



Christian Ambassadors

3 P'S of Our Profession

God the Father, and His Son, Jesus the Christ, are running a business on earth. What is their business? Their business is to **SAVE THE WORLD!** But what does the world need to be saved from?

First, let's define the word "world". The "world" means every human being that has ever existed from Adam and Eve until Christ returns. Secondly, let's define the word "save". To "save" means to rescue from death and to give life. Now we can begin to understand that the phrase "SAVE THE WORLD" means *to rescue from death and to give life to every human being who has ever and will ever exist!*

With this in mind I'm going to repeat my question: what does the world need to be saved from? Answer: the world needs to be saved from death and everything that contributes to death. Then, and only then, can the world have life and have it more abundantly. No one can save the world except God. This is God's business; this is what God is working towards. You're probably familiar with this scripture I'm about to read, but perhaps you've never thought about it in the context of God running a business on earth. This scripture perfectly states the mission statement of God's business. (**Joh 3:16-17**) "God loves the world so much that He gave His only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Yahshuah will not perish but will have everlasting life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to **SAVE THE WORLD** through His Son."

Notice what Jesus the Christ (Yahshuah ha Messiah) said about His own responsibility in the business. (**Joh 4:31-34**) "Jesus' disciples asked Him if was He going to eat. But He said to them, I have food to eat which you do not know about. Therefore the disciples said to one another, No one brought Him anything to eat? Jesus said to them, My food is to do the will of Him who *sent Me* and *to finish His WORK.*"

Did Yahshuah finish His work? Yes and no. Yes, Yahshuah has finished His work as God in the flesh because He did live a sinless / righteous life, meaning He kept His Father's commandments perfectly in the letter and spirit of the Law; and He did die to pay the penalty for humanity's sin. No, Yahshuah has not finished His work as God the firstborn from the dead because He has yet restored all things to its original sinless / perfect state. (**Act 3:18-21**) "But the things which God announced by the mouth of all his prophets, that Messiah should suffer, he thus fulfilled. Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, so that there may come times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send Yahshuah ha Messiah, who was ordained for you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God spoke long ago by the mouth of his holy prophets."

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RESTORATION OF ALL THINGS

For a deeper understanding of the phrase “restoration of all things”, please read [\(1Co 15:3-4, 20-28\)](#) “For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received, that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again after the third day and night in the grave according to the Scriptures; ... Christ stands risen from the dead, the first one offered in the harvest of those who have died. Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also came through a man. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ will all be made alive. However, this will happen to each person in the proper order: first Christ, then those who belong to Christ when He comes. Later the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has done away with every [recalcitrant] ruler and [antagonistic] authority and [perverted] power. For He must rule until God puts all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be done away with is death, for "God has put everything under His feet." Now when Christ says, "Everything has been put under Him," this clearly excludes the Father who put everything under Christ. But when everything has been put under Christ, then the Son Himself will also become subject to the One who put everything under Him, so that God may be all in all.”

I'M EMPLOYED BY GOD

Not only is Christ still working in the family business, God the Father and God the Son have also hired other employees into the company. These employees are called “disciples”. [\(Mat 9:35-37\)](#) “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But seeing the crowds, He was moved with compassion on them, because they were tired and scattered like sheep having no shepherd. Then He said to His disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the laborers are few.”

Notice in the next verse that God wants to expand his company. God is advertising for job openings. [\(Mat 9:38\)](#) “Therefore *pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out more LABORERS into His harvest.*”

Would you like to work for God? You can become a professional Disciple of God. Your official job title would be Christian. As a Christian you would have 3 primary responsibilities --- I call these the “3 P’s of our Profession. The 3 P’s of our Profession are: Preaching; Preparing; and Providing.

1. Preaching the Gospel throughout all the world
2. Preparing disciples to be the best they can be
3. Providing for people in need

We can find these 3 P’s of our Profession mentioned in a verse we already read. [\(Mat 9:35\)](#) “Jesus went about all the cities and villages, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, teaching in their synagogues, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

Whether you are a prospective employee or a new hire or a veteran co-worker, we can all benefit from an in-depth look at the 3 P’s of our Profession.

3 P'S of Our Profession

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

The 1st P of our Profession is *Preaching the Gospel*. What is the Gospel? The word Gospel means “Good News”. The good news God has shared with His employees, and which He wants us to share with the world, is that God has provided a sacrifice for our sins because of Jesus’ death; God is writing His Laws upon the 2 tables of our heart and mind through Jesus living in us; God will give us eternal life in spirit-composed bodies because of Jesus resurrection and return to glory.

In scripture, the Gospel is presented in association with 7 different phrases that give us different perspectives into God’s complete message for mankind. I’ll list them and then discuss each one in detail.

1. Gospel of God
2. Gospel of Jesus Christ
3. Gospel of the Kingdom
4. Gospel of Salvation
5. Gospel of Grace
6. Gospel of Peace
7. Gospel of Blessings

GOSPEL OF GOD

(Rom 1:1-6) “From Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who according to the flesh was a descendant of David, and who according to the spirit of holiness was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead-Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him we received grace and a commission as an apostle to bring about the obedience of faith among all the gentiles for the sake of his name. You, too, are among those who have been called to belong to Jesus Christ.”

(Rom 15:12-16) “Isaiah says, "There will be a Root from Jesse. He will rise up to rule the gentiles, and the gentiles will hope in him." Now may God, the source of hope, fill you with all joy and peace as you believe, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. I myself am convinced, my brothers, that you yourselves are filled with goodness and full of all the knowledge you need to be able to instruct each other. However, on some points I have written to you rather boldly, both as a reminder to you and because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the gentiles might be acceptable because it has been sanctified by the Holy Spirit.”

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GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST

(Mar 1:1-11) "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, *the* Son of God: as it is written in the Prophets, "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who shall prepare Your way before You. The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare the way of *the* Lord, make His paths straight." John came baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. And all the land of Judea, and those of Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a leather girdle about his loin. And he ate locusts and wild honey. And he proclaimed, saying, There is One coming after me who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down to loosen. I indeed have baptized you in water, but He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit. And it happened in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him. And there came a voice from Heaven, *saying*, You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

(Rom 1:16-32) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is *the* power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The just shall live by faith." For the wrath of God is revealed from Heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because the thing which may be known of God is clearly revealed within them, for God revealed *it* to them. For the unseen things of Him from *the* creation of *the* world *are* clearly seen, being realized by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, for them to be without excuse. Because, knowing God, they did not glorify Him as God, neither were thankful. But *they* became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed animals, and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of *their* hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves. For they changed the truth of God into a lie, and they worshiped and served the created thing more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this cause, God gave them up to dishonorable affections. For even their women changed the natural use into that which is against nature. And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust toward one another; males with males working out shameful things, and receiving in themselves the recompense which was fitting for their error. And even as they did not think fit to have God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do the things not right, being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; *being* full of envy, murder, quarrels, deceit, evil habits, *becoming* whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, insolent, proud, braggarts, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, undiscerning, perfidious, without *natural* affection, unforgiving, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous order of God, that those practicing such things are worthy of death, not only do them, but have pleasure in those practicing *them*."

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GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

(Mat 4:17-23) “From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, Repent! For the kingdom of Heaven [Mark 1:14 says “Kingdom of God”] is at hand. And walking by the Sea of Galilee, Jesus saw two brothers, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea. For they were fishermen. And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they immediately left their nets and followed him. And going on from there, he saw another two brothers, James *the son* of Zebedee, and John his brother, in a boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets. And He called them; and they immediately left the boat and their father and followed Him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.”

(Mat 24:1-14) “And Jesus went out and departed from the temple. And His disciples came to *Him* to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, There shall not be left here one stone on another that shall not be thrown down. And as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? And what *shall be* the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the world? And Jesus answered and said to them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many will come in My name, saying, I am Christ, and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled, for all *these things* must occur; but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines and pestilences and earthquakes in different places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows. Then they will deliver you up to be afflicted and will kill you. And you will be hated of all nations for My name's sake. And then many will be offended, and will betray one another, and will hate one another. And many false prophets will rise and deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many will become cold. But he who endures to *the* end, the same shall be kept safe. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in the entire world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come.”

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GOSPEL OF SALVATION

(Eph 1:3-14) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies in Christ; according as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having *predestined* us to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, in which He has made us accepted in the One having been loved. In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, which He caused to abound toward us in all wisdom and understanding; having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, for an administration of the fullness of times, to head up all things in Christ, both the things in Heaven, and the things on earth, even in Him, in whom also we have been chosen to an inheritance, being *predestinated* according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His own will, for us to be to the praise of His glory, who previously had trusted in Christ; in whom also you, hearing the Word of Truth, the gospel of our salvation, in whom also believing, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the earnest of our inheritance, to the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

(Rom 8:29-31) "For whom He foreknew, He also *predestinated* to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be the First-born among many brothers. But whom He predestinated, these He also called; and whom He called, those He also justified. And whom He justified, these He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

(Heb 10:23-39) "Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering (for He is faithful who promised), and let us consider one another to provoke to love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. He who despised Moses' Law died without mercy on *the word of* two or three witnesses. Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy of punishment, the *one* who has trampled the Son of God, and who has counted the blood of the covenant with which he was sanctified an unholy thing, and has insulted the Spirit of grace? For we know Him who has said, "Vengeance *belongs* to Me, I will repay, says *the* Lord." And again, "The Lord shall judge His people." *It is* a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But call to memory the former days, in which (after you were illuminated) you endured a great fight of afflictions, indeed being exposed both by reproaches and afflictions, and while you became companions of those who lived so. For you both sympathized with my bonds and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that you have in Heaven a better and an enduring substance. Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great *recompense of* reward. For you have need of patience, so that after you have done the will of God you might receive the promise. For "yet a little while, and He who shall come will come and will not delay." Now, "the Just shall live by faith. But if he draws back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him." But we are not of *those* withdrawing to destruction, but of those who believe to *the* preserving of *the* soul."

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GOSPEL OF GRACE

What is Grace? The Greek word is “charis”; it means unmerited favor, or “the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life.”

(Act 20:17-24) “And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them, You know how I was with you at all times, from *the* first day I arrived in Asia, serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and many tears and temptations happening to me through the plots of the Jews; *and* how I kept back nothing that was profitable, but have shown you and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, I am going bound by the Spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit witnesses in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But none of these things move me, neither do I count my life dear to myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus *Christ*, to testify fully the gospel of the grace of God.”

(Eph 2:8-10) “For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are *His* workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them.”

(Gal 1:6-8) “I marvel that you so soon are being moved away from Him who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to another gospel, which is not another, but some are troubling you, and desiring to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from Heaven preach a gospel to you beside what we preached to you, let him be accursed.” **(Gal 3:1-7)** “O foolish Galatians, who bewitched you not to obey the truth, to whom before *your* eyes Jesus Christ was written among you crucified? This only I would learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of *the* law, or by hearing of faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun in *the* Spirit, do you now perfect *yourself* in the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain, if indeed *it is* even in vain? Then He supplying the Spirit to you and working powerful works in you, *is it* by works of *the* law, or by hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him for righteousness. Therefore know that those of faith, these are the sons of Abraham.”

(Jam 2:14-26) “What good does it do, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith but does not have any works? This kind of faith cannot save him, can it? Suppose a brother or sister does not have any clothes or daily food and one of you tells them, “Go in peace! Stay warm and eat heartily.” If you do not provide for their bodily needs, what good does it do? In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not have any works, is dead. But someone may say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without any works, and I will show you my faith by my works. You believe that there is one God. That's fine! Even the demons believe that and tremble with fear. Do you want proof, you foolish person, that faith without works is worthless? Our ancestor Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar, wasn't he? You see that his faith was active with his works, and by his works faith was made complete. And so the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” And so he was called God's friend. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, Rahab the prostitute was justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them away on a different road, wasn't she? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.”

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GOSPEL OF PEACE

There was a “war of DIFFERENCE” between the Jews and Gentiles. God brought in “peace of UNITY” through Jesus.

(Rom 10:1-17) “Brothers, truly my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is for it to be saved. For I bear record to them that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they, being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes. For Moses writes of the righteousness which is of the Law, "The man who does those things shall live by them." But the righteousness of faith says this: "Do not say in your heart, Who shall ascend into Heaven?" that is, to bring Christ down; or "Who shall descend into the deep?"; that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead. But what does it say? "The Word is near you, even in your mouth and in your heart"; that is, the Word of Faith which we proclaim; Because if you confess the Lord Jesus, and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses unto salvation. For the Scripture says, "Everyone believing on Him shall not be put to shame." For **there is no difference both of Jew and of Greek**, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call on Him. For everyone, "whoever shall call on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without preaching? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "*How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace* and bring glad tidings of good things!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our report?" Consequently, faith comes from listening, and listening comes through the Word of God.”

