

Lesson #618

THE MASONIC LODGE

TEXT: Col. 2:8

INTRODUCTION:

A. WHY STUDY MASONS?

1. Church Members are involved. Friends and family involved.
2. Must evaluate anything according to the Bible(**2 Tim. 3:16-17; 1 John 4:6**).

B. IN THIS STUDY WE WANT TO DISCUSS WHY ONE CAN'T BE A MASON AND A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN AT THE SAME TIME.

I. ORIGIN OF THE LODGE.

A. MASONIC LEGEND.

1. Solomon employed a Master Mason, **Hiram Abiff**, to be the overseer in constructing the Temple. Hiram was given the oversight because he was the only Master Mason in the world.
2. There were 15 other Masons who wanted to learn the secrets of the Master so when the Temple was completed, they could go to other countries and receive Master Mason wages. They entered a conspiracy to get **Hiram's** secrets out of him. 12 of the 15 backed out of the conspiracy, but three continued with their plot. **Jubela, Jubelo, Jubelum**, tried to get his secrets but he would not reveal them. They ended up killing him. Solomon discovered the murder and had them executed.

"There is no character in the annals of Freemasonry whose life is so dependent on tradition as the celebrated architect of King Solomon's Temple. Profane history is entirely silent in respect to his career, and the sacred records supply us with only very unimportant items. To fill up the space between his life and his death, we are necessarily compelled to resort to those oral legends which have been handed down from the ancient Masons to their successors.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FREEMASONRY, pg. 386 by **Albert Mackey** (33 degree)

B. THE ACTUAL BEGINNING PROBABLY REMAIN OBSCURE.

1. As early as **1686**, Robert Plot wrote against them in his Natural History of Staffordshire. He was objecting to the claims by the Masons that they existed from ancient times and that they had come to England in **926 A.D.**
2. They may have begun in the **1600's** with some kind of association of stone masons in England who were influenced by different Lodges in Scotland during this time.
3. In **1717**, the first Grand Lodge was organized in London.
4. By **1750**, lodges had formed in Paris, Madrid, Gibraltar, Florence, Lisbon, Stockholm, Hamburg, Vienna, Copenhagen, Moscow and Bengal as well as most of the North American cities.

II. THE NATURE OF THE ARGUMENT.

A. PRINCIPLES OF MASONRY INCLUDE:

1. Universal brotherhood.
2. Tolerance of different religious beliefs.
3. Loyalty to local government and avoidance of political controversy.
4. Mutual assistance among Masons.
5. Promotion of Education. (Masons have been some of the strongest supporters of the public education system in America)
6. Involvement in Charity.

- a. Shriners are an auxiliary of the Masons. They are known for the help they provide for children. There are at least 19 Shriner's hospitals where free care is available for crippled children upon the recommendation by a member of a Masonic Lodge.
- b. They also sponsor three institutions dedicated to the care of severely burned children.

B. WHAT COULD BE WRONG WITH AN ORGANIZATION LIKE THIS?

1. Many look at it as a social club like Kiwanis or Lions club.
2. Masonry is more than a social club. It is a religious organization that is contrary to the Word of God. Many of its doctrines and practices are in direct violation of God's Word.
3. No one who is striving to follow Jesus can have fellowship(**Eph. 5:11**)
4. Many believe that since the Lodge is a secret organization no one can find out anything about them unless they become a Mason themselves. Many Masons themselves believe this.
5. The charge is made that if someone is against Masonry, they simply don't understand. No one but Masons really understand what it is all about.

III. HOW DO WE KNOW? CONSIDER THESE THINGS.

A. A CLAIM MASONRY MAKES FOR ITSELF:

1. "Masonry is one of the most sublime and perfect institutions that ever was formed for the advancement of the happiness and general good of mankind... It teaches us those useful, wise, and instructive doctrines upon which alone true happiness is founded; and at the same time affords those easy paths by which we attain the rewards of virtue." **MASONRY DEFINED**, pg. 26, 27
2. What about the Lord's institution, the Church? What about the teachings of God's Word?(**John 14:6; John 16:13; John 17:17**).

