Messiah Fund

Considering that the Holy Bible is true and is the Word of God, the following Scriptural Considerations, which have their basis in the Holy Bible, provide context for the purposes of the corporation and shall not be amended except upon the unanimous vote of the Members—

A. *Salvation*. By believing in Jesus Christ, and what He has done, people can be forgiven of their sins and inherit eternal life with God; this is salvation, and we receive it by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). In this regard, Jesus said that "God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. Anyone who believes in Him is not judged, but anyone who does not believe is already judged, because he has not believed in the name of the One and Only Son of God" (John 3:16-18). It is also written that "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. With the heart one believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth one confesses, resulting in salvation" (Romans 10:9-10).

B. *Jesus Christ*. In relation to Jesus Christ, the Bible states among many other things that Jesus (1) is God (John 1:1) and the one and only Son of God (John 3:16), (2) is the expression of God the Father to all of humanity, and called "the Word" (John 1:1-14), (3) became a man, having been born of the virgin, Mary (Luke 2:1-7), (4) is a lineal descendant of Israel's King David (Matthew 1:1-16), (5) lived a sinless life (2 Corinthians 5:21), (6) died on a cross, shedding His blood as a sacrifice to atone for the sins of mankind (John 19), and (7) now sits at the right hand of the Father (Hebrews 1:1-4), waiting to return to the Earth in glory as the King of Kings at the time determined by the Father (Matthew 24, Revelation 19).

C. **The Great Tribulation and a Change in the Requirements for Salvation**. The Bible makes clear, such as in Isaiah 24:1-13 & 19-20, and later detailed in Revelation 6, 8, 9, 11 & 16 that God has a plan at some future time to judge and desolate the Earth. Many refer to this period as the Great Tribulation period. Regarding that time Jesus said, "[f]or then there will be a great tribulation, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will again" (Matthew 24:21).

Endurance

The Bible indicates that during this Great Tribulation period, additional requirements must be added to a person's faith in order to obtain salvation. Indeed, Jesus said, "[b]ut the one who endures to the end is the one who will be saved. This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come" (Matthew 24:13-14).

Rejection of the Mark of the Beast and Refusal to Worship the Antichrist

The endurance described by Jesus is further explained by reference to detail provided in the prophetic book of Revelation wherein John writes, "[t]hen another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb''' (Revelation 14:9-10). From this passage in Revelation, we know that during the Great Tribulation period, a person must, in addition to faith in Jesus, (a) refuse to worship the antichrist beast or his image, and (b) reject the mark of the antichrist kingdom (also known as the "mark of the beast") that is mandated to be affixed to the right hand or forehead of all persons. The mark of the beast appears to be some form of identification with the religious, economic and/or social system promoted by the antichrist.

Consequences for Rejection of the Mark of the Beast and Refusal to Worship the Antchrist

The rejection of the mark of the beast will indeed constitute endurance, because the proposed mark will be required to participate in commerce. As Revelation 13:16-18 indicates, the antichrist administration will cause "all, the small and the great, the rich and the poor, and the free and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hands or on their foreheads, and he decrees that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six." (See also Revelation 14:9-11, 15:2, 16:2, 20:4; Revelation 9:4.) Therefore, people who desire to be saved and inherit the Kingdom of God during the time of the Great Tribulation will, if they reject the mark and refuse to worship the antichrist and his kingdom, be unable to purchase food and water, to travel, to have a bank account, and otherwise engage in many of the simple activities of life that are needed to live. Moreover, these saints will be hunted down by the antichrist for their insolence against his kingdom, and they will be imprisoned and martyred. As John writes about the antichrist in this regard: "It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority was given to him over every tribe, people, language, and nation. All who live on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slaughtered. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. If anyone is destined for captivity, to captivity he goes; if anyone kills with the sword, with the sword he must be killed. Here is the perseverance and the faith of the saints" (Revelation 13:7-10).

D. *The Second Coming of Jesus Christ*. The Great Tribulation period culminates in the exceedingly terrible and momentous "the Day of the Lord," when Jesus, the One and Only Son of God, will return to Earth to establish His kingdom, and He will reign over all mankind (Daniel 7:13-14, Joel 2, Amos 5:18-20, Zechariah 12:10, Matthew 24 and Revelation 19). This event is known as the "Second Coming of Christ."

E. *The Rapture*. Many Christians believe that either before or during the Great Tribulation, and particularly prior to the time that the bowls of God's wrath are poured out on the Earth, as described in Revelation 16, Jesus Christ will come and gather to Himself all those who believe in Him, including those that have already died. This event has been described as the

Rapture. Belief in the Rapture is based on a number of passages in the Bible, most notably I Thessalonians 4:16-17, wherein it is written that "... the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the archangel's voice, and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are still alive will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will always be with the Lord."

F. **Turmoil as a Consequence of the Rapture**. If and when the Rapture occurs, there will be great confusion and turmoil in the world. Many will endeavor to explain the disappearance of millions upon millions of people who had placed their faith in Jesus Christ. Many theories will likely be proffered as to the cause(s) of the massive disappearance of these people, including their having succumbed to an unusual plague or a hostile attack or medical treatment in connection therewith, having been abducted by aliens, having been non-real or non-sentient beings whose animation was halted, etc. Many issues will develop surrounding the ownership and administration of the property and assets of those Believers in Jesus Christ who have disappeared. In anticipation of the likely turmoil to come in the event of a Rapture, Messiah Fund accordingly seeks, in part, to encourage Believers to incorporate provisions in their wills and trusts, and Christian and other organizations to incorporate provisions in their charters or bylaws, as applicable, providing for the transfer to Messiah Fund of their estates and assets in the event of the Rapture in order that such assets may be liquidated and used for the purposes of Messiah Fund, as detailed herein, during and after the Great Tribulation.