

Place Lurgan Baptist 2:12:2008

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:11-18

THE CHAOS OF THE CULTS

6. FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry has been defined by Ron Rhodes as

A centuries old fraternal order and secret society deeply entrenched in symbolism, secret oaths, and secret rituals. Key themes include the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. (The Challenge of the Cults by Ron Rhodes p 276)

Numerically: estimates of the worldwide membership of Freemasonry vary from between three and six million, with over 25,000 lodges. We are told that there are over one million members and 9,950 lodges in Great Britain alone. Although only men can be Masons, related organizations are available for their relatives.

Socially: freemasons are mostly professional people. People such as lawyers, solicitors, doctors, teachers, musicians, engineers, policemen, businessmen, tradesmen and ministers of religion are all in the craft. Indeed three British Kings in the last century were Freemasons, including George VI, the father of our present Queen Elizabeth II. Presently the Queen's cousin, the Duke of Kent is the Worshipful Grand Master of Freemasonry in

the United Kingdom. Added to these famous names are other Freemasons of historical note, including Amadeus Mozart, Voltaire, Oscar Wilde, and Sir Winston Churchill. No less than fourteen American Presidents were all Freemasons. A further eighteen Vice Presidents were also in the fraternity. It might interest you to know that Benjamin Franklin, General McArthur, J. Edgar Hoover, Mark Twain, Henry Ford, Harry Houdini, Cecil B. DeMille, John Wayne, Clark Gable, Roy Rogers and Norman Vincent Peete were all associated with Freemasonry.

Motivationally: people join for a number of reasons. Many are attracted by the high moral ideals which the Craft seeks to promote, benevolence, brotherhood and tolerance. Others by the humanitarian institutions, Masonic schools, hospitals, and nursing homes. Still others are attracted by the symbolism and mysticism of Freemasonry. For others it's the social friendship, for which the hearts of all men crave. Some also regard it as a business asset. The loyalty of a Mason to his fellows in the matter of business preference is proverbial.

Characteristically: as I have said Freemasons are a very generous group of people and are involved in many worthy causes “ *What,*” you ask “ *could be possibly wrong with an organization that cares for its orphans and widows ?*” Of course,

Ecclesiastically: Freemasonry has infiltrated many churches. “ *The Church of England,*” writes Stephen Knight, “ *has been a stronghold of Freemasonry for more*

than 200 years. Traditionally, joining the brotherhood and advancing within it has always been the key to preferment in the church. This situation has altered in the past twenty years, even so the church is still rife with members of the brotherhood.” (Stephen Knight The Brotherhood Grafton Books p. 240) Some former Archbishops of Canterbury were Freemasons. More recently the Roman Catholic Church has been welcoming Freemasons among its ranks, indeed Stephen Knight claims that the Vatican itself is infiltrated by Freemasons. (Knight, The Brotherhood p. 246) Now what we want to do this is ask the question, are the principles of Freemasonry compatible with the teaching of Scripture ? In so doing we want to examine,

(1) THE ORIGINS OF FREEMASONRY

Masonic origins are not completely clear and different explanations come from different sources. It seems the origin of Freemasonry is shrouded in deep mystery and wild legend. But lets try and go back, to

(a) THE BEGINNING OF IT:

Some Masons claim that Freemasonry dates back to the time of Solomon, who utilized the skills of stone masons in building the Temple in Jerusalem. (Robinson Born in Blood 178) The legend goes something like this. Masonic ritual is concerned with the recovery of the name of God, this name was supposedly lost though the murder, during the building of Solomon’s Temple of the architect Hiram Abiff. Tragically some of his Mason colleagues ganged up

on him and killed him and so the name of God was lost and Freemasonry claims to be the search for the lost name of God. Now although much of their teaching is tied to Solomon’s Temple, which was erected in Old Testament times, the society may have begun in the medieval lodge of the English stonemasons. The main work of these masons was the building of churches and cathedrals, which entailed much travel. In order to get new work, it was deemed necessary for craft members to keep the skills secret, so different passwords were introduced to guard these secrets and ensure new work for themselves. The masons also built “ *lodges,*” near to their work. These were places of recreation where they would relax and talk together. When cathedral building declined they augmented their numbers with unskilled members. These were men who knew nothing of “ *operative masonry,*” and they became known as “ *speculative masons,*” that is they no longer used the physical tools of the trade, but they used the stonemason tools to symbolically portray moral and theological ideas.

During the 17th century lodges emerged who had no qualified masons. In 1717 all the different lodges united under the Grand Lodge of England and their Book of Constitutions was published in 1723. Spreading quickly, Freemasonry hit America by 1733 and throughout the 1800s thousands of Masonic Lodges mushroomed throughout the United States (Robinson Born In Blood, 181) And Freemasonry grew to become a powerful influence in American religion, politics and social life. Now the question is often asked, “ *is Freemasonry a religion ?*” Even Masons disagree among themselves on

this issue. Albert Mackey, one of the most well known Masonic authorities in A Lexicon of Freemasonry wrote p. 402,

The religion, then Masonry, is pure theism.