(Eph 2:8-22) “For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them. Therefore remember that you, the Gentiles, in time past were in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; and that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who were once afar off are made near by the blood of Christ. For **He is our peace, He made us both one**, and He has broken down the middle wall of partition between us, having abolished in His flesh the enmity (the Law of commandments contained in ordinances) so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, making peace between them; and so that He might reconcile both to God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity in Himself. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off, and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom every building having been fitly framed together, grows into a holy sanctuary in the Lord; in whom you also are built together for a dwelling place of God through the Spirit.”

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GOSPEL OF BLESSINGS

- 1) Given forgiveness of sins means no eternal death
- 2) Given the Holy Spirit means we have God's divine nature
- 3) Given eternal life

(Gal 3:8-29) “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the nations through faith, preached the gospel before to Abraham, saying, **“In your seed shall all nations be blessed.”** So then those of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are determined to live according to the works of the Law, these are under a 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 clear, for, “The just shall live by faith.” But the Law is not of faith; but, “The man who does these things shall live in them.” *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us* (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone having been hanged on a tree”); so that the blessing of Abraham might be to all nations through Jesus Christ, and that we might *receive the promise of the Spirit* through faith. Brothers, I speak according to man, a covenant having been ratified, even among mankind, no one sets aside or adds to it. **And to Abraham and to his Seed the promises were spoken. It does not say, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, “And to your Seed,” which is Christ.** And I say this, A covenant having been ratified by God in Christ, the Law (coming into being four hundred and thirty years after) does not annul the promise, so as to abolish it. For if the inheritance is of Law, it is no more of promise; but God gave it to Abraham by way of promise. Why then the Law? It was added because of transgressions, until the Seed should come to those to whom it had been promised, being ordained through angels in the Mediator's hand. But the Mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. Is the Law then against the promises of God? Let it not be said! For *if a law had been given which could have given life, indeed righteousness would have been out of Law. But the Scripture shut up all under sin, so that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.* But before faith came, we were kept under Law, having been shut up to the faith about to be revealed. So that the Law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. Since faith has come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many as were baptized into Christ, you put on Christ. There cannot be Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is no male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

PREPARING DISCIPLES TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE.

The 2nd P of our Profession is *Preparing disciples to be the best they can be.*

(Eph 4:7-16) “To each one of us grace has been given according to the measure of Christ's gift. **(11)** And it is Messiah who gifted some to be apostles, others to be prophets, others to be evangelists, and still others to be pastors and teachers, **(12)** for the purpose of perfecting the saints, and doing the work of ministry, and building up the body of Christ **(13)** until all of us are united in the faith and in the full knowledge of God's Son, and until we attain complete maturity and the full standard of development in Christ. **(14)** Then we will no longer be little children, tossed like waves and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, or by clever strategies that would lead us astray. **(15)** Instead, by speaking the truth in love, we will grow up completely into the one who is the head, that is, into Christ, **(16)** in whom the whole body is united and held together by every ligament with which it is supplied. As each individual part does its job, the body's growth is promoted so that it builds itself up in love.”

PRAYER

(1Ti 2:1-8) “First of all, then, I exhort *that* supplications, prayers, intercessions, *and* giving of thanks be made for all men, **(2)** for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. **(3)** For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, **(4)** who will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. **(5)** For God *is* one, and *there is* one Mediator of God and of men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, **(6)** who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time. **(7)** To this I am ordained a preacher and an apostle (I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie), a teacher of *the* nations, in faith and truth. **(8)** Therefore, I desire that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”

BIBLE STUDY

(2Ti 2:15-18) “*Study* earnestly to present yourself approved to God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth. **(16)** But shun profane, vain babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. **(17)** And their word will eat like a gangrene; among whom *are* Hymeneus and Philetus, **(18)** who have erred concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past, and who overthrow the faith of some. **(2Ti 2:23-26)** But avoid foolish and unlearned questions, knowing that they give birth to strife. **(24)** But the servant of *the* Lord must not strive, but to be gentle to all, apt to teach, patient, **(25)** in meekness instructing those who oppose, if perhaps God will give them repentance to the acknowledging of *the* truth, **(26)** and *that* they awake out of the snare of the Devil, having been taken captive by him, so as to do the will of that one.”

FELLOWSHIP

(Heb 10:24-25) “Let us consider one another, to provoke to love and to good works, **(25)** not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

PERSONAL CONDUCT

1Th 5:21-23 "Test everything; hold fast to that which is good; (22) abstain from every form of evil. (23) May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be guarded completely, without blame at the coming of our Adonai Yahshua the Messiah."

Mat 5:17-28 "Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I have not come to destroy but to fulfill. (19) Therefore whoever shall relax one of these commandments and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of Heaven. But whoever shall do and teach *them*, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of Heaven. (20) For I say to you that unless your righteousness shall exceed *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall in no case enter into the kingdom of Heaven. (21) You have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not kill" (22) But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be liable to the judgment. And whoever shall say, Fool! shall be liable *to be thrown* into the fire of hell. (27) You have heard that it was said to the ancients, "You shall not commit adultery." (28) But I say to you that whoever looks on a woman to lust after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

Mat 22:36-40 "Master, which *is* the great commandment in the Law? (37) Jesus said to him, You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second *is* like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

Rom 13:8-10 "Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law. (9) For: "Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not lust;" and if *there is* any other commandment, it is summed up in this word, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (10) Love works no ill to its neighbor, therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the Law."

Mat 19:16-19 "And behold, one came and said to Him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life? (17) And He said to him, Why do you call Me good? *There is* none good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments. (18) He said to Him, Which? Jesus said, You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, (19) honor your father and mother, and, you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Jam 2:8-11 "If you fulfill the royal Law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. (9) But if you have respect to persons, you commit sin and are convicted by the Law as transgressors. (10) For whoever shall keep the whole Law and yet offend in one *point*, he is guilty of all. (11) For He who said, "Do not commit adultery," also said, "Do not murder." But if you do not commit adultery, yet if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the Law."

3 P'S of Our Profession

God Defines Love By His Law

“Love” self | Abuse Drugs & Alcohol
“Love” wife | Commit Adultery
“Love” kids | Beat them senseless for making a B in school
“Love” God | Murder your brother

1Jo 4:20-21 If anyone says, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar. For if he does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? **(21)** And we have this commandment from Him, that he who loves God should love his brother also.

Rom 13:8-10 Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for he who loves another has fulfilled the Law. **(9)** For: "Do not commit adultery; do not murder; do not steal; do not bear false witness; do not lust;" and if *there is* any other commandment, it is summed up in this phrase: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." **(10)** Love works no ill to its neighbor, therefore love *is* the fulfilling of the Law.

Not Under The Law

The Law is good, so why do people think it's bad?

Rom 6:14-15 Sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under Law, but under grace. **(15)** What then? Shall we sin because we are not under Law, but under grace? Let it not be!

“Under the Law” is a phrase describing *a way of worship; and rules for relationships*. But the phrase “Under Grace” also describes *a way of worship; and rules for relationships*. It's just that the “worship” and the “relationship” are different. For example ...

Gal 4:4-5, 21-26 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **(5)** in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as his children. **(21)** Tell me, those of you who want to live under the law: Are you really listening to what the law says? **(22)** For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and the other by a free woman. **(23)** Now the son of the slave woman was conceived according to the flesh, but the son of the free woman was conceived through a promise. **(24)** This is being said as an allegory, for these women represent the two covenants. The one woman, Hagar, is from Mount Sinai, and her children are born into slavery. **(25)** Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery along with her children. **(26)** But the heavenly Jerusalem is the free woman, and she is our mother.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Old Covenant

Deu 9:7-14 “Remember, *and* do not forget, how you provoked Yahweh your God to wrath in the wilderness. From the day you departed out of the land of Egypt, until you came to this place, you have been rebellious against Yahweh. (8) Also in Horeb you provoked Yahweh to wrath, so that Yahweh was angry with you to have destroyed you. (9) When I had gone up into the mountain to receive the tablets of stone, the tablets of the covenant which Yahweh made with you, then I stayed in the mountain forty days and forty nights. I neither ate bread nor drank water. (10) And Yahweh delivered to me two tablets of stone written with the finger of God, and on them according to all the words which Yahweh spoke with you in the mountain out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly. (11) And it happened, at the end of forty days and forty nights Yahweh gave me the two tables of stone, the tablets of the covenant. (12) And Yahweh said to me, Arise! Get down quickly from here, for your people whom you have brought forth out of Egypt have corrupted. They have quickly turned aside out of the way which I commanded them. They have made them a molten image. (13) And Yahweh spoke to me saying: I have seen this people, and, behold, it *is* a stiff-necked people. (14) Let Me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under the heavens. And I will make of you a nation mightier and greater than they.”

Deu 4:12-14 “Yahweh spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the voice of the words, but saw no likeness, only a voice. (13) And He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, ten commandments. And He wrote them on two tablets of stone. (14) And Yahweh commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments so that you might do them in the land where you go over to possess it.”

New Covenant

Heb 8:6-10 “But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, and He is also the Mediator of a better covenant, which was built upon better promises. (7) For if that first *covenant* had been without fault, *then* no place would have been sought for *the* second. (8) For finding fault with them, He said to them, “Behold, days are coming, says *the* Lord, and I will make an end on the house of Israel and on the house of Judah; a new covenant *shall be*, (9) not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day I took hold of their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt,” because they did not continue in My covenant, and I did not regard them, says the Lord. (10) “For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My Laws into their mind and write them in their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Eze 36:26-27 “I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit within you. And I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. (27) And I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments and do *them*.”

Both Covenants

2Co 3:2-6 “You are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read by all men, (3) *it* having been made plain that you are the epistle of Christ, ministered by us, not having been written with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not on tablets of stone, but in fleshly tablets of *the* heart. (4) And we have such trust through Christ toward God, (5) not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves, but our sufficiency *is* of God; (6) who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit makes alive.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

Differences Between The Covenants

Written on 2 Tables of Stone	Written on 2 Tables of our Heart & Mind
Written with the Finger of God	Written with the Holy Spirit
Israel was weak in the flesh	Israel will be strong in the Spirit
Israel continued not in the covenant	Israel will continue in the covenant
Israel earned death by the Letter of the Law	Israel will be given life by the Spirit of Grace

Practical Applications Of Old & New Covenants

1. Given forgiveness of sins: No guilty conscience

Heb 9:6-14 The priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle to perform their duties. (7) But only the high priest went into the second part, and then only once a year, and never without blood, which he offered for himself and for the sins committed by the people in ignorance. (8) The Holy Spirit was indicating by this that the way into the Holy of Holies had not yet been disclosed as long as the first part of the tabernacle was still standing. (9) This is an illustration of the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered could not make the conscience of the worshiper perfect, (10) since they deal only with food, drink, and various washings, which are required for the body until the time when things would be set right. (11) But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that was not made by human hands and that is not a part of this creation. (12) Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he went into the Holy of Holies once for all and secured our eternal redemption. (13) For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are unclean purifies them with physical cleansing, (14) how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works so that we may serve the living God!

2. Given righteous: No trying to measure up

Rom 10:1-5 Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God on behalf of the Jews is that they would be saved. (2) For I can testify on their behalf that they have a zeal for God, but it is not in keeping with full knowledge. (3) For they are ignorant of the righteousness that comes from God while they try to establish their own, and they have not submitted to God's righteousness. (4) For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness for everyone who believes. (5) For Moses writes of the righteousness that comes from keeping the Law, "The man who does those things shall live by them."

But nobody should choose living by the Law as their measure of righteousness because they can never measure up to 100% sinlessness! So how do we receive 100% righteousness?

Rom 5:15-16 But God's free gift is not like Adam's offense. For if many people died as the result of one man's offense, how much more shall many people be made righteous through the kindness and the free gift given of one man, Jesus Christ! (16) The sentence that followed one man's offense brought condemnation, but the sentence that followed one man's righteousness brought justification, even after many offenses.

3 P'S of Our Profession

3. Given God's Nature: No bondage to badness

Rom 6:1-13 What should we say, then? Should we go on sinning so that grace may increase? (2) Of course not! How can we who died as far as sin is concerned go on living in it? (3) Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into union with Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? (4) Therefore, through baptism we were buried with him into his death so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too may live an entirely new life. (5) For if we have become united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. (6) We know that our old selves were crucified with him so that our sinful bodies might be rendered powerless and we might no longer be slaves to sin. (7) For the person who has died has been freed from sin. (8) Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him, (9) for we know that Christ, who was raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has mastery over him. (10) For when he died, he died once and for all as far as sin is concerned. But now that he is alive, he lives for God. (11) In the same way, you too must continually consider yourselves dead as far as sin is concerned, but alive to God in Christ Jesus. (12) Therefore, do not let sin rule your mortal bodies so that you obey their desires. (13) Stop offering the parts of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness. Instead, offer yourselves to God as people who have been brought from death to life and the parts of your body as instruments of righteousness to God.

