

**Overall Theme:** The YEARS 2003, 2013, and Going Forward – **“THE MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE”**

**THEME: “AM I READY TO GO TO HEAVEN at THIS MOMENT?” -**

**SUB-THEME: “THE SEASON OF BEGINNINGS”**

**PART 1: AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS YEAR’S STUDIES/TOPICS** [January 20-22]

A. **“PUTTING GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE”** [January 22 – 24]

**PART 2: FIRSTFRUITS**

B. **“ANOTHER BENT/VIEWPOINT OF FIRSTFRUITS”** [January 25 – 27]

C. **“REAPING THE RESULTS OF YOUR FIRSTFRUITS”** [January 28 – 31].

by: *Dr. Loretta C. Johnson*

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**PART 1. INTRODUCTION TO THIS YEAR’S THEME AND SUB-THEME:**

**RE: “PRAYER AND FASTING: A RIGHTFUL YEAR’S BEGINNING”**

**“PRAYER AND FASTING DAYS,” esp. for Media Church Participants = January 29-31:**

\*See website: [www.lcj-lmmi.org/services](http://www.lcj-lmmi.org/services). Read web-post #8A: **“PRAYER AND FASTING.”**

**[1] PRAYER and Preparation = January 22-27; 2) PRAYER = January 25-28; 3) 3 Days of PRAYER AND FASTING = January 29-31.** Choose your of time of day, as 1 hour per day between 6 AM – 6 PM, adhering to Prayer and Fasting Guidelines. Obtain your doctor’s advice. as/if necessary.

If there were ever a time we need to think about what will happen after our death – unless we are alive when **JESUS CHRIST** returns (I Thessalonians 4:17) - the time is **NOW** – beginning **TODAY!** The world is, now, even more wicked than before; at the same time, living a **GODLY/RIGHTEOUS Life** is more than we can handle on our own. We need **GOD** to help us and **HE** is here for us, even as **HE** said in Hebrews 13:5. **“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”** Unless we take **HIM** at HIS Word, **OBEY HIM** and **KEEP HIS WORD** of every command, we are doomed to spend our eternity **“in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.”** (Revelation 21:8) **BUT! HOLD ON!** There is **HOPE** for us in **JESUS CHRIST!!** Our lives can end on a good note- if we are prepared to enter into eternal/everlasting life with **JESUS CHRIST!!**

Questions:

What does it mean to be saved? How can we become saved? How can we inherit eternal life?

Answers:

By 1) Listening, 2) Reading, then 3) Obeying the WORD of GOD (*The Holy Bible*)– in every aspect. (To Obey means to DO the WILL of GOD, for it is the WILL of GOD that “we might be saved.” (I Timothy 2:3-4) We DO HIS Will by listening to the Voice of GOD through HIS Word. LISTENING leads to READING; READING leads to Obeying/DOING GOD’s WORD.

GOD’s WORD contains HIS Commandments for our lives. The Bible says, “**If we LOVE GOD, we will KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.**” (I John 5:3)

- 1) **HIS Commandments of Becoming Saved** contain these Steps to Salvation. (Acts 2:38):  
“*Then Peter said unto them, [1] **REPENT**, [2] and **BE BAPTIZED** [Who?] everyone of you [How?] **IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST** [Why?] for the remission of sins, [3] and **YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST**. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to those who are afar off, even as many as the LORD our GOD shall” call. [What promise? The promise of the Holy Ghost]*
- 2) **HIS COMMANDMENTS of Staying/Keeping/Remaining Saved** contain information needed for **NOT sinning**, nor even **Practicing sin** through the elements of 1) **Thinking**; 2) **Saying**; and 3) **Doing UNGODLY/UNRIGHTEOUS THINGS!!**

## **PRELIMINARIES, ETC.:**

### **INTRODUCTION TO EACH BIBLE STUDY GUIDE'S SUB-THEME:**

**NOTE: For LMMI's "On-Line Ministries," you will need access to our Postal Mailing Address, Facebook, Website, email address.**

During this year, will you journey with us through the reading and study of **GOD'S WORD** -*The Holy Bible*, concentrating on the New Testament? The intent of these readings are to help us get ready for spending our eternity with **JESUS CHRIST!** If you join us, 1) Abbreviated Postings\* **OR FREE Study Guides [BSG]\*** will be forwarded to you via facebook, website, or postal mail, as contents may be too lengthy for social media). **For BSG, contact Johnson, P. O. Box 1284, Hampton, Virginia 23661, including your e-mail and postal mailing address PLEASE DO NOT send info to me via Internet. Let's keep all personal, private information CONFIDENTIAL.**

