



**2023 WINTER CONSECRATION GUIDE**

**January 17-February 15**

**HARVEST IN HEART**  
*To Know Him and  
Make Him Known*

THE **DOOR** *of* **HOPE**  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**A Lesson by: Bishop Michael A. Blue**

# THEME SCRIPTURES

**Philippians 3:10**



King James Version



That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

# THEME SCRIPTURES

**John 4:23** 

King James Version 

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.”

# THEME SCRIPTURES

**John 4:29** 

King James Version 

“Come see a Man Which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”

# The Theme Explained

*Harvest in Heart:  
To Know Him and  
Make Him Known*

In the heart of every child of God, there are two impulses that actually originate from one stimulus: to know God and to make Him known. Biblical examples abound that when an individual gains a revelation of Who God truly is and becomes intimately acquainted with Him, there is an instinctive desire to bring others into this acquaintance. Ironically, the better acquainted one becomes with our Lord, the more that person realizes how little he or she really knows – because to know Christ is to become aware of His inexhaustible depth. The more of Him we learn, the more clearly we see that our knowledge is so very limited – so we press into Him even more deeply. At the same time, as we behold His beauty, not merely in reflective thought but in the impact of His power upon real-life issues, we are compelled to “advertise” Him to others. How can we withhold food from the hungry, water from the thirsty, warmth and light from those who sit in cold darkness?

The first part of our theme echoes the heart cry of Paul. Paul was the great apostle to the Gentiles, the one who is considered the greatest influence in Christianity historically – second to Jesus Christ Himself. This man encountered the Resurrected Christ Himself on the road to Damascus; he carried the message of the Gospel to much of the Roman Empire, leaving thriving churches in his wake; he wrote the majority of the New Testament, clarified and established much of the doctrine of the Church, and evidently had a supernatural visit to heaven itself. And yet, this was his plea:

*“That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”* Philippians 3:10

Paul, after all of his unprecedented Kingdom accomplishments, is still crying out TO KNOW HIM? Of course, Paul knows Him. But Paul says in effect that, “Considering what I have learned of Him, what I have tasted of Him, I realize that there is so much MORE to know. And I want it. I want Him, in His fullness.”

And as stated earlier, who did more to MAKE CHRIST KNOWN than Paul? No one. It seems that the greater Paul’s knowledge of God grew, the greater his passion for others to know Him grew as well.

Our second Scriptural basis is the story of Jesus' Ministry to the Woman at the Well. To the reader of the story in the Gospel of John Chapter 4, it becomes clear through the record of the woman's repeated marriages and her then current situation of simply living in a non-marital relationship with yet another man, that she had been seeking a deeper level of intimate knowledge, deeper than she had attained with natural humans. We learn this when Jesus supernaturally reveals her failed natural connections, and she immediately inquires about supernatural relationship – the worship of God. As it turns out, she has gone through these seemingly painful experiences seeking to know God.

Jesus brings the woman into revelation.

*“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship Him.” John 4:23*

In a personal encounter with Jesus the Christ, this woman at last comes to truly know the God she has been yearning for all her life. And what does she do in response? She abandons her waterpot and goes into the city saying,

