignored the old testament?

32 RSV John 6:54 he who **eats my flesh and drinks my blood** has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.

-- End Result/Prize --

33 RSV Matthew 19:16 And behold, one came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?"

34 ASV Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been once offered to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time, apart from sin, to them that wait for him, unto salvation.

35 ASV Daniel 12:2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.

Looking at all the different salvation statements it's clear (at least to me) that all must be done in order to be saved. You can't just do a handful and ignore the rest and expect to be saved - all must be done at some point prior to your departure from the land of the living. This may seem like a "checklist" type mentality. I say take it up with Jesus, He is the one that inspired all the verses linking an action to salvation. If you wrap a religion on just "believing" and not "repenting" then you haven't met the salvation requirements. If you are "baptized" but don't "believe" then you haven't met all the salvation statements.

Christianity is a way of life, not a religion. During the time of the Apostles, it was called the way (Acts9:2, Acts22:4). With that mentality then you would naturally progress thru all the actions linked to salvation and hence would reach the Grace and Mercy of Jesus and ergo Salvation/Eternal Life/Everlasting Life.

If you treat Christianity as a religion and pattern your actions to only 1 hour a week for sitting in a church (or maybe twice a year: once at Christmas and the other at Easter) then you are not living the life as a Christian as the bible describes. Once you "love God with all your heart, mind, strength, soul..." (Mt22:37) then you will express that in your everyday interaction with the world. You will emanate an order of Life and not death (2 Cor 2:14-17).

The specific actions that one must do are defined in the bible. Some actions have prerequisites or speaks on how that task is determined to have been completed. That level of detail is left for the person who desires to obtain prize. I wouldn't say that this is an exhaustive list, there could be other items not on the list but are equally important as well – that is why it's important to read the rule book (the bible) for yourself (Acts17:10-11). If you refuse to read the bible for yourself then how can you complain later that you didn't know? Ignorance of the law is no excuse when the bible is readily available here in the US.

All the pieces harmonize together and once they are together then the picture of salvation is clearly seen.

In this puzzle example, Jesus has already given you 5 pieces. It's up to you to put the other pieces together. The verses that are linked to salvation are action words, they are for those that are not

lounging around on a couch surfing the TV channels. If you take the 5 pieces that Jesus gives you and set them aside then don't expect Jesus to give you the last 3 pieces because you haven't pulled your weight..

So think about it. Have you gone thru all those actions with your heart and mind focused on the prize of eternal life? If not then then you may not see the following verse on judgment day:

...no mind no eye no thought has ever conceived the glories that await... (1 Cor 2:9)

But you might experience:

... depart from me I never knew you, weeping and nashing of teeth (Mt 7:21-23)

Life is a game that has a single final elimination round played against oneself: one side the lust of the flesh/pride of youth (1 Jn 2:16) and hope/faith in the unseen (Heb11:1). How well you do is in direct correlation to how well you understand the rule book.

Lessons Learned

1. There are multiple actions on your part for salvation and doing just one action and ignoring the rest will not save you.

Regards,

Called/Chosen + Hear + Believe + Repent + Confess + Baptize + Abide = Salvation -> Proclaim
Mt22:14 + Lk11:28 + Jn3:16 + Mk6:12 + Rm10:9 + Acts2:38 + Heb10:26 = 1 Pt 3:21 -> Mt28:19-20

KJV 2 Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

KJV 2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

KJV Psalms 69:28 Let them be **blotted out of the book** of the living, and not be written with the righteous.

KJV Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was **not found written in the book of life** was cast into the lake of fire.

KJV Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather **fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

KJV Joshua 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, **choose you this day whom ye will serve**; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

KJV James 4:3 **Ye ask, and receive not**, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

KJV Matthew 7:7 **Ask, and it shall be given you**; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

KJV Hebrews 12:4 **Ye have not yet resisted unto blood**, striving against sin.

KJV 2 Timothy 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved** unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

KJV Hebrews 10:16 This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, **I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;**

KJV John 5:46 For **had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me**: for he wrote of me.

KJV Acts 9:2 And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of **this way**, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem.

KJV Acts 22:4 And I persecuted **this way** unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.

KJV Matthew 22:37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

KJV 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

16 To the one we are the **savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life**. And who is sufficient for these things?

17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

KJV Acts 17:10-11

10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and **searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

KJV 1 Corinthians 2:9 But as it is written, **Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.**

KJV Matthew 7:21-23

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you: depart from me**, ye that work iniquity.

KJV 1 John 2:16 For all that is in the world, **the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life**, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

KJV Hebrews 11:1 Now **faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.**

KJV Hebrews 12:7 If ye **endure chastening**, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

KJV 1 John 1:9 If we **confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

