



# 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."

## 3 P'S of Our Profession

### 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

### 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 1<sup>st</sup> Commandment; committing fornication breaks the 7<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](http://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**<sup>2702, 5586</sup> *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