



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

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?

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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.

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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.”

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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 worshiping 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?

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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!