**MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE**

***Jesus: “Mission Accomplished!”***

“Mr. Phelps, your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to…

As always, should you or any of your IM force be caught or killed, the secretary will disavow any knowledge of your actions. Good luck, Jim. This tape will self-destruct in five seconds.”

Thus began each episode of the TV series Mission: Impossible from 1966-1973. I loved the suspense of each action-packed show each week. It was great to see Mr. Phelps (Peter Graves) pick his IMF (Impossible Mission Force) to perform a secret mission that would save the country, or the world, from some dastardly terrorist. Matin Landau (aka Rollin Hand), Barbara Bain (aka Cinnamon), Leonard Nimoy (aka Paris), Peter Lupus (aka Willy) and Greg Morris (aka Barney) were experts in their espionage specialties. Amazingly, they never failed! They accomplished every single mission (isn’t it amazing what TV script writers can do? 😊)

Tom Cruise has in recent years (1996-2018) recreated that same suspense in six movies. The seventh in the series will hit the screens in 2022. It has grossed billions in profit, making it one of the highest movie series in history. I say all that to say this, people love mystery and suspense, especially when the impossible is actually accomplished.

But there was another IMF that was not fictional, and which pulled off the greatest mission in the history of the world. And the great part of it is, you and I are in the script! Satan had us by the throat and with seemingly no possible way to escape. Our end was near…

When the heavenly Father sent the Only Begotten Son into this world, it was a dangerous, virtually impossible mission. He obviously had a very specific purpose for allowing His Son to leave the glory of their home to take on flesh and be subjected to the horrors of evil men. There are many scriptures we could read to define this Mission: Impossible, but one that stands out is Titus 2:11-14. See if you agree with me.

“*For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,* ***who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works***.”

No doubt your eyes focused on the emboldened, underlined words of verse 14, which was my intention. While the text speaks of “*the grace of God*,” it hits a climax when Paul summarizes the purpose of Christ’s mission when He “*appeared to all men*.” Let’s break it down into its individual parts for clearer understanding:

**Purchased Me** *(“that He might redeem us from every lawless deed”)*

I had made a bargain with the devil and sold my soul for the pleasures of sin. Only too late I realized I had made a terrible mistake and begged for a second chance. Satan had me, dragging me into the bondage of sin. Hopeless and helpless I stood on the slave block, to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Incredibly, impossibly, a voice rang out from heaven. God had paid the redemption price to restore me to His love!

**Purified Me** *(“and purify for Himself”)*

The first thing He did when He removed the chains and took my hand was remove the sin-stained clothes I was wearing from my prodigal days in the pig’s mire. He then washed me, put a new white robe and new shoes on me, and then threw a Lost-and-Found, Dead-and-Alive party for all to rejoice (Luke 15). I was clean again!

**Possessed Me** *(“His own special people”)*

Suddenly there I stood in breathless wonder staring into the face of a smiling Jesus. Why was He so happy? Because His Mission: Impossible had been successful! He had pulled it off without a hitch. I was now safe and sound in His possession. I had been added to His “Special” forces.

**Produced Zeal in Me** *(“zealous for good works”)*

Now that He had pulled off this seemingly impossible mission He next takes me through the exact same sequence as Isaiah. Just as the prophet had been rescued from the jaws of death and purified from his sins, then asked by God, “*Who will go for us? Who shall we send*?” (Isa. 6:1-7), He now calls me into Special Forces service to go on His next rescue mission. He needs volunteers who will be “*zealous for good works*!” I gladly raise my hands and shout, “*Here am I, send me*!” With a thankful heart full of determined zeal I spend the rest of my life on daring missions to “*seek and save the lost*” (Lk. 19:10).

Therefore, “your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to … save the world!”

While we might not be experts in the field of espionage, we are called to be experts in the field of soul-saving. We were rescued in order to rescue others. We were saved in order to save others.

The best part of the TV series was always watching the crew barely escape from danger and death in order to return to save the world again next week. Same time. Same station.

The best part of our joining the IMF of Jesus is that at the end of our last mission we will be basking in the glory of that mysterious voice who gave us our Mission: Impossible.

This article will self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck Mr. Lanning.

Pssssssssssss…. Puff.

Mission: Accomplished! – Jesus