**Explanation for \*** (above paragraph)

- 1) **Abbreviated Postings.** Rarely done, may include a shortened version of the Study Guide, to easily post into your Smart Device (no discussion).
- 2) **Bible Study Guide.** May include detailed information, as Introduction/Background/Explanation of Theme/Topics; Assignments (some rhetorical); Questions for your own research insertions, interactiveness, etc.; Some materials/supplies needed: Bible [for writing/marking], Bibles for easier understanding: NLT, Amplified, etc.. Refer to your Smart Device's Bible Hub for resources regarding Bible Commentaries, Bible Concordances, and other Bible study tools. Also, use your Smart Device for Dictionary/Thesaurus, and other resources. You will need paper, colored pens/markers, other research materials, etc. **NOTE:** Scriptures quoted are mainly from the KJV of *The Holy Bible*.

**THEMES, SUB-THEMES, TOPICS:** 1) Always re-read previous pages.  
2) **\*Note date for your readings. Post Questions/Scriptures into your Smart Device, if desired.**

**GOAL:** To be **READY FOR HEAVEN** – *at THIS MOMENT!* through reading the **HOLY BIBLE**, then making personal application in **OBEDIENCE** to **GOD'S WORD** by living a **GODLY/RIGHTEOUS** Life.

\*Scriptures are from the King James Version [KJV] of the Bible. [For easier reading, install the 1) The "YouVersion Bible," app for ALL "Compare Versions;" etc.; 2) "Google" for Cross References; 3) "Google" for Bible Hub Commentaries; 3) "Google" for 'GOT Questions'].

## **INFORMATION:**

\***The number 20.** Originally, 20 comes from the number **10** [*“Divine Perfection”*].  
Twenty [**20**]. is 10 +10 [*“Divine Perfection x 2”*].

One ten hundred = the exponent of 100 = 1000. 1000; one millennial = 1000.  
Two ten hundreds = 2 x the exponent of 1000 = 2000; two millennials = 2000.

\***From several writers, The number 20** can denote *Regeneration and a New Beginning for us – only through GOD’s Gift of Redemption for us.*

The number “3,” - as in “23” - according to some - is a symbol of one’s *New Life, Completeness, Harmony/Solidity and Divine Wisdom* in **JESUS CHRIST**, as we shall become through our “triple” our tripling down on satan, then “TRIPLE” our “TRIPLING UP” our time, effort, dedication, etc. in pleasing **GOD**, via living a **GODLY/RIGHTEOUS LIFE** so that we **WILL BE READY TO INHERIT EVERLASTING/ETERNAL LIFE WITH JESUS CHRIST – whenever **HE** comes for us (whether in transition from life on earth OR “caught up” to meet **HIM** in the air! [I Thessalonians 4:13-17].**

As the number 10 symbolizes “*Divine Perfection*,” we can conclude that the number 2000 (20/20 + 3 – together – written as “**2023**” can mean “*Completeness, Realness, Divine perfection*,” etc. for us through

- 1) The REDEMPTION of **JESUS CHRIST** through **HIS** redeeming [purchasing us from sins through **HIS BLOOD** shed on Calvary – **HIS** sacrificing **HIMSELF** by sacrificing **HIS OWN LIFE** just to save us from the penalty of Sin – through the **HOLY GHOST**!.
- 2) Thusly, we can conclude the “*Divine Perfection*” we are seeking is through Regeneration and Resurrection in a New Life in Jesus Christ – all through **HIS REDEMPTIVE LOVE FOR US** – even while we were yet sinners!

## **RATIONALE:**

If there were ever a time we needed to think about what will happen to us after our death, the time is **NOW – BEGINNING TODAY!** The New Testament (and Old Testament Bible Readings for the next 365 days intend to get us ready (even the moreso than in the past) for spending our eternity with Jesus Christ! The sub-theme for this year is relevant to **“AM I READY TO GO TO HEAVEN AT THIS MOMENT!”**

## **PREMISE:**

Throughout the Old Testament, people were constantly disobedient to **GOD** (resulting in Ungodly and Unrighteous living that resulted in dire consequences of bondage, famine, death, etc..