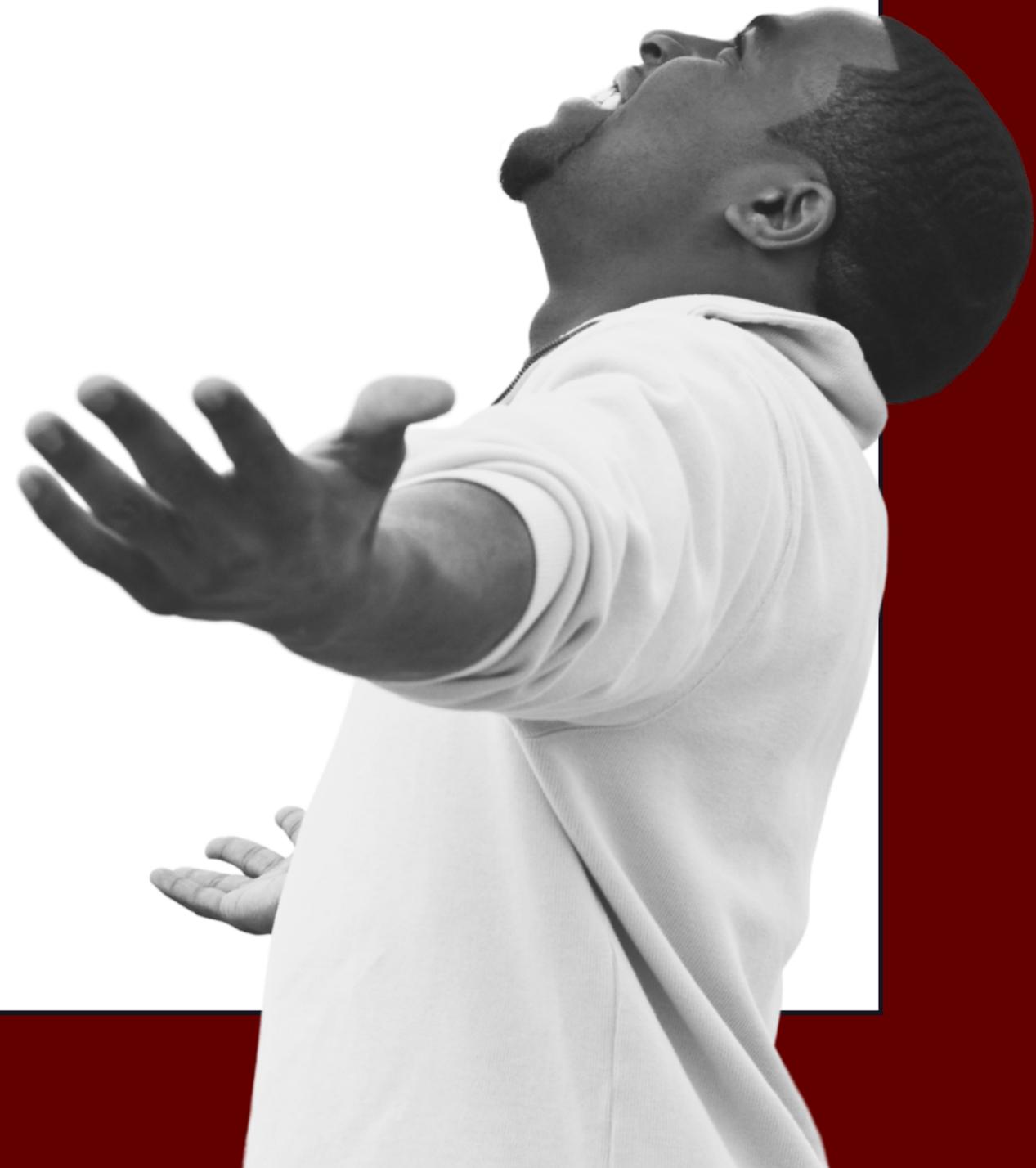
*“Come see a Man Which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?”* John 4:29

The narrative goes on in which the men of the city come in response to her testimony, and when they have had their own encounter, they testify themselves that Jesus is the Christ. In and through the life of this woman, the revelation (to know God) produces revolution (to make Him known)!

This year's theme is not disconnected from last year's emphasis upon **Contending For Revival** (No, that emphasis will remain until Jesus returns). To the contrary, to know God IS the root and fruit of personal revival; to make Him known IS the impetus and outcome of church – family – city – state – national – global REVIVAL.

A heartbeat consists of two parts, the diastolic and systolic contractions, yet there is one organ beating within the human breast, and one neurological impulse directing the process. Even so, in the one spirit of the believer (also called the heart) there is a “heartbeat” with two aspects – a passion to know God and a drive to make Him known. And there is one Holy Spirit Who is directing the process. A healthy heart sustains natural life. A healthy spirit retains, and is retained by, eternal life.

# Clarifying Consecration



Consecration is the DEDICATION of something or someone --- TO THE PURPOSE OF GOD.

This Consecration is a season in which to especially dedicate ourselves afresh unto the Lord. At the beginning of this New Year, by offering the “firstfruits of our time”, we commit the whole of the year to the fulfillment of Kingdom Purpose.

We petition for the Word and the Spirit to flow freely throughout the earth, and for godly success in every aspect of our collective and individual existence. Whenever there is Consecration, there is a greater manifestation of the Grace of God.