4. Given eternal life: No fear

Mat 10:28 Stop being afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell.

If you are doing right, don't fear man because God's got your back ... He'll bring you back to life. If you are doing wrong, then don't fear man because God's got your ticket to hell --- from which there's no coming back.

If you are doing right, i.e. accepting by faith that you're free from sin and you're righteous and you're having the Law written on your heart and mind, then you will have this perspective ...

"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He who fears has not been perfected in love." (1Jo 4:18). Now if you are being perfected in love, then look at the attitude of the One Who IS Perfect Love.

Joh 3:14-17 Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, (15) so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. (16) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life. (17) For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

1Jo 5:11-13 This is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is found in his Son. (12) The person who has the Son has this life. The person who does not have the Son of God does not have this life. (13) I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

You have eternal life NOW! What is there to fear? No death, no Fear!

3 P'S of Our Profession

5. Peace: We are loved.
6. Joy: We have hope.
7. Love: We have God IN Us!
8. We are NOT promised Health & Wealth in the here and now
9. The Church is NOT an *earthly nation*
 - It's okay to follow OT Statutes & Judgments, but it's not required
 - I don't recommend serving in politics
 - I don't recommend serving in the military
10. The Church IS a *spiritual nation*
 - It's necessary to follow the NT Commandments
 - I do recommend teaching people God's policies
 - I do recommend fighting against wicked spirits in high places
11. Yahshua ha Messiah, King of kings, and Lord of lords: He will establish Utopia!

3 P'S of Our Profession

Free From The Law?

“Free from the Law” means we are free from the wrong perspectives and wrong uses of the Law.

- Forgiveness of sin in the Law (Justification)
- Righteousness in the Law (Sanctification)
- Life in the Law (Glorification)

What is the correct perspective and use of the Law?

- **By the power of the Holy Spirit we should keep the Law in the Newness of Spirit**
- There is **knowledge of sin in the Law**
- The **Law can't transform us --- only God can**

Rom 7:6-25 “ *We have been set free from the Law, having died to that in which we were held, so that we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter.* (7) What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Let it not be said! **I did not know the definition of sin except through the law. I did not know lust except the law said, You shall not lust.** (8) But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, worked in me all kinds of lust. For apart from law sin was dead. (9) For I was alive without the law once. But when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. (10) And the commandment, which was ordained to life, was found to be death to me. (11) For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed me. (12) So indeed **the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good.** (13) Then has that which is good become death to me? Let it not be! But sin, that it might fully manifested as sin, works death in me by that which is good, in order that sin might become exceedingly sinful by the commandment. (14) **For we know that the law is spiritual,** but I am carnal, sold under sin. (18) For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwells no good thing. For to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I do not find. (19) For I don't do the good that I desire; but the evil that I don't want to do, I end up doing. (22) I delight in the Law of God according to the inward man; (23) but I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin being in my members. (24) **O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?** (25) **I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then with the flesh I serve the law of sin, but with the mind I serve the Law of God.**”

3 P'S of Our Profession

Christ Transforms Us

Rom 5:12 Even as through one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, so too has death passed onto all men because all have sinned.

Eph 2:2-3 We once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience; (3) among whom we also had our way of life in times past, in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the thoughts, and were *by nature the children of wrath*, even as others.

2Pe 1:4 God has given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, so that by these we might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Rom 8:1-10 “There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (2) But the Law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. (3) For *what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh; (4) so that the righteousness of the Law might be fulfilled in us*, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. (5) For they who are according to the flesh mind the things of flesh, but they who are according to the Spirit the things of the Spirit. (6) For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace (7) because the carnal mind is hostile against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can it be. (8) So then they who are in the flesh cannot please God. (9) But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. (10) And if Christ is in you, indeed the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

Christian Living

Eph 4:17-32 "This I say therefore, and testify in *the* Lord, that you should not walk from now on as other nations walk, in *the* futility of their mind, (18) having their understanding darkened, being alienated *from* the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. (19) For they, being past feeling, have given themselves up to lust, to work all uncleanness with greediness. (20) But you have not so learned Christ. (22) For you ought to put off the old man (according to your way of living before) who is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, (23) and be renewed in the spirit of your mind. (24) And you should put on the new man, who according to God *was* created in righteousness and true holiness. (25) Therefore putting away lying, let each man speak truth with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. (26) Be angry, but do not sin. Do not let the sun go down upon your wrath, (27) neither give place to the Devil. (28) Let him who stole steal no more, but rather let him labor, so that he may have *something* to give to him who needs. (29) Let not any filthy word go out of your mouth, but if any *is* good to building up *in respect of* need, that it may give grace to the ones hearing. (30) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you are sealed until *the* day of redemption. (31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and tumult and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. (32) And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." **Eph 5:1-28** Be therefore imitators of God, as beloved children. (2) Walk in love, even as Messiah also loved you, and gave himself up for us. (3) When it comes to sexual immorality, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not even be mentioned among you, but live a holy life; (4) Don't give in to filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not appropriate; but rather give in to the giving of thanks. (5) Know this for sure, that no sexually immoral person, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Messiah and God. (6) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things, the wrath of God comes on the children of disobedience. (7) Therefore don't be partakers with them. (15) Therefore watch carefully how you walk, not as unwise, but as wise; (16) redeeming the time, because the days are evil. (18) Don't be drunken with wine, but be filled with the Spirit, (19) speaking to one another in spiritual songs, and singing praises in your heart to the Lord; (20) giving thanks always concerning all things in the name of our Lord Yahshuah the Messiah, and to God our Father. (22) Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (23) For the husband is the head of the wife, and Messiah also is the head of the Church, being Himself the savior of the body. (24) Just as the assembly is subject to Messiah, so let the wives also be to their own husbands in everything. (25) Husbands, love your wives, even as Messiah also loved the Church, and gave himself up for it; (26) that he might sanctify it, having cleansed it by the washing of water with the word, (27) that he might present the Church to himself gloriously, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. (28) Even so husbands also ought to love their wives as their own bodies. **(Eph 6:1-24)** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise: (3) "that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth." (4) You fathers, don't provoke your children to wrath, but nurture them in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (5) Servants, be obedient to those who according to the flesh are your masters, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Messiah; (6) not in the way of service only when eyes are on you, as men pleasers; but as servants of Messiah, doing the will of God from the heart. (9) You masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with him. (10) Finally, be strong in the Lord --- in the strength of His might. (11) Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (12) For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. (17) Use the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; (18) and pray at all times. (23) Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Yahshuah the Messiah. (24) Grace be with all those who love our Lord Yahshuah the Messiah with incorruptible love. Amen.

3 P'S of Our Profession

PROVIDING FOR PEOPLE IN NEED

The 3rd P of our Profession is *Providing for people in need*.

(1Ti 5:8) But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel.

(Gal 6:9-10) “Let us not get tired of doing what is good, for at the right time we will reap a harvest-if we do not give up. **(10)** So then, whenever we have the opportunity, let us practice doing good to everyone, especially to the family of faith.”

(Mat 25:31-43) “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **(32)** All the nations will be assembled in front of him, and he will separate them from each other as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **(33)** He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. **(34)** “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **(35)** For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger, and you welcomed me. **(36)** I was naked, and you clothed me. I was sick, and you took care of me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’ **(37)** “Then the righteous will say to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and give you something to eat, or thirsty and give you something to drink? **(38)** When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? **(39)** When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ **(40)** The king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, in that you did it for one of the least important of these my brothers, you did it for me.’ **(41)** “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who are accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels! **(42)** For I was hungry, and you gave me nothing to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave me nothing to drink. **(43)** I was a stranger, and you didn't welcome me. I was naked, and you didn't clothe me. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit me.’”

(Jam 1:27) “A religion that is pure and stainless in the sight of God the Father is this: to take care of orphans and widows in their suffering, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

What about bums?

(2Th 3:10-15) While we were with you, we gave this order: "If anyone doesn't want to work, he shouldn't eat." (11) We hear that some of you are living in idleness. You are not busy working --- you are busy interfering in other people's lives! (12) We order and encourage such people by the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. (13) Brothers, do not get tired of doing what is right. (14) If anyone does not obey what we say in this letter, take note of him. Have nothing to do with him so that he will feel ashamed. (15) Yet, don't treat him like an enemy, but warn him like a brother.

What about widows?

(1Ti 5:3-16) "Honor widows who are really widows. (4) But if a widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to respect their own family by repaying their parents, for this is pleasing in God's sight. (5) A woman who is really a widow and is left all alone has placed her hope in God and devotes herself to petitions and prayers night and day. (6) But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead while she lives. (7) Continue to give these instructions so that they may be blameless. (8) If anyone does not take care of his own relatives, especially his immediate family, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. (9) A widow may be put on the widows' list if she is at least sixty years old and has been the wife of one husband. (10) She must be well known for her good works as a woman who has raised children, welcomed strangers, washed the saints' feet, helped the suffering, and devoted herself to doing good in every way. (11) But do not include younger widows on your list. For whenever their natural desires cause them to lose their devotion to Christ, they want to remarry. (12) They receive condemnation because they have set aside their previous pledge. (13) At the same time, they also learn how to be lazy while going from house to house. Not only this, but they even become gossips and keep busy by interfering in other people's lives, saying things they should not say. (14) Therefore, I want younger widows to remarry, have children, manage their homes, and not give the enemy any chance to ridicule them. (15) For some widows have already turned away to follow Satan. (16) If any woman is a believer and has relatives who are widows, she should help them. The church should not be burdened so that it can help those who really are widows."

What Can You Do?

Mat 14:14-21 And Jesus went out and saw a great crowd, and He was moved with compassion toward them. (15) When evening was near, Jesus' disciples came to Him, saying, send the crowd away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves. (16) But Jesus said to them, They do not need to leave, **you give them something to eat.** (17) And the disciples said to Jesus, but we have only five loaves and two fish. (18) Jesus said, Bring them here to Me. (19) And He commanded the crowd to recline on the grass, then took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to Heaven He blessed the food, broke it in smaller pieces, and gave the loaves **to His disciples.** And **the disciples gave the loaves to the crowd.** (20) All of the crowd ate and were filled. And the disciples took up twelve hand baskets full from the fragments that remained. (21) The number of people who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

You can support the following schools by donating school supplies like paper, pencils, pencil sharpeners, book bags, textbooks (grades 1 – 5), **Bibles**, etc. Donations can be sent directly to the schools at the following addresses, or they can be sent to Christian Ambassadors, Inc. (tax deductible), and we'll forward them to the appropriate school. Please designate to which school the donation is intended. We, at Christian Ambassadors, Inc., thank you on behalf of these children for allowing God to bless them through you.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Schools in Kenya

Tumaini means “hope”.

1. Teaches Christian living principles
2. Teaches basic school subjects
3. Teaches Boys & Girls Scouts program
4. Teaches soccer

Tumaini Community Orphan School
P.O. Box 10
Mtwapa-Mombasa, Kenya

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Schools in India

Shabnam means “early rains”, which conveys the message of hope.

1. Teaches Christian living principles
2. Cares for HIV infected people
3. Pairs orphans with families so that they can be fed and sent to school
4. Runs orphanage

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3 P'S of Our Profession

Schools in Thailand

“Legacy Institute was formed as a charitable foundation and not a church for an important reason. The Lord Jesus not only fed the people spiritually by teaching them the Truth, but he also fed them *physically* when they were hungry (see John 6). We believe Legacy Institute fulfills this dual responsibility as per the Lord’s example. Therefore, as a foundation, Legacy not only supports spiritual activities – but secular, humanitarian Outreach Projects as well. We liken this approach to going forth with the Word of God in one hand and a loaf of bread in the other.”

1. Rescues refugees fleeing Burma (Myanmar)
2. Teaches Christian living principles
3. Teaches English & Thai, as well as basic school subjects
4. Teaches practical skills to adults, e.g. farming; sewing; computers

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3 P'S of Our Profession

It's Time for Your Performance Review

The Book of Revelation is exactly that ... a book that REVEALS things. Yes, there are mysterious symbols throughout the Book of Revelation, but God gives us the key to unlock these mysteries in all of the previous books of the Bible. Plus, there are books of history that illuminate many aspects of the mysteries.

The first “mystery” we encounter is that of “the 7 Churches which are in Asia.” As we shall see, these 7 Churches represent Jesus Christ’s EVALUATION of how each Christian is doing in regards to performing the 3 P’s of our profession!