The same can happen with people who live that way today. On the other hand, persons who were (and are) **OBEDIENT to GOD (living GODLY/ RIGHTEOUSLY)** had/HAVE good consequences of having their **NAMES recorded in HEAVEN – to live in HEAVEN FOR ETERNITY (HEBREWS 11 [OUR NAMES CAN BE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN FOR ETERNAL LIFE, AS WELL.]**)

### **Everything one sees or hears in today's world reflects signs of the coming of JESUS CHRIST.**

For those who are saved (depicting Godliness/Righteousness in Obedience to God's Word – and the NT – not forsaking the Holy Scriptures that state we **MUST** live a **GODLY/RIGHTEOUS Life**.

Ephesians 5:27 states: “*That HE [JESUS CHRIST] might present it to **HIMSELF** a glorious church, **NOT having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but it SHOULD BE holy and without blemish**” – regardless of your own personal interpretation of these words. (Even the old adage of an Ivory soap commercial many years ago that claimed it was “99 and 44% pure” will not work nor qualify one to have eternal life with **JESUS CHRIST** - the same applies to any person who thinks he/she will live eternally with **JESUS CHRIST with less than what is stated in Ephesians 5:27\*\***, and who also believes **no one** can live a **HOLY** life. Again, what does the **Bible** say? Stated in I John 5:17, “**ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS IS SIN.**” summarized in Revelation 21:7-8, “*He that overcometh shall inherit all things;...But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*” **WE'VE GOT TO BE READY FOR HEAVEN-TODAY!!** Do you really believe **GOD** would allow Ungodliness/Unrighteousness/Imperfectness in **HIS HEAVEN?***

### **\*\*Other Scriptures regarding Ephesians 5:27:**

**Holy** – Leviticus 19:1-2; Romans 7:12; 12:1; I Peter 1:13-16; Revelation 22:11-12

**Holiness** – Ephesians 4:24; Hebrews 12:14; I Peter 2:9-10

**Holy conversation, Godliness, Righteousness, Spot, Blameless**– II Peter 3:9-14

**Blame, Blameless** - Ephesians 1:4; I Corinthians 1:8; I Thessalonians 5:14-23

Would you agree that **GOD** would be **UNfair** to allow **any** form of UNgodliness/  
UNrighteousness enter **HIS DOMAIN**. **If this were the case, then there would be NO need for Hell , Fire, and Brimstone.**

**BUT – hold on!** There is reprieve! **When you DO sin, do these:**

**#1: CONFESS** your sins to **GOD**. [I John 1:9 states, *“If we confess our sins, **HE** is faithful and just to **FORGIVE** us of our sins, and to cleanse us from **ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS.**”*

**#2: REPENT** of your sins. [**TURN around** 180 degrees from your sin.]

- a) Again, read **I John 1:9**.
- b) Re-read **Acts 2:38** [page 1]
- c) **Micah 7:18-19**: *“Who is **GOD** like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of **His** heritage? **He** retaineth not **HIS** anger for ever, because **HE** delighteth in mercy. **HE** will turn again, **HE** will have compassion upon us: **HE** will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”*
- d) **Hebrews 12:1**: *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us...”*[Also, read verse 2]
- e) **II Peter 3:9**: *“The **LORD** is not slack concerning **HIS** promise, as some men count darkness; but it is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”*
- f) **Hebrews 8:12**: *“For **I** will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins will **I** remember no more.”*
- g) **John 2:1-2**: *“**My** little children, these things write **I** unto you, that And **HE** is the propitiation for our sins, **that YE SIN NOT. And IF ANY MAN SIN, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST, THE RIGHTEOUS: AND HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS: AND NOT FOR OUR SINS ONLY, BUT ALSO FOR THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD.**”*  
The New Living Bible translates these verses thusly: *“**My** little children, **I** am writing to you so that you **WILL NOT SIN, BUT** if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. **HE is JESUS CHRIST the One who is TRULY RIGHTEOUS.**”*

- h) **Psalm 103:8-12**: “The **LORD** is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. **HE** will not chide : neither will **HE** keep **HIS** anger for ever. **HE** hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is **HIS** mercy toward the that fear Him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath **HE** removed our transgressions from us.”] **NOW**, read ALL of Psalm 103, for it will surely and truly **BLESS** your Soul!!]