B. IF MASONRY IS SO UPLIFTING, WHY KEEP IT A SECRET?

1. "Masonry, like all the religions, all the Mysteries, Hermeticism and Alchemy, conceals its secrets from all except the Adepts and Sages, or the Elect, and uses false explanations and misinterpretations of its symbols **to mislead** those who deserve only to be misled; **to conceal the Truth** which it calls Light, from them **and to draw them away from it.**"
MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 104-105 by **Albert Pike** (33 degree)
2. What secrets would Jesus have us keep?(**John 18:20; 1 Pet. 3:15**).
3. What kind of person would it take to believe they have truth that will improve the lives of anyone who accepts it, and then intentionally conceal it from others?
4. One appeal Masonry has to many is its supposed secrecy. A Mason is not to tell what the grips are, the sign of the east, or signs of the different degrees, the password of the Master Mason to anyone, not even his wife! (Passwords for first three degrees: Boaz, Shibboleth, Mah-hah-bone)

C. MOST MASONS DON'T KNOW WHAT MASONRY'S ALL ABOUT.

1. "The Blue Degrees [1st 3 degrees] are but the outer court or portico of the temple. Part of the symbols are displayed there to the Initiate, but he is intentionally misled by false interpretations. It is not intended that he shall understand them; but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. Their true explication is

reserved for Adepts, the Princes of Masonry... It is well enough for the mass of those called Masons, to imagine that all is contained in the Blue Degrees... Masonry is the veritable Sphinx, buried to the head in the sands heaped round it by the ages."

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 819 by **Albert Pike** (33 degree)

2. "The average Mason, after taking his degrees in Masonry, immediately asks himself what it all means. Few Masons have or will take the time to make an exhaustive study in Masonry... There are thousands of Masons who can repeat the ritual, but who have no conception of what it all means... Taking the secret work and learning the ritual does not make a Mason any more than learning the ABC's makes a child a scholar. It is merely the cornerstone; the building is yet to be erected."

MASONRY DEFINED, pg. 5-6 by **E.R. Johnston** (32 degree)

3. The material is available for anyone who wants to learn what Masonry is all about. Any Mason get can hold of these books, but very few ever do. Once one understands the truth, they will either have to quit Masons or quit serving God. Cannot serve two masters(**Matt. 6:24**)..

IV. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MASONRY?

A. IT IS NOT POLITICS.

"Politics are entirely prohibited from a Free-mason's lodge, and no brother dare attempt to propagate his views upon politics by means of the Order, this being in direct opposition to the ancient statutes."

MASONRY DEFINED, pg. 411 by **E.R. Johnston** (32 degree)

B. IT IS NOT FOR FAMILY. FAMILY IS EXCLUDED.

C. IT IS NOT FOR SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC REASONS.

1. Before one leaves the room of preparation to be initiated as a Entered Apprentice, he must affirm:

"You have sincerely declared, upon your honor, that unbiased by friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself as a candidate for the Mysteries of Masonry." **Lightfoot's Manual** pg. 7

2. If someone claims he entered the Masons because of economic motives or friendship, he is either lying or he was lying when he entered the lodge.

D. IF THE PURPOSE IS NOT ONE OF THESE, WHAT IS IT?

E. ONE CATEGORY LEFT - RELIGIOUS.

1. "The tendency of all true Masonry is towards religion. If it makes any progress, its progress is to that holy end. Look at its ancient landmarks, its sublime ceremonies, its profound symbols and allegories - all inculcating religious doctrines, commanding religious observance... Masonry, then, is indeed, a religious institution; and on this ground mainly, if not alone, should the religious Mason defend it."

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MASONRY, pg. 728-729 by **Albert Mackey**

2. "Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instruction in religion... Here we meet as brethren, to learn to know and love each other."

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 213

Compare this to **1 John 3:16, 19**

3. "Masonry, around whose altars the Christian, the Hebrew, the Moslem, the Brahmin, the followers of Confucius and Zoroaster, can assemble as brethren and unite in prayer to the one God..." **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 226

All men are united in the Church(**Eph. 2:11-16; 3:10-11, 20-21**).

What does the Bible say about other religions(**Eph. 1:3; John 14:6; 10:1**).

F. WHAT CAN BE WRONG WITH BEING RELIGIOUS?

1. Religion with no knowledge?(**Acts 17:22-23; Rom. 10:1-2**).
2. They believed in a divine or super-human power and expressed this belief in conduct and ritual. They were involved in worship, whether they were right or not.
3. True religion consists of worshipping the true God the right way (**John 4:24; Matt. 15:7-9, 13-14**).

