

## Books

“Of making many books there is no end,” says the Preacher in Ecclesiastes (12:12).

I am also a preacher and I love books. I have LOTS of books, over 2,100 books in my library. All of the bookshelves in my office are filled with more stacked on the cabinet counters. There are also two large bookcases in our youth minister’s office filled with books that belong to me.

No, I haven’t read all of my books, but they are my tools, ready to be utilized on a given Bible text or subject.

I wouldn’t know what books and how many I have if it were not for Dawn Sims. Dawn served as the secretary for the Creekwood Church of Christ for almost 9 years. She was so conscientious and helpful. She was always asking what she could do to help me, the other ministers, the elders, and our church family members.

When she kept asking me how she could help, I offered her an opportunity (that’s a nice way of saying a huge, laborious chore). I had found a website ([www.librarything.com](http://www.librarything.com)) in which I could enter the title, author, and subject of my books so that I could catalog these books and know just what I have. I told Dawn that whenever she had time and desired to help, that she could take my books, a shelf at a time, and enter the details into the website.

It took Dawn several hours and days, but she did it. Now, if you ask me what books I have on a particular book of the Bible or on a particular subject, I can open that website, conduct a search, and tell you what books I have on the subject and upon what shelves they can be found. All of that is due to Dawn’s efforts.

I’m grateful Dawn knew about a couple of books in particular, only one of which is in my library (in several editions and translations). One of those books is the Bible, God’s word. Dawn studied her Bible and sought to live out its truths in her life.

Another book with which Dawn was familiar is the Book of Life. That’s God’s book in which He has written down the names of His faithful children. In Holman’s Bible Dictionary, Jeff Cranford notes that those whose names are in the book have been born into God’s family through Jesus Christ (John 3:3,5; Hebrews 12:23); are untouched by the practice of abomination and falsehood (Revelation 21:27); are faithful through tribulation (Revelation 3:5); and are fellow workers in the work of Jesus Christ

(Philippians 4:3). The book of life will be used along with the books of judgment at the final judgment to separate the righteous and the wicked for their respective eternal destinies (Revelation 20:12, 20; 21:27). \*

God will save from sin and write one's name in the Book of Life those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9), God will continue to cleanse from sin and keep their names in His Book of Life.

I am most thankful that Dawn knew God's Book (the Bible), followed it, and had her name written by God in the Lamb's Book of Life. Those are the most important books that contain the greatest blessings of this life and the life to come.

God will write YOUR name into His Book of Life if you will surrender your life to Him on His terms.

-- David A. Sargent

\* In loving memory of Dawn Sims (December 6, 1958 – February 20, 2026), until we meet again.