**#3: DO NOT REVERT TO COMMITTING THIS SIN, AND ESPECIALLY NOT PRACTICING THIS, NOR ANY SIN** [*habitually SAYING wrong things , THINKING wrongly, or DOING wrongly*] your former(habit-forming) sin(s) nor LIVING your former Ungodly/Unrighteous lifestyle(s), for **JESUS** has forgiven you of your sins.. Only *you* can recall it to begin **PRACTICING** [repeating the “thing”] that **GOD** has forgiven you of. If you do Practice Sin [repeat sin], you are on very dangerous ground.

**Remember:**

- 1) **GOD LOVES YOU**, for John 3:16 states, “For **GOD** so loved the **WORLD**, that **HE** gave **HIS** only **begotten Son**, that whosoever **BELIEVETH\* ON HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, but HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.**” Remember: Hell was not designed for you; it was actually designed and prepared for the devil and his angels. People have a choice of where they want to spend Eternity; God will never force anyone to go to Heaven or Hell.
- 2)\***BELIEVETH on HIM** -in John 3:16- means to **THINK, SAY, DO** what **HE** commands us-to **DO, SAY, THINK** what is in **HIS WORD**. **HIS WORD** is the **HOLY BIBLE** **HIS HOLY BIBLE** contains what **HE** commands/demands of us in full **OBEDIENCE** to **HIM**.
- 3)\***JESUS** [in John 14:15, 23, 24] said, “**IF you love me, keep my commandments.** ...**IF** a man love **me**, he will **keep my WORDS**: and **MY Father** will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. **He that loveth me nor keepeth not my sayings: and the Word which you hear is not mine, but the FATHER’S which sent me.**” What are some of these **WORDS/COMMANDMENTS** referenced *for us* by **JESUS CHRIST**? Some are known as “**The Ten Commandments,**” found in Exodus 20:1-17, and are summarized in Matthew 22:39, Mark 10:19 and Romans 13:9.

**Remember:** The Purpose for this Series is to

**“BE SURE YOU ARE READY FOR HEAVEN...AT THIS MOMENT!!”**

#### **#4. READ AND REMEMBER THESE KJV SCRIPTURES re: Committing and Practicing Sin:**

\*Psalm 103:1-22 [KJV], ESPECIALLY FOCUSING ON VERSES 11 AND 12.

**Psalm 103:7-12:** *“The **LORD** is Merciful and Gracious, slow to anger, And plenteous in mercy. **HE** will not always chide: neither will **HE** Keep **HIS** anger for ever. **HE** hath not dealt with us after our sins; Nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high Above the earth, so great is **HIS** Mercy toward them that fear **HIM**. As far as the East is from the West, so far hath **HE** removed our Transgressions from us.”*

**\*Hebrews 8:12 [KJV]:** *“For **I** will be Merciful to their unrighteousness, and Their sins and their iniquities will **I** remember no more.”*

\*Psalm 25:7; Psalm 65:3

\*Isaiah 38:17, Isaiah 43:25; Isaiah 44:22

\*Jeremiah 31:34; Jeremiah 50:20

\*Micah 7:19

\*Acts 13:38-39

\*Romans 8:1; Romans 22:27

\*Ephesians 1:7

\*Hebrews 8:12; Hebrews 10:16-17

\*I John 1:7-9; 2:1-2

\*Revelation 1:5



## **IMPLICATIONS/RESULTS/CONSEQUENCES:**

***GUESS WHAT? YOU DO HAVE A CHOICE!!***

**#1: OBEY GOD** by living GODLY/RIGHTEOUSLY = Entering HEAVEN to spend an Everlasting Life (ETERNITY) with JESUS CHRIST!!

Remember: *“In my Father’s House are many mansions...”* (John 14:2)

**OR**

**#2: DISOBEY GOD** by living Ungodly/UNrighteously = NOT entering Heaven, but - to spend your eternal life with satan “in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.”

(Revelation 21:8 – NJV)

**For these Readings, Sub-Themes/Topics/Messages are listed and are designed to give “Implicated Applications Essential for Your Eternal Life with JESUS CHRIST”:**

### **A. With Interactive Implications -**

- 1) For your own Personal Application/Assumptions/Presumptions, write what each Topic Means to/for You?
- 2) For Daily Implications and Impact, what are the Positive or Negative Consequences/Results for your Daily Living during each Season discussed?