Rev 1:1-3 A Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to declare to His servants things which must shortly come to pass. And He signified *it* by sending His angel to His servant John, (2) who bore record of the Word of God and of the testimony of Jesus Christ and of all the things that he saw. (3) Blessed is the one who reads and hears the Words of this prophecy, and the ones keeping the things written in it, for the time *is* near.

Rev 1:4 John to the 7 churches which are in Asia.

The 7 Churches named were those of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. But they were not the only named churches in that district, for there were at least three others: Colosse (Col 1:2); Hierapolis (Col 4:13); and Troas (Acts 20:6-7). These 7 Churches then must be representative of the complete characteristics of Christians in the Corporation of Christ.

In the Bible, the number seven is used by God to represent *completion*. For example, God created the Heavens and Earth in six days, then rested on the seventh day. Mankind has had the seven day weekly cycle ever since. God reveals His seven-step plan of salvation for all mankind in the seven annual festivals of Passover, Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and the Last Great Day. The 7 Churches represent the complete body of Christ ... the complete corporation.

The CEO / President of the corporation is God, the Father. The COO / V.P. of the corporation is God, the Son. Rev. 1 gives us the qualifications of Jesus the Christ --- Yahshua ha Messiah --- to evaluate the 7 Churches.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Yahshua is qualified to evaluate His Corporation, i.e. the Church!

Yahshua's Qualifications:

REVEALER

(Rev 1:1) A Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave to Him to declare to His servants things which must shortly come to pass. And He signified *it* by sending His angel to His servant John.

ALPHA & OMEGA; ETERNAL (co-founder of the corporation)

(Rev 1:4, 8, 11, 17, 18) I am the Alpha and Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* Ending, says the Lord, who is and who was and who *is* to come, the Almighty. I AM the Living One, and I became dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever, Amen.

FAITHFUL WITNESS

FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD

RULER OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH

(Rev 1:5) Jesus Christ is the faithful Witness, the First-born from the dead and the Ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

CORPORATE TRAINER

(Rev 1:6) and made us kings and priests to God and His Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

HIRING & FIRING OFFICIAL

(Rev 1:18) I have the keys of hell and of death.

DIRECTOR

(Rev 1:13-16, 20) And having turned, I saw 7 golden lamp stands. And in the midst of the 7 lamp stands I saw *One* like *the* Son of man, clothed with a garment down to *the* feet, and tied around the breast with a golden band. His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow. And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire. And His feet were like burnished brass having been fired in a furnace. And His voice was like the sound of many waters. And He had 7 stars in His right hand, and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. And His face *was* like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev 1:20) Here is the mystery of the 7 stars which you saw in My right hand and the 7 golden lamp stands. The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches, and the 7 lamp stands which you saw are the 7 churches.

Yahshua holds the 7 Stars in His right hand. Stars are Angels. This teaches us that Yahshua is Directing what occurs in the spirit realm (Dan. 10: an angel --- perhaps Gabriel --- delivers a message to Daniel after being delayed for 21 days due to a battle with an evil angel having charge over the kingdom of Persia; God sent the angel Michael to win the battle for "Gabriel").

Yahshua is in the middle of the Lamp stands. Lamp stands are Churches. This teaches us that Yahshua is Directing what occurs in the Church. (John 1:1-9: Jesus is the True Light; Matt 5:15-16: Each Christian must let the Light shine through them).

The use of the figures Lamp stands and Stars, which are only used in the night, instructs us that we are living in a "dark" world, but Yahshua will light our path and guide us to victory.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Background on Ephesus

The 7 Churches in Asia were on a mail delivery route in the following order:

Ephesus (Rev 2:1-7)
Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11)
Pergamos (Rev 2 :12-17)
Thyatira (Rev 2:18-29)
Sardis (Rev 3:1-6)
Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13)
Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22)

EPHESUS means “desirable”. It was first on the mail route, and rightfully so because it claimed as its title “the first and greatest metropolis in Asia.” Four factors gave it its preeminence:

1. It had the greatest harbor (financial)
2. It was a free city, due to its services to the Roman Empire (political)
3. It hosted an Olympic-style games that rivaled the ones in Greece, and was a haven for immorality (social)
4. It housed the Temple of Artemis, a.k.a. the Temple of Diana (Acts 19). This Temple was one of the seven wonders of the world (religious).

Scarcely could a more uncompromising soil be found for the spreading of the Gospel. Yet, Paul stayed three years in Ephesus, probably longer than any other city (Acts 20:31). Paul asked Timothy to dwell in Ephesus, perhaps to become its first Bishop (I Tim. 1:2-3; 3:1-15). Aquila, Priscilla and Appollos spent time there preaching the Gospel. There can be few places that better prove the conquering power of the Christian faith.

Unfortunately, there is little left of Ephesus today besides ruins. The coast is now a harborless line of sandy beach, unapproachable by a ship because the harbor is a marsh dense with reeds. It was ever a fight to keep the harbor open because of the silt that the Cayster river brings down. The fight was lost and Ephesus not only lost its preeminence, but also vanished from the scene. It's light was turned off!

3 P'S of Our Profession

There are 5 elements of evaluation to each of the churches:

- **Qualifications of Supervisor** – why the Lord has authority to evaluate
- **Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with
- **Criticism** - what the Lord is upset about
- **Advice** - how to get back on track
- **Challenge** - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

EPHESUS (Rev 2:1-7)

Qualifications of Supervisor – why the Lord has authority to evaluate

(Rev 2:1) To the angel of the church of Ephesus write: He who **holds the 7 stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the 7 golden lamp stands**, says these things.

(Rev 1:20) Here is the mystery of the 7 stars which you saw in My right hand and the 7 golden lamp stands. The 7 stars are the angels of the 7 churches, and the 7 lamp stands which you saw are the 7 churches.

Yahshua holds the 7 Stars in His right hand. Stars are Angels. This teaches us that Yahshua is Directing what occurs in the spirit realm. Examples are:

Dan.10. An angel --- perhaps Gabriel --- delivers a message to Daniel after being delayed for 21 days due to a battle with an evil angel having charge over the kingdom of Persia; God sent the angel Michael to win the battle for “Gabriel”.

Job 1; 2 Satan could attack Job only as much as God allowed. First it was Job’s family, then it was Job’s own body; but never did God allow Satan to kill Job.

Heb 1:5-7, 13-14 “For to which of the angels did He say at any time, “You are My Son, this day I have begotten You?” And again, “I will be to Him a Father, and He shall be to Me a Son?” **(6)** And again, when He brings in the First-born into the world, He says, “And let all *the* angels of God worship Him.” **(7)** And of the angels He says, “Who makes His angels spirits and His ministers a flame of fire.” **(13)** But to which of the angels, did He say at any time, “Sit on My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool?” **(14)** Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?”

Yahshua is in the middle of the Lamp stands. Lamp stands are Churches. This teaches us that Yahshua is Directing what occurs in the Church. (John 1:1-9: Jesus is the True Light; Matt 5:15-16: Each Christian must let the Light shine through them).

The use of the figures Lamp stands and Stars, which are only used in the night, instructs us that we are living in a “dark” world, but Yahshua will light our path and guide us to victory.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise from the Supervisor

Praise - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:2) I know your **works** and your **labor** and your **patience**, and how you **cannot bear** those who are evil. And you **tried** those pretending to be apostles, and have found them to be liars. **(Rev 2:3)** And *you* have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake you have labored and have not fainted.

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“Works” has the connotation of good deeds that are appreciated. “Labor” has the connotation of hard work that’s draining because it brings criticism and persecution. “Patience” has the connotation of endurance with assurance (hope).

(Mat 26:6-10) When Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him, having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on His head as He reclined. But when His disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, To what purpose is this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for very much and given to the poor. When Jesus understood it, He said to them, Why do you *trouble* (“labor”) the woman? For she has done a good *work* (“work”) on Me.

(Rom 5:2-5) Through Yahshua we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing God's glory. Not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces *endurance* (“patience”), patience produces character, and character produces hope. Now this hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us.

(1Th 1:2-3) We give thanks to God for you always, making mention of you in our prayers, remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father.

### 3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise from the Supervisor

**Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with

**(Rev 2:2)** I know your **works** and your **labor** and your **patience**, and how you **cannot bear** those who are evil. And you **tried** those pretending to be apostles, and have found them to be liars. **(Rev 2:3)** And *you* have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake you have labored and have not fainted.

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“Bear” has the connotation of putting up with something.

(1Co 5:1-13) It is actually reported that sexual immorality exists among you, and of a kind that is not found even among the gentiles. A man is actually living with his father's wife! (2) And you are being arrogant instead of being filled with grief and seeing to it that the man who did this is removed from among you. (5) Hand this man over to Satan for the destruction of his flesh, so that his spirit may be saved on the Day of the Lord. (6) Your boasting is not good. You know that a little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough, don't you? (7) Get rid of the old yeast so that you may be a new batch of dough, since you are to be free from yeast. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed. (8) So let us keep celebrating the festival, not with the old yeast or with the yeast of vice and wickedness, but with the bread of purity and truth that has no yeast. (9) I wrote to you in my letter to stop associating with people who are sexually immoral- (10) not at all meaning the people of this world who are immoral, or greedy people, robbers, or idolaters. In that case you would have to leave this world. (11) But now I am writing to you to stop associating with any so-called brother if he is sexually immoral, greedy, an idolater, a slanderer, a drunk, or a robber. With such a person you must even stop eating. (12) After all, is it my business to judge outsiders? You are to judge those who are inside, aren't you? (13) God will judge outsiders. "Put that wicked man away from you."

(1Ti 1:12-20) I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who gives me strength, that he has considered me faithful and has appointed me to his service. (13) In the past I was a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a violent man. But I received mercy because I acted ignorantly in my unbelief, (14) and the grace of our Lord overflowed toward me, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (15) This saying is trustworthy and deserves complete acceptance: To this world Christ Jesus came, Sinful people to reclaim. I am the worst of them. (16) But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the worst sinner, Christ Jesus might demonstrate all of his patience as an example for those who would believe in him for eternal life. (17) Now to the King Eternal-the immortal, invisible, and only God-be honor and glory forever and ever! Amen. (18) Timothy, my child, I am giving you this instruction in keeping with the prophecies made earlier about you, so that by following them you may continue to fight the good fight (19) with faith and a good conscience. By ignoring their consciences, some people have destroyed their faith like a wrecked ship. (20) These include Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I handed over to Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise from the Supervisor

Praise - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:2) I know your **works** and your **labor** and your **patience**, and how you **cannot bear** those who are evil. And you **tried** those pretending to be apostles, and have found them to be liars. **(Rev 2:3)** And *you* have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake you have labored and have not fainted.

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"Tried" has the connotation of testing. Christians should encourage people to worship God in Spirit and in Truth. False Christians tempt people to worship God in spirit and in lies.

In his farewell speech to the elders of the Church at Ephesus, Paul warned them that grievous wolves would invade the flock (Acts 20:29). These evil men were of many kinds. There were emissaries of the Jews who sought to entangle Christians again in the Old Covenant mentality and methodology of relating to God by using "works of the Law" as the way to become righteous and garner God's favor. They followed Paul everywhere, trying to undo his New Covenant teaching that Salvation comes through faith, i.e. faith that we have been forgiven of our sins because Christ died for us; faith that we have been given righteousness without works of the law because Christ lived a sinless life for us; faith that we have been given eternal life because Christ has been resurrected for us; and faith that Christ is writing the Law upon the two tables of our hearts and minds through the Holy Spirit so that we can live for God by loving God with all our hearts and minds, and loving our neighbors as ourselves. On the other hand, there were those who tried to turn liberty into license by teaching that, since the Old Covenant was done away with, the 10 Commandments were done away with. They obviously never understood what Paul taught when he wrote: "So indeed the Law is holy, and the commandment is holy and just and good." "For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin." (Rom. 7:12, 14).

Paul is upset because people have evaluated his apostleship as phony, whereas the fake apostles were accepted as real.

(2Co 11:1-15) I would that you were bearing with me a little in foolishness; but indeed bear with me. (2) For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy. For I have espoused you to one Man, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. (3) But I fear lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, so your thoughts should be corrupted from the simplicity due to Christ. (4) For if, indeed, the one coming proclaims another Jesus, whom we have not proclaimed, or if you receive another spirit, which you did not receive, or another gospel, which you never accepted, you might well endure these. (5) For I judge myself to have come behind the highest apostles in nothing. (6) But even if I am unskilled in speech, yet not in knowledge; but in every way I have been clearly revealed to you in all things. (7) Or did I commit sin in humbling myself that you might be exalted, because I preached the gospel of God to you without charge? (8) I stripped other churches, taking wages for the serving of you. (9) And being present with you, and in need, I was not a burden to anyone. For the brothers from Macedonia made up completely my need. And in every way I have kept myself from being burdensome to you, and I will keep myself. (10) The truth of Christ is in me that this boasting shall not be silenced in me in the regions of Achaia. (11) Why? Because I do not love you? God knows. (12) But what I do, that I will do, so that I may cut off occasion from those who desire occasion; so that in the thing in which they boast, they may be found even as we. (13) For such ones are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. (14) Did not even Satan marvelously transform himself into an angel of light? (15) Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.