V. IS MASONRY FROM MAN OR GOD?

A. ACCORDING TO MASONIC WRITERS, MASONRY IS A DIVINE RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION.

"It is to this institution, born of heaven in the gray of the world's morning, before poets sang or historians wrote, that I am privileged to accord you a Craftsman's greeting"

MACKEY'S ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FREEMASONRY, Volume I, pg. 194

B. ONLY RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION BORN OF HEAVEN IS THE CHURCH.

1. **Matt. 3:2; Matt. 4:17**. The nearness of the kingdom.
2. The Lodge's actual and claimed beginnings were not at hand.
3. **Matt. 16:18**. Jesus promised the church, the fulness of him(**Eph. 1:22-23**).
4. How could a Christian be a part of a "religious institution" that is claimed to be "born in heaven" when it clearly is not, and a member of the Lord's church at the same time? (**Matt. 21:25**).

VI. MASONS ARE INVOLVED IN WORSHIP.

A. QUOTES THAT DEMONSTRATE THIS FACT:

1. Masonry is a worship; but one in which all civilized men can unite.
MORALS AND DOGMAS, pg. 526
2. That Rite [Scottish Rite, 29th degree] raises a corner of the veil, even in the Degree of Apprentice; for it there declares that Masonry is a worship.
MORALS AND DOGMAS, pg. 219
3. The highest duty of a Freemason is expressed by these words. The expression of veneration for the Supreme Being, of submission to his will, and of thankfulness for his goodness... Freemasonry, through all its degrees, and in every part of its ritual, earnest inculcates this duty of worship.

MASONRY DEFINED pg. 566

B. APOSTASY OF ISRAEL WAS A DEPARTURE FROM TRUE WORSHIP

(**Matt. 15:7-9**).

C. WHAT DOES GOD WANT FROM US?(**John 4:23-24**).

D. THE LODGE PRE-EMPTS THE BIBLE AND THE CHURCH IN WORSHIP.

1. **PRAYER**.
 - a. Prayer is an essential part of our ceremonies.
MORALS AND DOGMA pg. 6.
 - b. What gives us the right to pray?(**John 14:13-14; Heb. 10:19-22**)
2. **COMMUNION**.
 - a. Consecrated bread and wine, that is to say, **bread and wine used not simply for food, but made sacred by the purpose of symbolism** a

bond of brotherhood, and the eating and drinking of which are sometimes called the 'Communion of the Brethren' is found in some of the higher degrees.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF MASONRY pg.

149.

- b. "Qu.: What is to us the chief symbol of man's ultimate redemption and regeneration?

Ans.: The Fraternal supper, of bread which nourishes and wine which refreshes and exhilarates, symbolic of the time which is to come, when all mankind shall be one great harmonious brotherhood;... And thus in the bread we eat and in the wine we drink tonight, may enter into and form part of us the identical particles of matter which once formed parts of the material bodies called Moses, Confucius, Plato, Socrates, or Jesus of Nazareth. In the truest sense, we eat and drink the bodies of the dead... To our Jewish brethren, this supper is symbolical of the Passover; to the Christian Mason, of that eaten by Christ and His disciples when celebrating the Passover... thus symbolizing the perfect harmony and union between Himself and the faithful; and His death upon the cross for the salvation of men"

MORALS AND DOGMAS, pg. 539, 540

- c. Can a Christian partake in this?
d. It is to remember the blood, body of Christ, not Moses, Confucius, Plato, etc. It is to be done till HE comes(**1 Cor. 11:23-26**).
e. Even if some argue they are remembering Christ, what did Christ say about this supper?(**Matt. 26:29**)." ...**in My Father's kingdom.**"

VII. MASONS PRACTICE BAPTISM.

A. THIS IS NOT PRACTICED IN THE LOWER BLUE LODGE, BUT IS FOUND IN THE HIGHER DEGREES AS ONE BECOMES MORE "ENLIGHTENED."

B. SOURCE OF THEIR BAPTISM IS GIVEN IN **MORALS AND DOGMA** IN THE CHAPTER ON 23rd DEGREE(CHIEF of the TABERNACLE, pg. 360-362). THIS SECTION DESCRIBES HOW MASONRY HAD SOME OF IT'S ORIGINS FROM THE [MYSTERY RELIGIONS OF ANCIENT INDIA](#). IN DESCRIBING THE CEREMONIES OF THE INDIANS, THE SOURCE OF THEIR BAPTISM IS GIVEN.

"The candidate, thus taught the first great primitive truth, was called upon to make a formal declaration, that he would be tractable and obedient to his superiors; that he would keep his body pure, govern his tongue, and observe the firmest secrecy in maintaining inviolable its hidden and abstruse mysteries. Then he was sprinkled with water (whence our baptism)." **MORALS AND DOGMA** pg. 362

C. COMMENTING ON THE PRACTICE OF THE ANCIENTS AS THEY WERE SET APART FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICE, ALBERT MACKAY GIVES THE MEANING OF **LUSTRATION**:

"Lustration: A religious rite practiced by the ancients, and which was performed before any act of devotion. It consisted in washing the hands and sometimes the whole body, in lustral or consecrated water. It was intended as a symbol of the internal purification of the heart. It was a ceremony preparatory in initiation in all the Ancient Mysteries. The ceremony is practiced with the same symbolic import in some of the high degrees of Masonry."

pg. 541

D. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MASONIC BAPTISM?