**Note:** If you ***REALLY*** want to live eternally/everlastingly with **JESUS CHRIST**, you ***must adhere*** to what HE has outlined to us through HIS WORD. For this year’s study, we shall mainly focus on selected passages from the New Testament, though readings from the Old Testament will be used, as well.

**From the Pauline Epistles (Letters)**– those Books written by the Apostle Paul: Romans, I Corinthians, II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, II Thessalonians, I Timothy, II Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews [accredited to Paul]

**From the General Epistles (Letters)** – books written by Peter ( I Peter, II Peter); James (James); John (I John, II John, III John); Jude (Jude)

**From the Book of the Revelation to John (John)**

### **B. With the Ultimate Implicating Message of the Bible for the ‘20s: To inherit Eternal/everlasting Life with JESUS CHRIST.**

## **PART A: “PUTTING GOD FIRST...AN INTRODUCTION:”**

For anyone/everyone, the beginning of any New Year ***SHOULD/MUST*** dictate that **GOD** BE ***FIRST*** IN YOUR LIFE..., THUS THE TOPIC: **“THE CASE FOR PUTTING GOD FIRST – EVERY DAY, IN EVERYTHING!”** – CENTERING ON THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THESE MONTHLY WRITINGS!

**NOTE:** Yes, we shall begin “PUTTING GOD FIRST...” in January. After this month of “practice,” you will have gotten into your mind “the things/items” you need to remember to do *each day – in every aspect of your life* so that “**Putting GOD First...**” becomes a part of your *daily* routine – **throughout** the months of FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, DECEMBER!

**\*NEXT YEAR,** begin the process over again!!

### **A FEW SELECTED FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES:**

**“In the beginning, GOD created the heavens and the earth”** (Genesis 1:1)

**“Thou shalt have NO other gods before me.”** (Exodus 20:3)

**“But seek ye FIRST the kingdom of GOD and HIS Righteousness: and all these things shall be added unto you.”** (Matthew 6:33)

**“And thou shalt love the LORD thy GOD 1) with all thy heart, and 2) with all thy soul, and 3) with all thy mind, and 4) with all thy strength: this is the FIRST commandment.”** (Mark 12:30)

**“If ye then be risen with CHRIST, seek those things which are above, where CHRIST sitteth on the right hand of GOD.”** (Colossians 3:1)

## **QUESTIONS FROM YOUR INTERACTIVE ASSIGNMENTS:**

(Before responding, ask yourself: “Am I **PUTTING GOD FIRST** or in **ALL OF THE ITEMS** talked about in this 3-part document”?)

### **Guide to Your Interactive Assignment:**

- 1) Keep a Journal.
- 2) Keep a record of your answers to the information that follows – **DAILY** – recording your responses.
- 3) **MY QUEST: THE CASE FOR PUTTING GOD FIRST IN MY LIFE – EVERY DAY, IN EVERYTHING I MAY ATTEMPT**

- 1) TO THINK**
- 2) TO SAY**
- 3) TO DO**

This is done – in part – through answering, then making application of your answers to these Assignment Questions:

- 1) What does it mean to “**PUT GOD FIRST**”?
- 2) What are some requirements for “**PUTTING GOD FIRST**”?
- 3) Why should/must I “**PUT GOD FIRST**”?
  - a) What does the Bible say about ‘**PUTTING GOD FIRST**’?
  - B) Check off the Scriptures you are daily reading from the next page in this Packet.  
(We realize this may be an added assignment for you, but remember our Bible Study Guides for this year will remind us that we must be in **GOD’S WORD** even more this year!!)
- 4) What are some of your Results for “**PUTTING GOD FIRST**”?
- 5) What can “**PUTTING GOD FIRST**” Mean for/to Me? (What about “**PUTTING GOD FIRST**” in your Tithes and Offerings?)
- 6) After reading information on this topic, then “**PUTTING GOD FIRST**” in your life, write some positive changes made in your “**New Life in/for JESUS CHRIST**”?
- 7) Having participated in this Project, what results have I obtained from “**MY QUEST**”? (Complete your response in the month you are ready to answer this question.)
- 8) How would you explain this Project to an adult, to a teen, to a youth, to a child?

May **GOD BLESS YOU** for your Time and Efforts in this STUDY of **HIS WORD!!**