## 3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise from the Supervisor

**Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:2) I know your **works** and your **labor** and your **patience**, and how you **cannot bear** those who are evil. And you **tried** those pretending to be apostles, and have found them to be liars. (Rev 2:3) And *you* have borne, and have patience, and for My name's sake you have labored and have not fainted.

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What evidence would you use in your trial to determine whether someone is a false or a true Christian?

You must examine what a person SAYS and what the person DOES.

More than once God insists on the necessity of testing. John in his First Letter insists that the spirits who claim to come from God should be tested by their willingness to accept the Incarnation of The Word in all its fullness (1 John 4: 1-3). Paul insists that the Thessalonians should test all things and then hold on to that which is good (1 Thessalonians 5: 21). He insists that, when the prophets preach, they are subject to the testing of the other prophets (1 Corinthians 14: 29). Jesus demanded the hardest test of all: "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 1:15-20).

What People Say

Deu 13:1-5 If a prophet rises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, (2) and the sign or the wonder which he foretold comes to pass, that doesn't mean you should follow him. Listen to what else his is saying. If he says, "Let us go after other gods which you have not known, and let us serve them", (3) you shall not listen to the words of that prophet. For Jehovah your God *is* testing you to know whether you **love Jehovah your God with all your heart and with all your soul**. (4) **You shall walk after Jehovah your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments**, and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. (5) And that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken to turn *you* away from Jehovah your God.

What People Do

Mat 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, Lord! Lord! shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven. (22) Many will say to Me in that day, Lord! Lord! Did we not prophesy in Your name, and through Your name throw out demons, and through Your name do many wonderful works? (23) And then I will say to them I never knew you! **Depart from Me, those working lawlessness!**

Mat 15:1-9 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying, (2) Why do your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread. (3) But He answered and said to them, Why do you also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition? (4) For **God commanded, saying, "Honor your father and mother".** (5) But you say, Whoever says to his father or mother, Whatever you would gain from me, It is a gift to God; (6) this person in no way honors his father or his mother. What you end up doing is *making void the commandment of God by your tradition*. (7) Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, saying, (8) "This people draws near to Me with their mouth, and honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. (9) But in vain they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise from the Supervisor

Praise - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:6) This you've gotten right: you hate the deeds of the **Nicolaitans**, which I also hate.

Nicolaitan means "conqueror of the people". It is taken from "Niko", meaning to conquer or overthrow, and "Laos", meaning the people or laity. *The Nicolaitans were church leaders that abused their authority.* Let me give you two examples of the "deeds of the Nicolaitans" so that you can recognize them and take the appropriate action.

1) The Catholic Church claims that its authority supercedes God's authority in matters of doctrine. Cardinal Gibbons, in *Faith of Our Fathers*, pg. 111, wrote, "You may read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, and you will not find a single line authorizing the sanctification of Sunday. The Scriptures enforce the religious observance of Saturday, a day which we never sanctify." Then, in the *Catholic Mirror*, 9/28/1963, Cardinal Gibbons writes, "The Catholic church, by virtue of her divine mission, changed the day from Saturday to Sunday." Listen to a *Doctrinal Catechism*, by Stephen Keenan, pg. 174. "Question - Have you any other way of proving that the {Roman Catholic} church has power to institute festivals of precept? "Answer - Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionists agree with her - she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday, the 1st day of the week, for the observance of Saturday, the 7th day, a change for which there is no scriptural authority." On page 50 we find: "Question - Which is the Sabbath day? "Answer - Saturday is the Sabbath day. "Question - Why do we observe Sunday instead of Saturday? "Answer - We observe Sunday instead of Saturday because the Catholic Church, in the Council of Laodicea (A.D. 364), transferred the solemnity from Saturday to Sunday." [The Convert's Catechism of Catholic Doctrine, third edition]. Also in writing is this: "The Bible says, 'Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.' The Catholic Church says, No! By my divine power I abolish the Sabbath day, and command you to keep the 1st day of the week. And lo, the entire civilized world bows down in reverent obedience to the command of the holy Catholic Church!" [Father Enright, Redemptoral College, Kansas City, Mo., as taken from *History of the Sabbath*, pg. 802].

For more details, please read our online article entitled "Who or What is the Beast?"

2) I used to attend services with a group that split off from the Worldwide Church of God after the WCG went into apostasy in the late 1980's. Occasionally, I would visit congregations affiliated with a different group that had also split from the WCG. Unfortunately, the administration of the organization I was affiliated with, from the presiding elder in San Diego, CA all the way down to the local minister in Atlanta, GA, practiced the "deeds of the Nicolaitans". The local minister in Atlanta, GA actually forbid me, under threat of being disfellowshipped, from visiting my brothers and sisters in Christ in the other splinter group because he wanted to control my life as well as the lives of every other member. When I told him that he was causing division amongst the brethren --- and that he needed to be disfellowshipped, he questioned my allegiance to the organization. I promptly --- and politely, told him that my allegiance had always been, and would always be, with God --- not an organization!

Whenever you encounter a Pastor who abuses his authority, look him straight in the eyes and say, "Pastor **Nicolaitan**, God hates your deeds!"

3 P'S of Our Profession

Criticism - what the Lord is upset about

(Rev 2:4) But I have this against you: you have **left your first love.**

The Church at Ephesus had faithfully applied its tests and had weeded out all evil and misguided men; but the trouble was that something had gotten lost in the process. "I have this against you," says the Risen Christ, "that you have left your first love."

"First" has the connotation of being "foremost in time, place, order or importance". The "first love" is lost when we don't seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. In other words, our minds and hearts aren't into it anymore. It is not our priority mentally or emotionally. Leaving our first love is characterized by when we pray without joy, when we sing without enthusiasm, when we do evangelistic work that looks good from the outside, but inside aren't done with deep commitment, and when we attempt to maintain doctrinal purity at the expense of loving the brethren. In other words, we either do things by routine or we do things with coldness.

Let's read about an example of "first love" to see what we might have left.

(Act 4:1-35) While Peter and John were speaking to the people, the priests, the commander of the temple guards, and the Sadducees came to them. (2) They were greatly disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that Jesus had been resurrected from the dead. (3) So they arrested them and placed them in custody until the next day, since it was already evening. (7) They made them stand in front of them and began asking, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" (8) Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people! (10) you and all the people of Israel must understand that this man stands healthy before you because of the name of Jesus from Nazareth, whom you crucified but God raised from the dead. (16) The rulers and elders said amongst themselves, "What should we do with these men? (18) They decided to forbid Peter and John from teaching in the name of Jesus. (19) But Peter and John answered them, "You must decide what you're going to do, (20) but we cannot stop talking about what we have seen and heard." (21) With fury the rulers and elders threatened Peter and John even more and then let them go. Later, Peter and John were praying, (29) Lord, pay attention to their threats now, and allow your servants to speak your word with all boldness (30) as you stretch out your hand to heal and to perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." (31) When they had prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken, and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. (32) Now the whole group of believers was one in heart and soul, and nobody called any of his possessions his own. Instead, they shared everything they owned. (33) With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was on them all. (34) For none of them needed anything, because all who had land or houses would sell them and bring the money received for the things sold (35) and lay it at the apostles' feet. Then it was distributed to anyone who needed it.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Advice - how to get back on track

(Rev 2:5) Therefore **remember** from where you have fallen, and **repent**, and **do the first works**, or else I will come to you quickly and will remove your lamp stand out of its place unless you repent.

First, he says *Remember*. He is not here speaking to someone who has never been inside the Church; he is speaking to those who are inside but have somehow lost their way. Memory can often be the first step on the way back. Remember the story of the Prodigal Son? He ran away from the comforts of home to sow his wild oats, but while he was in the uncomfortable position of working in a pig-pen, he suddenly remembered his home (Luke 15:11-17). And that was the first step in his journey home.

Second, he says *Repent*. When we discover that something has gone wrong, there is more than one possible reaction.

There is the reaction of Judas Iscariot: **Mat 27:3-5** "When Judas saw that Jesus was condemned, he became sorrowful, **(4)** saying, I have sinned, betraying innocent blood. **(5)** And he threw the pieces of silver down in the temple and departed to hang himself."

There is the reaction of the Prodigal Son: **Luk 15:18-20** "I will get up, go to my father, and say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and you. **(19)** I don't deserve to be called your son anymore. Treat me like one of your hired men." **(20)** "So he got up and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, threw his arms around him, and kissed him affectionately."

Paul gives us a stark contrast of the two different reactions to sin in **2 Cor 7:9-10**. "Now I am happy, not because you had such sorrow, but because your sorrow led you to repentance. For you were sorry in a Godly way, and so you were not hurt by us in any way. **(10)** For having sorrow in a Godly way results in repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regrets. But the sorrow of the world produces death."

Third, he says *Do*. The sorrow of repentance is meant to drive a man to two things. First, it is meant to drive him to fling himself on the grace of God, saying only: "God, be merciful to me a sinner." Second, it is meant to drive him to action in order to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. No man has truly repented when he does the same things again. The proof of repentance is a changed life by the power of God!

Eph 4:22-32 "Regarding your former way of life, you were taught to strip off your old man, which is being ruined by its deceptive desires, **(23)** and instead to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, **(24)** and to clothe yourselves with the new man, which was created according to the likeness of God in righteousness and true holiness. **(25)** Therefore, stripping off falsehood, "let each of us speak the truth to his neighbor," for we are members of one another. **(26)** "Be angry, yet do not sin." Do not let the sun go down on your wrath, **(27)** and do not give the devil an opportunity to work. **(28)** The thief must no longer steal but must work hard and do what is good with his own hands, so that he might have something to give to the needy. **(29)** Let no filthy talk come out of your mouths, but only what is good for building up as the need may be. This way you will give grace to those who hear you. **(30)** Do not grieve the Holy Spirit, by whom you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. **(31)** Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, quarreling, and slander be put away from you, along with all hatred. **(32)** And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another just as God has forgiven you in Christ."

3 P'S of Our Profession

Challenge - to the true believers within the group: overcome and be blessed

(Rev 2:7) He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who **overcomes** I will give to eat of the **Tree of Life**, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Traditional Christianity preaches a false gospel that I call “once saved always saved.” It goes something like this: once you repent of your sins and accept Jesus as your Savior you have Salvation and it can never be forfeited no matter what you do. This false gospel is taught as a reaction against another false gospel that teaches you can have Salvation by works. While it is true that Salvation is a free gift from God that we receive by faith (that’s called Grace) and cannot be earned in any way (that’s called Works), it is also true that a person can decide to throw God’s grace in His face (that’s called the Unpardonable Sin). An “overcomer” is one who repents of their sins, accepts God’s gift of Salvation by faith, and continues to walk by faith until the day they die. So it is about faith, but does faith *exclude* works? What is God’s answer to that question?

Jam 2:14-26 “What good does it do, my brothers, if someone claims to have faith but does not have any works? **THIS KIND OF FAITH CANNOT SAVE HIM**, can it? (15) Suppose a brother or sister does not have any clothes or daily food (16) and one of you tells them, “Go in peace! Stay warm and eat heartily.” If you do not provide for their bodily needs, what good does it do? (17) In the same way, faith by itself, if it does not have any works, is dead. (18) But someone may say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith without any works, and I will show you my faith by my works. (19) You believe that there is one God. That’s fine! Even the demons believe that and tremble with fear. (20) Do you want proof, you foolish person, that faith without works is worthless? (21) Abraham was justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar, wasn’t he? (22) You see that his faith was active with his works, and by his works faith was made complete. (23) And so the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.” And so he was called God’s friend. (24) You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. (26) Just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.”

Heb 10:23-39 “Let us continue to hold firmly to the hope that we confess without wavering, for the one who made the promise is faithful. (24) And let us continue to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, (25) not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another even more as you see the day coming nearer. (26) For *if we choose to continue sinning after we have received the full knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, (27) but only a terrifying prospect of judgment and a raging fire that will consume the enemies of God (28)* Anyone who violates the law of Moses dies without mercy “on the testimony of two or three witnesses.” (29) How much more severe a punishment do you think that person deserves who tramples on God’s Son, treats as common the blood of the covenant by which it was sanctified, and insults the Spirit of grace? (31) It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God! (32) But you must continue to remember those earlier days, how after you were enlightened you endured a hard and painful struggle. (35) So *do not throw away your confidence*, since it holds a great reward for you. (36) For you need endurance, so that after you have done God’s will you can receive what he has promised. (37) For “in a very little while the one who is coming will return and will not delay; (38) but my righteous one will live by faith, and *if he turns back*, my soul will take no pleasure in him.” (39) Now, we do not belong to those who turn back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.”