**TWO BASIC ASPECTS OF  
OUR CONSECRATION:  
THE ATTITUDE AND THE ACT**



# THE ATTITUDE & THE ACT

The attitude of consecration is what God values most, above how many days one fasts or how many chapters of the Bible one reads. These outward ACTS have real meaning when they are the expression of an inward ATTITUDE. When one humbles himself/herself to God, this disposition pleases Christ, for it is the "mind" that He had on earth.

Perhaps the "highest-praise-word" is "Hallelujah", but the highest praise is "YES": for when one totally surrenders to God, he is not just "doing" praise but BECOMING a praise.

The ACT of consecration should be the fruit of an ATTITUDE of consecration. The ACT always includes reading/meditation in the Word of God and prayers of all kinds. It often includes fasting and other acts of self-denial.

## Philippians 2:5-11

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

# **THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF CONSECRATION**



# 1. CORPORATE (*INSTANTANEOUS*)

**1 Corinthians 12:13 | 1 Peter 2:9 | Isaiah 43:6-7**

Every believer is set apart into the Body of Christ, for God's purpose.

GOD Himself does this.

## **2. CONTINUAL ( *Lifetime - personal* )**

**I Corinthians 10:31 | I Thess. 5:17**

The lifestyle of the Christian is one in which every moment is lived in God-consciousness, devoted to His purpose, whether in a secular or a sacred setting.

The individual BELIEVER does this.

# 3. CALLED (Special Seasons)

**II Chronicles 20:3-4 | Joel 2:15-17**

There are designated times when Christians “come aside” to place special emphasis on the Lord and their relationship with Him. These seasons include intercession for nations, communities, and families.

The CHURCH - collectively - does this.

# Fasting and Consecration

Fasting is the voluntary abstinence from food for spiritual reasons --- denying the natural appetites while asking God to deepen and fill the spiritual appetites.



# WHAT DOES FASTING DO?

*IT...*

1. . . . undergirds faith and prayer. | Matthew 17:21
2. . . . prepares us for supernatural works. | Mark 9:1-8; 14-29; Luke 4:1-2,14
3. . . . blesses the nations and the church. | Joel 1:1-14; 2:1,12
4. . . . disciplines our emotions and our bodies. | Psalm 35:13 with Isaiah 58:5; Romans 12:1-2; I Corinthians 9:25-27
5. . . . enables us to break oppression. | Isaiah 58:6-7,10; Luke 4:18-19, Acts 10:38
6. . . . makes us light in the dark world. | Isaiah 58:8
7. . . . provides divine health. | Isaiah 58:8

8. . . . is a part of ministry unto The Lord. | Luke 2:37; Acts 13: 1-
9. . . . accompanies repentance, and may turn away divine judgment. | II Samuel 12:15; Jonah 3:4-10
10. . . . positions us to receive divine revelation. | Daniel 10:1-3; Luke 2:36-38

# ABSOLUTE FASTING

An absolute fast is abstaining from ALL food and drink for a period of time. Most people continue to drink water, for health reasons, and remembering that after Jesus' fast it is stated that He "hungered", not that He "thirsted".

Absolute fasting seems to be the Bible norm when the term "fast" or "fasting", "fasted" is used.

When we use the term "fast" or "fasting", we are referring to absolute fasting.



# Other Consecration Sacrifices

## Modified Fasting or “Sacrifice

”Some people abstain from food while still drinking fruit/vegetable juices and/or water. This has medical benefits, but it is not clearly mandated or exemplified in Scripture. Certainly, it can be a legitimate sacrifice unto the Lord, but it is NOT what is referred to in the Bible as “fasting”.

## “No Pleasant Bread” Sacrifice

This sacrifice was undertaken by the prophet Daniel (Daniel 10: 1-3, 12-14b). Some Bible students believe he did continue to eat, but ate less desirable foods. Some contemporary teachers also teach a “Daniel Fast.” Other teachers believe Daniel's fast was "absolute". We don't argue! This consecration involves various sacrifices, but the fasting part is simple - abstinence from food and all drink other than water. We deal with exceptional situations on the next page.