"Question: What are the symbols of the purification necessary to make us perfect Masons?
Answer: Lavation with pure water or baptism; because to cleanse the body is emblematical of purifying the soul" **MORALS AND DOGMAS**, pg. 538

E. ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, BAPTISM?(**Eph. 4:5**).

1. For the Remission of sins(**Acts 2:38**).
2. Into the **CHURCH**, the body of Christ(**1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 6:3-4**).
3. Immersion(Vines.).

VIII. THE MASONIC LODGE AND REDEMPTION.

A. MASONRY HAS A REDEEMER.

1. "Let me admonish you, in the most serious manner, in reference to the close of life, that when the cold winter of death shall have passed, and the bright summer morn of the resurrection appears, the Sun of Righteousness shall descend and send forth His angels to collect our ransomed dead; then; if we are found worthy, **by the benefit of his [Hiram Abiff] 'pass' we shall gain a ready admission into that celestial Lodge above**, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides, where we shall see the King in the beauty of holiness, and with him enter into an endless eternity."

DUNCAN'S MASONIC RITUAL AND MONITOR, pg. 131

2. "Khurum, therefore, improperly called Hiram, is... the Mediator, Redeemer and Savior." **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 79
3. Our **Redeemer**(**Isa. 47:4; Rev. 5:9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19**).

B. MASONS CLAIM ETERNAL LIFE THROUGH MASONRY.

1. "The doctrine of a resurrection to a future and eternal life constitutes an indispensable portion of the religious faith of Freemasonry"

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF FREEMASONRY, Volume II, pg. 851

2. "Let him who toils complain not, nor feel humiliated! Let him look up, and see his fellow-workmen there, in God's Eternity; **they alone surviving there**".

MORALS AND DOGMAS, pg. 343

3. "but we, as Free and Accepted Masons, are taught to make use of it for the more noble and glorious purpose of divesting our minds and consciences of all the vice and superfluities of life, thereby fitting ourselves as living stones, for the spiritual building, that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

LIGHTFOOT'S MANUAL OF THE LODGE, pg. 17 (cp. 1 Peter 2:4-5)

4. **John 5:24; Rom. 5:21; 6:23; 1 John 5:11; 5:20.**

C. IGNORES THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, HIS SACRIFICE AND HIS BODY.

1. **Only** in Jesus(**Acts 4:12; Eph. 1:7; 1 Thess. 5:9; John 6:67-68**).
2. If one tries to be a Christian and a Mason at the same time:
 - a. He has two religions(**Matt. 6:24**).
 - b. He belongs to two institutions (one human and one divine).
 - c. He is involved in two kinds of worship, has two avenues of prayer, two Communion.
 - d. He has two baptisms.

- e. He has two Redeemers.
- 3. **2 Corinthians 6:14-15, 17; Eph. 5:11; 2 John 9-11.**

IX. ATTITUDE OF MASONS TOWARD ERROR.

A. TWO QUOTES TO CONSIDER:

- 1. "It does not meddle with sectarian creeds or doctrines but teaches fundamental religious truth" **MASONRY DEFINED**, pg. 354.
- 2. "Instructions given to those who hold the 20th degree(Master of the Symbolic Lodge): "To respect all forms of worship, to tolerate all political and religious opinions; not to blame, and still less to condemn the religion of others: not to seek to make converts; but to be content if they have the religion of Socrates" **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 333

B. WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS.

- 1. A Mason could not follow **Jude 3** or **Matt. 28:19-20**.
- 2. A Mason would not have stood with Paul as he had "no small contention" with the Judaizers in **Acts 15:1-2**.
- 3. Would have "walked no more" with Jesus after **Matt. 23**.