The challenge that Christ gives to each Christian is: return to your first love and you’ll be with the love of your life forever!

3 P'S of Our Profession

SMYRNA (Rev 2:8-11)

Background on Smyrna

Smyrna was one of the very few planned cities in the ancient world. It had been founded as a Greek colony as far back as 1000 B.C. About 600 B.C. disaster struck at the hands of the Lydians who broke in from the east and destroyed it. For 400 years Smyrna ceased from being a city, having been reduced to a collection of little villages; then Lysimachus rebuilt the city of Smyrna according to detailed plans. It was built with great, straight, broad streets. Most famous of all the streets was the Street of Gold, which began with the Temple of Zeus and ended with the Temple of Cybele. Here we have an interesting and a significant thing that points us to the qualifications of the Risen Christ to evaluate the Church at Smyrna.

The Risen Christ is called, "He who died and came to life." That was an echo of the experience of Smyrna itself.

There are 5 elements of evaluation to each of the churches:

- **Qualifications of Supervisor** – why the Lord has authority to evaluate
- **Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with
- **Criticism** - what the Lord is upset about
- **Advice** - how to get back on track
- **Challenge** - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

Qualifications of Supervisor – why the Lord has authority to evaluate

(Rev 2:8) And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: **The First and the Last, who became dead and became alive again**, says these things:

Yahshua co-founded the company, survived a coup attempt, and He will successfully lead it forever.

Heb 12:1-2 "... let us lay aside every weight and the sin which so easily trips us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus the Author and Finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured *the* cross, despising the shame, and has now sat down on the right hand side of the throne of God."

Joh 16:33 "I have spoken these things to you so that you might have peace in Me. In the world you shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world."

Tough times were about to descend on the Church at Smyrna. They were going to need all of the encouragement and comfort they could get. That same thing will be true of true Christians in the near future. Counterfeit Christians will think that they are doing God a favor when they "crucify" us because we will be opposed to the Beast and the Antichrist, we will be opposed to MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH!

If you haven't read our articles entitled "Who or What is the Abomination of Desolation?", and "Who or What is the Beast?", you need to do so. Reading these articles could literally save your life!

3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:9) I know your works and **tribulation** and **poverty** (but you are **rich**).

There are three words in verse 9 that we need to focus on: tribulation, poverty, and rich. The Church of Smyrna was obviously living in troublous times, and as we read further, we learn that further trial was imminent.

1. The English word “tribulation” comes from the Greek word “thlipsis”, meaning, “to be crushed beneath a weight.” The pressure of events was heavy on the Church at Smyrna.
2. The English word “poverty” comes from the Greek word “ptocheia”, meaning, “to be without food and shelter.” It is important to note that God did not inspire John to use the Greek word “penia”, which means, “having nothing more than the necessities of life.” Think of it this way: “penia” describes the state of the man who has nothing superfluous, whereas “ptocheia” describes the state of the man who has nothing at all.
3. The English word “rich” comes from the Greek word “plousios”, meaning, “to be wealthy”. But how can this be that Yahshua says the Church at Smyrna is both poor and wealthy? Other Biblical texts give us the answer.

Jam 2:5 “Listen, my beloved brothers. Didn't God choose those who are **poor in this world** to be **rich in faith**, and heirs of the Kingdom which he promised to those who love him?”

Speaking to the Corinthian Church, Paul talks about the generosity of the Macedonian Church.

2Co 8:1-5 “We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about God's grace bestowed on the churches of Macedonia. **(2)** Despite a terrible ordeal of suffering, and despite **their deep poverty**, their abundant joy has abounded to the **riches of their generosity**. **(3)** I can testify that by their own free will they have given to the utmost of their ability, yes, even beyond their ability. **(4)** They begged us earnestly for the privilege of participating in this ministry to the saints. **(5)** We did not expect that! They gave themselves to the Lord first and then to us, through the will of God.

In the New Testament poverty and Christianity are closely connected. The poverty of the Christians was due to two things. First, it was due to the fact that most of them belonged to the lower classes of society (I Cor 1:23-29). The gulf between the top and the bottom of the social scale was very wide. Secondly, it was due to the fact that they suffered from the destruction of their possessions (Heb 11:32-40). There were times when hostile mobs would suddenly attack the Christians and wreck their homes. Life was not easy for a Christian in Smyrna.

But God was pleased with the richness of the faith and generosity of these persecuted people. In fact, Smyrna is one of only two out of the seven churches that had nothing but praise from Yahshua. There was no criticism and therefore no advice was needed on how to get back on the right track. They were on the right track! So what about their challenge? What did Yahshua challenge them to do?

3 P'S of Our Profession

Challenge - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

(Rev 2:9) "... I know the **blasphemy of those claiming themselves to be Jews, but are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.**"

How can someone claim to be a Jew when they're really not?

Rom 2:11-29 "God does not show partiality. (12) All who have sinned apart from the Law will also perish apart from the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law. (13) It is not merely those who hear the Law who are righteous in God's sight. No, it is those who do the Law, who will be justified. (14) For whenever Gentiles, who do not possess the Law, do instinctively what the Law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the Law. (15) They show that what the Law requires is written in their hearts, a fact to which their own consciences testify. (17) Now if you call yourself a Jew, and rely on the Law, and boast about God, (18) and know His will, and approve of what is best because you have been instructed in the Law; (19) and if you are convinced that you are a guide for the blind, a light to those in darkness, (20) an instructor of ignorant people, and a teacher of infants because you have the full content of knowledge and truth in the Law- (21) as you teach others, do you fail to teach yourself? As you preach against stealing, do you steal? (22) As you forbid adultery, do you commit adultery? As you abhor idols, do you rob temples? (23) As you boast about the Law, do you dishonor God by breaking the Law? (24) As it is written, "**God's name is being blasphemed** among the Gentiles because of you." (25) Circumcision is valuable if you observe the Law, but if you break the Law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. (26) So if a man who is uncircumcised keeps the requirements of the Law, his uncircumcision will be regarded as circumcision, won't it? (27) The man who is uncircumcised physically but who keeps the Law will condemn you who break the Law, even though you have the written Law and the covenant of circumcision. (28) **For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly**, nor is circumcision something external and physical. (29) *No, a person is a Jew inwardly*, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by a written law. That person's praise will come from God, not from people."

Paul, in talking to Gentile Christians in Galatia, warned against the practices of physical Jews.

Gal 6:12-16 "These people who want to impress others by their flesh are trying to force you to be circumcised, simply to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. (13) Why, not even those who are circumcised obey the Law! They simply want you to be circumcised so that they can boast about your flesh. (14) Far be it from me to ever boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! (15) For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision matters. Rather, what matters is being a new creation. (16) Now may peace be on all those who live by this principle, and may mercy be on **the Israel of God.**"

Paul calls true Christians the true "Israel of God". See also Eph 2:12-22, Gal 3:26-29 and 1 Pet 2:9-10.

3 P'S of Our Profession

What is the “Synagogue of Satan”?

The English word “synagogue” comes from the Greek word “synagogue” and simply means “the place where people assemble for worship”, or “an assembly of people for the purpose of worship”. The English word “Satan” comes from the Greek word “Satan” and simply means “The Accuser”. *So the “Synagogue of Satan” is simply the people who assemble under the influence of The Accuser.*

Next question: who does The Accuser accuse?

Rev 12:7-11 “Then a war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. (8) But the dragon and his angels were not strong enough, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. (9) The great dragon was thrown down. That ancient serpent, called Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world, was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. (10) Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say, “Now the salvation, the power, the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ have come. **For the accuser of our brethren**, the one who accuses them day and night in the presence of our God, has been thrown out. (11) They conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not love their lives even in the face of death.”

Speaking the truth in love under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, John calls the Jews who were persecuting the Church at Smyrna the “synagogue of Satan” (Rev 2:9). Satan has his assembly of people just like God does. Satan’s assembly is the “synagogue of Satan”; God’s assembly is the Church of God.

Next question: what does The Accuser accuse the brethren of? Satan has always used the Jewish persecutors of Christians to accuse Christians of 2 things: 1) serving a false God --- or serving the true God in a false manner, and 2) not serving the civil authorities.

1. Serving a false God or serving the true God in a false manner

Act 6:8-14 “Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. (9) Then there arose **certain people from the synagogues** of the Libertines, Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and from Asia, disputing with Stephen. (10) They were not able to resist the wisdom and the Spirit by which he spoke. (11) So they induced men to **falsely accuse Stephen** of saying, (14) Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this holy place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered to us in the Law.” In chapter 7 Stephen gives his testimony and is stoned to death because of it. Saul, who later became the Apostle Paul, not only consented to Stephen’s death, but he also caused the murder of many Christians himself. **Act 26:9-12** “Indeed, I myself thought it my duty to take extreme measures against the name of Jesus from Nazareth. (10) That is what I did in Jerusalem. I received authority from the high priests and locked many of the saints in prison. When they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. (11) I would even punish them frequently in every synagogue and try to make them blaspheme. Raging furiously against them, I would hunt them down even to distant cities. (12) That is how I happened to be traveling to Damascus with authority [from the synagogues (Act 9:1-2)] based on a commission from the high priests.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

2. Not serving the civil authorities

Act 17:1-8 "Traveling through Amphipolis and Apollonia, Paul and Silas came to Thessalonica, where there was a **synagogue of the Jews**. (2) And according to Paul's custom, he went in to them and reasoned with them out of the Scriptures on three Sabbaths, (3) setting forth that Christ had to suffer, then die on the cross, and then rise to life again from the grave; and that Jesus is Christ. (4) Some of them believed and joined themselves to Paul and Silas, both a great multitude of the worshipping Greeks, and quite a few of the chief women. (5) But the disobeying Jews became jealous, and took aside some wicked men to **falsely accuse** Paul and Silas, and gathering a crowd, they set all the city in an uproar. Afterwards they came to the house of Jason seeking to bring Paul and Silas out to the mob. (6) But not finding them, they drew Jason and certain disciples before the city judges, crying, These who have turned the world upside down have come here too, (7) whom Jason has received. And these all act contrary to the decrees of Caesar, saying that there is another king, this Jesus whom they preach. (8) The false accusers were successful in troubling the crowd and the city judge."

One of the most infamous Christian martyrdoms happened in Smyrna. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, was martyred on Saturday, February 23rd, 155 A.D. It was the time of the public-games; the city was crowded; and the crowds were excited. Suddenly the shout went up: "Away with the atheists; let Polycarp be searched for." No doubt Polycarp could have escaped; but already he had had a dream in which he saw the pillow under his head burning with fire and he had awakened to tell his disciples: "I must be burnt alive." His whereabouts was betrayed by a slave who collapsed under torture. They came to arrest him. He ordered that they should be given a meal and provided with all they wished, while he asked for himself the privilege of one last hour in prayer. On the brief journey to the city, the police captain asked Polycarp: "What harm is it to say, 'Caesar is Lord' and to offer sacrifice and be saved?" But Polycarp was adamant that for him only Jesus Christ was Lord. When he entered the arena there came a voice from heaven saying: "Be strong, Polycarp, and play the man". The proconsul gave him the choice of cursing the name of Christ and making sacrifice to Caesar or death. "86 years have I served Yahshua," said Polycarp, "and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?" As Polycarp had dreamed, he was burned alive.

God says that we should offer ourselves as a living sacrifice (Rom 12:1). How are you doing in that area?

3 P'S of Our Profession

Challenge - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

(Rev 2:10) “**Do not at all fear** what you are about to suffer. Behold, the Devil will cast *some* of you into prison, so **that you may be tried**. And you will have **tribulation ten days**. Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.”

Yahshua ha Messiah foreknows the future trials of His people, and forewarns them of the future trials, and fore-arms them against the future trials.

He forewarns them of future trials by saying: “*The devil shall cast some of you into prison, ... and you shall have tribulation 10 days.*” The people of God must look for a series of troubles in this world. They had been impoverished by their tribulations before; now they must be imprisoned.

