**A TIME FOR NEW BEGINNINGS**

**Genesis 8:13-22**

No doubt one of the great privileges of life is the opportunity to start over again – A New Beginning. Just as we have at the end of each year. A new year gives us a chance to start over. As we enter 2024, I choose as a theme “New Beginnings.” As I added the numbers 2, 2 and 4 to get the number 8 which in the Bible has the implication of “New Beginnings” Here in our passage that we just read we see that it was 8 people that stepped off the ark to start a new civilization (II Peter 2:5).

As God judged the then known world, he will one day Judge this world again. Before He did – God told Noah and his family to enter the Ark (Genesis 7:1). Thus, we saw the invitation to **come**. 1) Is an invitation for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2) There is an invitation for intimate f\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 91:1). Then we see the directive to “go forth” (Genesis 8:16). We see Noah and his family-

1. **Commissioned with a New \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:16).** In the same manner we leave and old year and enter a new year. We should go forth into the New Year ***forgetting*** those things which are behind us. I’m not going to let my hursts and my pains dictate my life. I’ve made some mistakes but that is not going to stop me from trying. Not only am I talking to ***the saved***, but I am also talking to the ***unsaved***. You can have a New Beginning right now, this day.
2. **Noah and His Family was Commissioned with a New \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:17).** They were commanded to bring ***others.*** No journey for God is ever for you alone. Then He said be fruitful and multiply upon the earth (Genesis 8:17). I ‘m saying it might be old to somebody else, but it’s new to you.
3. **Noah responded with a New \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Genesis 8:20).** Verse 20 gives us the first mention of the word “Altar.” Noah built the altar to worship the Lord and to express his g\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for bringing him through the flood. You might be in the same place and in the same ministry, but you can make a new dedication to the Lord. Many Christians need some spiritual altars.

**Conclusion:** God was satisfied with the sacrifice. “And the Lord smelled a sweet savor.” The New Testament sacrifice speaks of Jesus Christ offering himself up for us (Ephesians 5:2).