C. MASONS HAVE THEIR OWN 10 COMMANDMENTS.

- 1. "Masonry has its decalogue, which is a law to its Initiates. These are its Ten Commandments... **VII. ...Thou shalt be indulgent to error!**"
MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 18
- 2. **Indulge:** "1a. to give free reign to, b: to take unrestrained pleasure in
2a. to yield to the desire of b: to treat with excessive leniency
Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary
- 3. **Ephesians 5:11.**

X. THE BIBLE, THE CHURCH AND THE TRUTH.

A. ATTITUDE OF MASONS TOWARD THE BIBLE.

- 1. The doctrines of the Bible are often not clothed in the language of strict truth, but in that which was fittest to convey to a rude and ignorant people the practical essentials of the doctrine.(Examples given in context: Adam and Eve, Fall into sin, Flood, Jonah, Jericho) **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 224.
- 2. The Holy Bible, Square, and Compasses, are not only styled the Great Lights in Masonry, but they are also technically called the Furniture of the Lodge... The Bible is an indispensable part of the furniture of a Christian Lodge, **ONLY because it is the sacred book of the Christian religion.** The Hebrew Pentateuch in a Hebrew Lodge, and the Koran in a Mohammedan one, belong on the Altar; and one of these, and the Square and Compass, properly understood, are the Great Lights by which a Mason must walk and work.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 11

- 3. The best gift we can bestow on man is manhood. It is that which Masonry is ordained of God to bestow on its votaries: not sectarianism and religious dogma; **not a rudimental morality, that may be found in the writings of Confucius, Zoroaster, Seneca and the Rabbis, in the Proverbs and Ecclesiastes**; not

a

little and cheap common-school knowledge; but manhood and science and

philosophy.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 25

4. It [Masonry] revives the Academy of Plato, and the wise teachings of Socrates. It reiterates the maxims of Pythagoras, Confucius, and Zoroaster, and reverentially enforces the sublime lessons of Him who died upon the Cross.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 221

5. The obligations of our Ancient Brethren of the Rose (18th degree) were to fulfill all the duties of friendship, ...They took their philosophy from the old Theology of the Egyptians, as Moses and Solomon had done...

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 289

6. **John 14:6.**

B. ATTITUDE OF MASONS TOWARD THE CHURCH.

(result of their attitude toward the Bible)

1. If a man yields himself to it [Masonry], he will need neither churches nor ordinances, except for the expression of his religious homage and gratitude.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 212

2. For the Mason, church membership is for outward motions only! He doesn't need to be part of the church to be reconciled to God, but to just express his religious homage(**Eph. 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:10-11; 3:20-21**)..

C. ATTITUDE OF MASONRY TOWARD TRUTH.

1. Whatever one firmly and conscientiously believes, is truth, to him. No true Mason scoffs at honest convictions and an ardent zeal in the cause of what one believes to be truth and justice. But he does absolutely deny the right of any man to assume the prerogative of Deity, and condemn another's faith and opinions as deserving to be punished because heretical.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg. 160-161 (Cp. **Romans 10:1-3**)

2. No man truly obeys the Masonic law who merely tolerates those whose religious opinions are opposed to his own... The Mason's creed goes further than that. No man, it holds, has any right in any way to interfere with the religious belief of another. **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 167

3. What is truth to me is not truth to another. The same arguments and evidences that convince one mind make no impression on another. This difference is in men at their birth. No man is entitled positively to assert that he is right, where other men, equally intelligent and equally well-informed hold directly the opposite opinion.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg.

165

4. We know not what is truth... No man is responsible for the rightness of his faith; but only for the uprightness of it. **MORALS AND DOGMA**, pg. 166

5. Masons are sharers in Pilate's dilemma(**John 18:37-38; Eph. 4:17-19**).

6. Mysteries of the ages revealed in the gospel(**Eph. 3:3-5**).

5. God's will fully made known(**2 Tim. 3:16-17**).

6. **John 8:31-32; Eph. 5:17; 1 Cor. 2:16.**

7. Masons teach that truth is not available. Even if you do find it, you cannot be certain. Even if it is true to you, it may not be true to someone else.

D. UNCERTAINTY OF MASONRY COMPARED TO THE BIBLE.

1. The Degree of the Rose teaches three things; the unity, immutability and goodness of God; the immortality of the Soul; and the ultimate defeat and extinction of evil and wrong and sorrow, by a Redeemer or Messiah, yet to come, if he has not already appeared.

MORALS AND DOGMA, pg.

287

2. **Job 19:25.** "For **I know that my Redeemer lives**, and He shall stand at last on the earth."

CONCLUSION:

- A. IN THE CHURCH, NOT THE LODGE, GOD IS GLORIFIED(**Eph. 3:20-21**).
- B. CAN'T SERVE TWO MASTERS(**Matt. 6:24; Rom. 7:1-6; Col. 2:8**).
- C. GOD WILL ROOT UP THE LODGE(**Matt. 15:13-14**).