Christ fore-arms them against these approaching troubles in 3 ways:

1. He does this first by His counsel: “*Fear none of these things*”.
2. He does this secondly by showing them how their sufferings would be limited:
 - a) “*some*”, not all, would suffer --- evidently only those who were best able to bear it;
 - b) “*ten days*”, meaning these sufferings were not to be perpetual, but for a set time, and a short time (compare the use of “ten days” for a short time in Gen 24:55.*
3. He does this thirdly by telling them the reason for the suffering: “*that you may be tried*”. The imprisonment is not intended to destroy them, but to test them, so that their faith, and patience, and courage, might be proved and improved.

*The “*ten days*” are most likely a reference to the 10 years of persecution by Diocletian from 303 – 313 A.D. For these were the last state-sponsored persecutions of Christians in the Roman Empire. Shortly thereafter the Roman Emperor Constantine became a so-called Christian, stopped the persecution of Christians, and actually made Christianity the official state religion.

Since it is usual in prophetic writings, and since this is the book of the Revelation we’re talking about, 10 days can easily be supported as 10 years on the basis of several day-for-a-year precedents in Scripture. One example is the wanderings of Israel in the wilderness for 40 years. **Num 14:33-34** “Your sons shall feed in the wilderness 40 years and bear your fornications, until your dead bodies have wasted in the wilderness. **(34)** According to the number of the days in which you searched the land shall you bear your iniquities: 40 days you searched the land, so 40 years you shall wander in the wilderness --- **each day for a year.**” Another example is when Ezekiel was told by God to lie on his side for a certain number of days as a representation for how long Israel and Judah would suffer persecution. **Eze 4:4-6** “Lie on your left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel on it; according to the number of days that you shall lie on it, you shall bear their iniquity. **(5)** For I have laid on you the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, 390 days. **(6)** And when you have fulfilled them, lie again on your right side, and you shall bear the iniquity of the house of Judah 40 days; **a day for a year** I have set for you.”

Yahshua ha Messiah *foreknows* the future trials of His people, and *forewarns* us of the future trials, and *fore-arms* us against the future trials. Take comfort and courage in these words. For these are the words of life!

3 P'S of Our Profession

Challenge - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

(Rev 2:10-11) "Do not at all fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the Devil will cast some of you into prison, so that you may be tried. And you will have tribulation ten days. Be **faithful to death**, and I will give you the **crown of life**. **(11)** He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the **second death**."

Mat 24:3-9 "While Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately and said, "Tell us, when will these things take place, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" **(4)** Jesus answered them, "See to it that no one deceives you. **(5)** For many will come in my name and say, 'I am the Christ,' and they will deceive many people. **(6)** You are going to hear of wars and rumors of wars. See to it that you are not alarmed. These things must take place, but the end hasn't come yet. **(7)** For nation will rise up in arms against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **(8)** But all these things are only the beginning of the birth pains." **(9)** "Then *they will hand you over to suffering and will kill you*, and you will be hated by all the nations because of my name."

Mat 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. But rather fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell."

Rev 20:11-15 "Then I saw a large, white throne and the One who was sitting on it. The earth and the heavens fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. I saw the dead, both the poor and the rich, standing in front of the throne, and books were open. Another book was opened-the Book of Life. The dead were judged according to their works, as recorded in the books. **(13)** The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and Death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and all were judged according to their works. **(14)** Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. (This is the **second death-the lake of fire**.) **(15)** Anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

Rev 20:6 "How blessed and holy are those who participate in the first resurrection! The **second death has no power over them**. They will be priests of God and Christ, and will rule with him for a 1,000 years."

Our "Crown of Life" is the opportunity to rule with Christ in the Kingdom of God as eternal, spirit-composed children of God!

3 P'S of Our Profession

PERGAMOS (Rev 2 :12-17) Background on Pergamos

Pergamos was not on any of the great roads, as Ephesus and Smyrna were, but its geographical position made Pergamos even more impressive. It was built on a tall hill, which dominated the valley of the River Caicus, from the top of which the Mediterranean could be seen, 15 miles away. Sir William Ramsay described it this way: "Beyond all other cities in Asia Minor, it gives the traveler the impression of a royal city, the home of authority."

Historically it was the greatest city in Asia. The reason was that, by the time John was writing, Pergamos had been a capital city for almost 400 hundred years. In 282 B.C. it was made the capital of the Seleucid kingdom, one of the sections into which the empire of Alexander the Great was broken up. It remained the capital until 133 B.C. In that year Attalus the III died, and before he died he willed his dominions into the possession of Rome. Out of the dominions of Attalus, Rome formed the province of Asia, and Pergamos still remained its capital.

Pergamos was the administrative center of Asia, which meant that it was the center of Caesar worship for the province. Undoubtedly that is why Pergamos was where Satan's seat was; it was the place where men were required on pain of death by the sword to take the name of *Lord* and give it to Caesar instead of to Christ; and to a Christian there could be nothing more Satanic than that.

There are 5 elements of evaluation to each of the churches:

- **Qualifications of Supervisor** – why the Lord has authority to evaluate
- **Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with
- **Criticism** - what the Lord is upset about
- **Advice** - how to get back on track
- **Challenge** - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

Qualifications of Supervisor – why the Lord has authority to evaluate

(Rev 2:12) And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write: He who has **the sharp sword with two edges** says these things.

The Director dares to discipline. He will keep the company in line no matter what!

The two-edged sword combines two thoughts. First, the Word of God is the Bible, which is likened to a two-edged sword. Secondly, a two-edged sword is used to fight against the enemy. The lesson conveyed in these two thoughts is this: God judges based on his Word. And God will destroy those who commit the unpardonable sin.

Mat 25:31-34, 41 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels are with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. **(32)** All the nations will be assembled in front of him, and he will separate them from each other as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. **(33)** He will put the sheep on his right but the goats on his left. **(34)** "Then the king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who have been blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. **(41)** Then he will say to those on his left, 'Get away from me, you who are accursed, into the eternal fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels!"

3 P'S of Our Profession

(Rev 2:12) And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write: He who has **the sharp sword with two edges** says these things.

Heb 4:12-13 “For the Word of God *is* living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to *the* dividing apart of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. (13) Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things *are* naked and opened to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.”

Rev 19:11-21 “I saw Heaven opened, and I beheld a white horse with someone sitting on it called Faithful and True. In righteousness He judges and makes war. (12) His eyes are a flame of fire, and on his head are many crowns. (13) He is clothed in a garment sprinkled with blood. His name is called "The Word of God." (14) The armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses. (15) Out of His mouth went a sharp, double-edged sword, that with it he should strike the nations. He will rule them with an iron rod. He treads the winepress of the fierceness of the wrath of God, the Almighty. (16) He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS." (19) I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse, and against his army. (20) The Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet who worked the signs in his sight, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur. (21) The rest were killed with the sword of Him who sat on the horse, the sword which came forth out of His mouth.”

The Risen Christ is called “*He who has the sharp two-edged sword*”. Roman governors were divided into two classes—those who had the *ins gladii*, the right of the sword, and those who did not. Those who had the right of the sword had the power of life and death; on their word a man could be executed on the spot. Humanly speaking the proconsul, who had his headquarters at Pergamos, had the *ins gladii*, the right of the sword, and at any moment he might use it against any Christian; but the letter bids the Christian not to forget that the last word is still with the Risen Christ, who has the sharp two-edged sword. The power of Rome might be satanically powerful; the power of the Risen Lord is greater yet.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Praise - what the Lord is pleased with

(Rev 2:13) "I know your works, and where you **live**, even where **Satan's seat** is. And you hold fast My name and have not denied My faith, even in those days in which Antipas My faithful martyr was slain among you, where Satan dwells."

When the Risen Christ writes to the Christians of Pergamos, "I know where you **live**", He uses the Greek word "**katoikei**", which means to "permanently reside in a place". This is interesting because Christians are not to consider themselves as permanent residents of this world. **Heb 11:13-16** "All these people died having faith. They did not receive the things that were promised, yet they saw them in the distant future and welcomed them, acknowledging that they were strangers and foreigners on earth. (14) For people who say such things make it clear that they are looking for a country of their own. (15) If they had been thinking about what they had left behind, they would have had an opportunity to go back. (16) Instead, they were longing for a better country, that is, a heavenly one. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, because he has prepared a city for them."

So how can we understand this Greek word "**katoikei**", which means to "permanently reside in a place"? The answer is found in **Joh 17:14-18**. Jesus says to the Father, "I have given them your word, and the world has hated them, for they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (15) I am not asking you to take them out of the world but to protect them from the evil one. (16) They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. (17) Sanctify them by the truth. Your word is truth. (18) Just as you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world."

Here is something very important. The principle of the Christian life is not escape, but conquest. We may feel it would be very much easier to be a Christian in some other place and in some other circumstances but *the duty of the Christian is to witness for Christ where life has set him or her*. If in the early days Christians had run away every time they were confronted with a difficult engagement, there would have been no chance for the Gospel to spread. The Christians at Pergamos proved that it was perfectly possible to be a Christian under harsh circumstances. Even when martyrdom was in the air they did not flinch.

These Christians dwelt where **Satan's seat** was. Satan's circuit is throughout the world, but his seat is in places that are infamous for error, wickedness, and cruelty. Pergamos was the administrative center of Asia, which meant that it was the center of Caesar worship for the province. Undoubtedly that is why Pergamos was where Satan's seat was; it was the place where men were required on pain of death by the sword to take the name of *Lord* and give it to Caesar instead of to Christ; and to a Christian there could be nothing more Satanic than that.

The influence of Satan in producing persecution is what is particularly alluded to in the phrase "where Satan's seat is". The scriptures make this very clear when it mentions "Antipas, my faithful martyr". Who is Antipas, and why was he martyred? You will know the answer to this question when you know the answers to the next couple of questions.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Who's your daddy? Do you live by every word of God, or do you live by the word of Satan? God always speaks the Truth. Satan always speaks a lie. In fact, Satan was the first to lie. That's why he's called "the father of lies". In [Joh 8:44-45](#) Jesus said to the Scribes and Pharisees, "You are of your father the Devil, and the lusts of your father you will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not abide in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks of his own, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (45) Because I tell you the truth, you do not believe Me."

If you claim to be a Christian, but live according to Satan's lies, then you're daddy is the Devil! I know these are strong words, but I'm speaking the Truth with all my strength so that I can be used of God the Father and Jesus the Christ to pry you away from the Devil and his deceivers. I want you --- and more importantly, God wants you --- to be like Antipas. Who is Antipas?

In [Rev 2:13](#) God says to the Church in Pergamos, "I know your works, and where you live, even where Satan's seat is. You hold on tight to My name and have not denied My faith, even in those days in which **Antipas My faithful martyr** was slain among you, where Satan dwells."

The Risen Christ calls Antipas "My faithful martyr". The word martyr comes from the Greek word "martus", which is normally translated "witness". For instance, in [Rev 1:5](#) the Risen Christ is called "the Faithful Witness." In the early Church to be a witness and to be a martyr was often the same thing. Antipas did not shrink back from boldly proclaiming the name of Jesus as Savior and LORD. As a result, Antipas is commended by the title bestowed upon him: "My faithful witness", because it is the title for Christ Himself. Both Jesus and Antipas died for preaching the Truth!

What testimony did Antipas give that caused him to be martyred? Antipas is a contraction of the word Antipater, which in turn is a combination of two Greek words: "Anti", which means "against", and "Pater" which means "father". So Antipas was someone --- or represented someone --- who was "against the father". Now we know that this cannot mean that Antipas was against God our Father because he is called God's faithful witness. Therefore, it has to mean that **Antipas was against the "father of lies", Satan the Devil, and against those who represented the "father of lies"**. Who represented the "father of lies"?

Remember that Jesus was speaking to the Scribes and Pharisees when He said to them: "You are of your father the Devil". Who were the Scribes and Pharisees? They were the religious authorities, or "fathers", of the day. And they were the ones leading people astray! Listen to Yahshua's rebuke of these "fathers".

[Mat 23:5-15](#) says, "The Scribes and Pharisees do all their works in order to be seen of men. (6) And they love sitting in the chief seats in the synagogues, (7) and to be called, Rabbi! Rabbi! by men. (8 & 10) But you must not be called Rabbi, nor call anyone else Rabbi, for One is your teacher, even Christ, and you are all brothers. (9) *Call no one your father on the earth*, for One is your Father in Heaven. (11) He who is greatest among you shall be your servant. (12) Whoever shall exalt himself shall be abased, and whoever shall humble himself shall be exalted. (13) Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of Heaven against men. You neither go in, nor do you allow those entering to go in. (14) Woe to you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses, and pray at length as a pretense. Therefore you shall receive the greater condemnation. (15) Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you compass sea and the dry land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, you make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves."

The religious authorities, or "fathers", of that day were the ones leading people astray, and the same is true today. What are some of the lies that spew forth out of the mouth of the modern day false prophets?