# EXTENDED SACRIFICE

**All 30 days should involve some ongoing extended sacrifice unto God:** either the same sacrifice for all the days or different sacrifices for various sets of days. Whereas your absolute fast will be for limited amounts of time, you should consider giving a more extensive sacrifice even when you are not officially “fasting”, such as giving up a certain food, drink, or non-health based recreational activity.

For example, one might omit eating sweets for all 30 days, even when not fasting. Or, one might omit some other food type for one week --- and omit another type the next week.

# ENTERTAINMENT

**All 30 days should involve minimal television viewing** (limited to essentials such as news, or programs [along with DVD's, CD's, or other media] that have ***spiritually edifying*** content). The same is true of **social media**. Christian television may be beneficial, and the news may be necessary, but in all things we should remember the Lord. We should use our praise and worship music, ministry CDs /DVDs, etc. to keep our hearts attuned to the things of God. All other kinds of entertainment, such as movies and such, should be postponed until after the consecration. (Our entertainment should reflect godliness at all times, even when there is not a special Consecration. Therefore, the Consecration is a good time to evaluate what we call entertainment, and to eliminate those things that distract us from God's purpose and truly healthy minds as well as bodies: **this is another aspect of discernment.**)

NOTE: Those parents / guardians with children in academic, athletic, or other scholastic and developmental activities must continue to support them.

NOTE: Physical exercise and other health activities should continue as appropriate. However, any recreational activity purely by choice, purely for natural enjoyment, should be denied throughout the consecration. You may need to decide whether you will exercise while fasting, or before-and-after.

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

**Expectant mothers** should not fast. They should deny themselves in some other way, a way that does not potentially have a harmful effect on her or the unborn child. They will have opportunities in the future.

**Females** should time their fasting not to occur at their “time of the month”. Individual sisters vary with regard to how much eating it takes for them during this time, but they definitely need proper nutrition. They should sacrifice themselves to the Lord in other areas.

Those on a **medication regimen** that requires regular eating should continue eating as they have been instructed by their physicians. However, they could choose the “no pleasant bread” model, in which they eat nutritious food, but not their most enjoyable, most delicious food choices.

# SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

The **married** should consult one another for “consent” in the various intimate aspects of their relationship as to how much time they will give to the Consecration exclusively. (1 Corinthians 7:3-5) This means physical intimacy, but it would apply to other areas as well. For example, if one’s schedule for breakfast, lunch, or dinner will be temporarily changed, the person who prepares meals needs to be informed.

# CONSECRATION SCHEDULE

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 17TH - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH

1. At least sixteen (16) of the days should be FULL fast days.

A standard fast day should be reckoned from the time one arises in the morning until 6:00 P.M. (for the experienced) or until 4:00 P.M. (for the inexperienced). And there are some individuals who may indeed fast for one or more twenty-four-hour days at a time.

2. At least 5 days should be partial fast days (length: your discretion).

This will result in  $(16 + 5 = 21)$  twenty-one fast days.

More fasting is welcome, according to God's will and yours.

# YOUR PERSONAL FASTING SCHEDULE

How one's personal fasting schedule is structured is up to the individual, as he / she is led and convicted by the Lord in his / her own spirit, with consideration to work and life schedules:

For example: Some people may choose to fast several days at a time and to eat on others, for a total of sixteen days. Some may choose to fast until 6:00 P. M. for sixteen consecutive days or more. Others may fast every other day.

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**The inexperienced:** If a person has no fasting experience, he or she can begin with a shorter "day" time frame, fasting until 4:00 P.M. for example, and then build up.

# PHYSICAL EXERTION

A person whose job is extremely physically strenuous may choose to fast not as long, but more often, and / or to sacrifice other things.

**Remember:** everybody can give God something.

**Also remember:** *if your sacrifice means nothing to you --- if it is not YOUR BEST, from YOUR HEART --- it means nothing to God.* This is not about a marathon: it is about putting God first in a special way for a special season.

# SPECIAL PRAYER TIMES

Join us online for Corporate (united) Prayer at the regular times:  
Tuesday, 6:00 PM; Thursday, 6:00 PM, and Saturday, 9:00 AM

*\*Other prayer times will be announced.*

*We encourage everyone to press into our **regularly** scheduled prayer times, for we endeavor and trust that all our times of prayer, in our **regular** services, are **special prayer times**, by God's Spirit. If we determine it to be so, God will honor it.*





THE DOOR *of* HOPE

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