3 P'S of Our Profession

Criticism - what the Lord is upset about

(Rev 2:14) “I have a few things against you, because you have in your midst those who hold on to **the teachings of Balaam**, who taught Balak to cast a stumbling-block before the sons of Israel, **to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit fornication.**”

Who were Balak and Balaam? Balak was king of the Moabites. Balaam was a prophet from Mesopotamia. Balak wanted Balaam to curse Israel. The historical account is given in Numbers 22 – 24. Let's read a portion of it.

Num 24:10-13, 25 “Balak's anger was kindled against Balaam. So Balak said to Balaam, I called you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have kept on blessing Israel three times. **(11)** I thought to give you great honor, but instead, Jehovah has kept you back from honor. Therefore flee to your place. **(12)** Balaam responded to Balak: Did I not speak to you and your messengers whom you sent to me, saying, **(13)** If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond what Jehovah allows, to do good or bad of my own mind. What Jehovah said, that I will speak. **(25)** So Balaam rose up and returned to his place. And Balak also went his way.”

Everything seems okay because Balaam seems to be a prophet of God. But don't you be deceived. Read on.

Num 25:1-4, 9 “Israel lived in Shittim, and the people began to fornicate with the daughters of Moab. **(2)** And the Moabites called the Israelites to come and make sacrifices to their gods. **(3)** And Israel joined himself to Baal-peor. So the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Israel. **(4)** And Jehovah said to Moses, Take all the leaders of the people and hang them up before Jehovah against the sun, so that the fierce anger of Jehovah may be turned away from Israel. **(9)** 24,000 died in the plague”.

Balaam knew that he couldn't curse Israel, but he knew that he could cause God to curse Israel by causing Israel break God's Commandments. Balaam taught Balak to seduce Israel into committing physical fornication with the Moabite women. Balaam knew that the Moabite women would in turn seduce Israel into committing “spiritual fornication” with the Moabite gods. Israel tripped over the stumbling block. The stumbling block amounted to being seduced into breaking two of the Ten Commandments. Committing idolatry breaks the 1st Commandment; committing fornication breaks the 7th Commandment.

Today there are many false prophets in Christianity that are just like Balaam. These deceived Teachers, Preachers, Pastors and Priests seduce people into believing the lie that God's Ten Commandments have been done away with. They incorrectly reason that since the Ten Commandments were given to Israel as a part of the Old Covenant, and since the Old Covenant has been done away with, that the Ten Commandments were done away with. While it is true that the Ten Commandments *written on two tables of stone* were done away with, it is a lie that God's Spiritual Law is done away with. [log on to www.christianambassadors.org to read the article “Old and New Covenants”]. Remember that Satan the Devil is the “father of lies”. Also remember that Satan has false apostles and false ministers that appear to be ministers of God the Father --- the “Father of Truth”.

So who's your daddy? Do you live by every word of God, or do you live by the word of Satan? If you claim to be a Christian, but live according to Satan's lies, then your daddy is the Devil! Two of Satan's biggest lies you've probably been deceived into believing are that: 1) Sunday is the Lord's day as opposed to the Sabbath, and 2) Christmas is Jesus' birthday as opposed to the birthday of the Sun, i.e. the Winter Solstice celebration. Both of these lies have their origins in Mystery Babylon, the Mother of Harlots, and have a lot to do with the Mark of the Beast. For an explanation of the Mother of Harlots and the Mark of the Beast, log on to www.christianambassadors.org and read the article “Who or What is the Beast?”.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Criticism - what the Lord is upset about

(Rev 2:15) “You also have those who hold on to **the teaching of the Nicolaitans**, which thing I hate.”

We discussed the teaching of the Nicolaitans in reference to the Church at Ephesus. But here in the letter to the Church at Pergamos we find a major difference. The Church at Ephesus hated the teachings of the Nicolaitans, whereas the Church at Pergamos embraced the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Briefly, the Nicolaitans were conquerors (Niko) of the people (Laos), meaning they abused their authority. Authority in the Church is not bad; the abuse of authority in the Church is always bad. In Ephesus, the leaders and the laity fought against abuses of authority and only followed men as they followed Christ (**1Co 11:1; Philip 3:17-18**). **In Pergamos the laity let the leaders abuse their authority in two ways:**

- 1) they let their leaders influence them to follow the doctrinal traditions of men rather than the Commandments of God (see previous discussion on the teachings of the Nicolaitans); and
- 2) they let their leaders lead them into licentiousness, i.e. immoral practices (see previous discussion on the teachings of Balaam).

Friends, we must become and remain doctrinally and morally pure. If you've gone off track, how do you get back on track?

Advice - how to get back on track

(Rev 2:16) “**Repent!** But if not I will come to you quickly, and will fight with them by **the sword of My mouth.**”

Repentance is the process of changing from a carnal state of mind to a spiritual state of mind. The carnal mind is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be (Rom 8:5-8). God has to give a carnal minded person a new mind (Rom 8:3-4, 9-14).

God warns us that if we don't accept His gift then He has no option but to cut us off with “the sword of His mouth”. Undoubtedly, the “sword” is condemnation to death.

Rev 19:11-15, 19-21 “I saw Heaven opened. And behold, a white horse! He that sat on the horse was called Faithful and True. In righteousness He judges and makes war. **(12)** His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head many crowns. He had a name written, one that no one knew except Himself. **(13)** He had been clothed in a garment dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. **(14)** The armies in Heaven followed Him on white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. **(15)** And **out of His mouth goes a sharp sword**, so that with it He should strike the nations. He will rule them with a rod of iron. He treads the winepress of the wrath of Almighty God.” **(19)** “And I saw the beast and the kings of the Earth and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him Who sits upon the horse, and against His army. **(20)** And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his sight, by which he led astray those who had taken the mark of the beast and those who had worshipped his image; these two were thrown alive into the Lake of Fire which burns with sulfur. **(21)** And the remainder of them were **killed with the sword which came from the mouth** of Him Who sits upon the horse”.

Of course, God is always looking to give us the Grace to grow into Godliness.

3 P'S of Our Profession

Yahshua says that He is our Shepherd and we are His sheep. He also says that His sheep will hear His voice, meaning that we will recognize and respond to His voice. Hearing the Shepherd's voice is only possible when we listen by faith. When we listen by faith we will have 20/20 hearing! Do you have 20/20 hearing?

Challenge - to the true believers within the group: hold fast, overcome and be blessed

(Rev 2:17) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the hidden manna ..."

Notice that it takes faith to hear Yahshua. **Joh 6:28-31** "The crowd said to Yahshua, What shall we do that we might work the works of God? (29) Jesus answered, This is the work of God, that you **believe** on the One whom God has sent. (30) Therefore they said to Him, What sign do you show so that we may see and believe you? What work do you do? (31) Our fathers ate manna in the desert, as it is written, "He gave them bread from Heaven to eat."

Their argument against Yahshua was this: Jesus, we grant that you fed 5,000 men with 5 loaves and 2 small fishes; but what is this in comparison to what Moses did in the desert, who for 40 years fed more than a million people with bread from heaven: do something like this, and then we will believe in you, as we have believed in Moses.

Yahshua's responds by saying, hold on a minute, you can't top what I do; listen up. **Joh 6:32-36, 49-51** "Truly, truly I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. (33) For the bread of God is the One who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." (35) "I am the bread of life. The one who believes in Me will never become hungry or thirsty. (36) I told you that you have seen me, yet you do not believe. (49) Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. (51) I am the living bread which came down out of heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever."

Having eternal life as a result of eating the true Manna from Heaven, which is Jesus, is of far greater value than having temporary life as a result of eating the manna Moses was credited with giving.

Do you think it's worth it to **fight against** the "teachings of Balaam" and the "teachings of the Nicolaitans", which only gave people temporary satisfaction, and hold onto the teachings of our Shepherd Yahshua, which gives us permanent satisfaction? In Rev 2:17 the Messiah is pleading with the Church in Pergamos by saying, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat of the hidden manna".

If you have faith then you'll have 20/20 hearing, and you'll respond to the LORD Jesus by overcoming the Balaam and Nicolaitan doctrines and practices. To the followers of Balaam and Nicolaos the LORD Jesus is like "hidden manna" because they can't hear His voice. They are spiritually deaf. Jesus is **hidden from their perception**. But you should not be that way. Pray for faith so that you will have 20/20 hearing! Pray for faith so that you will hear the words: enter into eternal life!

3 P'S of Our Profession

The Christian Hall of Fame, which I call the “Hall of Faith”, is all of the people spoken of in Heb 11. If you took a poll of God the Father and Jesus the Christ, do you think they would vote for you to be inducted into the “Hall of Faith”? If you listen to every word of God, and live by every word of God, then you will receive their votes.

(Rev 2:17) “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes ... I will give to him a **white stone**, and in the stone a **new name** written, which **no man knows except he who receives it.**”

The “white stone” is what God the Father and Jesus the Christ use to cast their votes. Rather than using a paper ballot like we do in today’s voting process, God uses a stone ballot. The English word “stone” is here translated from the Greek word “psephos” (pronounced psay'-fos), and it occurs only one other place in the Scriptures. I’m going to read that scripture first in the KJV, then in the Messianic Renewed Covenant version (MRC).

Act 26:9-10 “I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. **(10)** Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, **I gave my voice against**^{2702, 5586} *them.*” (KJV)

Act 26:9-10 “I, indeed, then thought to myself that it was necessary for me to do many things opposing the name of Yeshua of Natzeret, **(10)** which I also did in Yerushalayim; I not only shut up many of the saints in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests; and being put to death, **I cast my stone against them.**” (MRC)

As you can see, both translations give the sense that Paul gave his vote against Christians. But Christ casts His vote for Christians because what makes a *Christian* a *Christian* is the fact the *Christ* is in us. When Christ casts His stone ballot in our favor, that stone will have written on it a “new name” which “no man knows except he who receives it”. This name will be the name of none other than Christ!

Rev 3:12 “To him who overcomes ... I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of Heaven from My God, and My new name.”

Rev 19:11-13, 16 “I saw Heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He Who sat upon it is called Faithful and True; ... **(12)** ... upon His head are many diadems; and He has a name written which no one knows except Himself. **(13)** ... His name is called The Word of God. **(16)** On His garment and on His thigh He has a name written, “KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.””

The name is new, and nobody knew it before in the sense that no one has ever or will ever fully comprehend the name of the Risen Messiah until we fully become like the Risen Messiah! And make no mistake about it --- we are destined to become fully like the Risen Messiah.

1Co 13:12 “Right now we see an obscure image through a glass; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know fully even as I was known fully.”

1Jo 3:1-2 “Behold what manner of love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God. Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. **(2)** Beloved, now we are children of God, though it has not yet been revealed what we shall be. But we know that when He shall be revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

3 P'S of Our Profession

Before discussing the remaining 4 letters to the Churches at Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea, let me recap what we've covered so far.

I. 3 P's of Our Profession

1. **Preaching the Gospel** = what God has done, is doing, and will do, thru Messiah Yahshua.
2. **Preparing disciples** = the elders must help the disciples mature into profitable servants.
3. **Providing for people** = taking care of their spiritual and physical needs.

II. The LORD's Letters to the 7 Churches in Rev. 2 & 3 are evaluations on our effectiveness as employees. The evaluations have 5 categories:

1. **Qualifications of Supervisor** – why the Lord has authority to evaluate
2. **Praise** - what the Lord is pleased with
3. **Criticism** - what the Lord is upset about
4. **Advice** - how to get back on track
5. **Challenge** - true believers within the group must hold fast, overcome and be blessed

III. Summary of Ephesus, Smyrna and Pergamos

1. Ephesus = The Love that's Lost

- a) **Qualifications of Supervisor:** Yahshua holds 7 Stars and Lampstands
- b) **Praise:** did good works; convicted false apostles as fakes; hated deeds of Nicolaitans
- c) **Criticism:** left their first love
- d) **Advice:** remember the intimacy; repent of drifting; return to intimacy
- e) **Challenge:** overcome, and eat of the Tree of Life in the Paradise of God

2. Smyrna = The Persecuted and Promoted

- a) **Qualifications of Supervisor:** Yahshua became dead and became alive again
- b) **Praise:** faced persecution and poverty, but were rich in faith
- c) **Criticism:** none
- d) **Advice:** none
- e) **Challenge:** don't fear death, for you will be given eternal life

3. Pergamos = The Faithful and Fornicators

- a) **Qualifications of Supervisor:** Yahshua has the sharp sword with two edges
- b) **Praise:** did not deny the faith; they did deny the fake "fathers"
- c) **Criticism:** some committed physical and / or spiritual fornication
- d) **Advice:** repent or be killed by the sharp sword with two edges
- e) **Challenge:** overcome, and eat of the hidden manna, and receive the white stone on which is written my new name which no one can know until the appointed time