Albert Pike, the most important of all American Masonic authorities in Morals and Dogma wrote (p. 213-214)

Every Masonic is a temple of religion, and its teachings are instructions in religion This is the true religion revealed to the ancient patriarchs, which Masonry has taught for many centuries and which it will continue to teach as long as time endures.

These Masonic witnesses all agree in their doctrine that Masonry is indeed a religion. The question is, is it true or false ? Is it of God or of the Devil ? Some Freemasons may object and say, “ *That is not what Freemasonry is to me, I do not see it as religious.* ” If that is the case, then why does Freemasonry have meeting places which are called Temples ? Why has it its own hymns which exclude the name of Christ ? Why has it its own prayers which exclude the name of Jesus Christ ? Why has it its own Chaplains who also exclude the name of Christ ? Why has it its own theology which is enshrined in the workings, and lectures and charges of the Lodges ? It is not Christian theology, but a universal religion which is based on the mystery cults. You see,

(b) THE BASIS OF IT:

Is rooted in paganism. In his book Freemasonry and the Ancient Gods J. S. M. Ward, himself a Mason claims that the Masonic Order is the oldest religious system in the world and the custodian of the basic ideas common to all religions. He traces its origin from the secret societies of antiquity through the ages to the present orders. Since its rules, symbols and rites are much the same as the ancient mysteries of paganism, there is little doubt as to its heathenish source. Why, the very ritual blood oaths that are sworn in initiation are pagan in nature. But there are other pagan traits involved in Freemasonry. Indeed as David Legge in his book intimates ex-33 Degree Masons have documented that at certain levels Freemasons actually worship pagan deities. This is largely hidden so that these Freemasons are not aware of such worship. David Didlow a former 32nd Degree Mason testifies that this is the case:

In the Blue Degrees an initiate is initiated into the Egyptian trinity of the ancient mysteries of Egypt. This Egyptian Trinity is hidden from the initiate, he does not know at all what he is being initiated into, it is not even mentioned. It is based on Egyptian paganism and the worship of nature, that's really what it is, it is based on the worship of the male regenerative power, the female regenerative power ok and the product.

(From the Video Documentary Freemasonry. From Darkness to Light ? Jeremiah Films 1987)

Do you see what this 32nd Degree ex-mason is saying ? He is saying that the basis of Freemasonry is paganism. Freemasonry he says is based on ancient Egyptian worship. Albert Pike was considered one of the best interpreters of all Masonic ritual. He (1809-1891) was born in Boston was a teacher and Brigadier General in the Civil War. Later, he was tried for treason. He held the highest office in Scottish Rite Masonry and rewrote all the Scottish rite rituals which still are practiced today. These rituals are pagan and occultic in design. Mr. Pike was an admitted Luciferian, believing that two co-equal Gods exist in the universe, Lucifer, the god of good and light, and Adonay, the Christian god, who rules evil and darkness. (Occult Theocracy - Lady Queensborough The Christian Book Club of America) (1)

(2) THE OATHS IN FREEMASONRY

An oath according to the English Dictionary is a solemn promise, and Freemasons have to make a number of oaths. Now lets remember there is not just one kind of Mason. There are families of Masons, each with distinctive characteristics. There is,

The Blue Lodge: With its three degrees. Now what do we mean by degree ? Well, these are steps of progression through various initiations which the candidate submits himself to. Now within the Blue Lodge the three degrees are Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. Each degree is received upon having passed the examination in the previous degree. Having completed the

three degrees in the Blue Lodge, the Mason is then free to pursue higher degrees in either,

The York Rite:

The Scottish Rite:

This rite is composed of 30 degrees along with the first three Degrees of the Blue Lodge which equal 33 degrees. You see, according to Freemasons, prior to being a Freemason they were in darkness but as they progress through the Degrees they move towards the light, until they realise everything there is to know at the 33rd Degree. The initiation ceremony into Freemasonry is revealing. Listen to the words of A.G. Mackey, Past General High Priest of the General Grand Chapter of the United States in this connection,

There he stand without our portals, on the threshold of this new Masonic life, in darkness, helplessness and ignorance. Having been wandering amid the errors and covered over with the pollutions of the outer and profane world, he comes inquiring to our doors, seeking the new birth, and asking a withdrawal of the veil which conceals divine truth from his uninitiated sight There is to be not simply a change for the future, but also an extinction of the past, for the initiation is, as it were, a death to the world and a resurrection to new life.
(Mackey's Masonic Ritualist, pp. 22, 23)

Is Freemasonry the source of a man's liberation from the past, his new birth, his death to the world and resurrection to new life ? Well, consider,

(a) THE BRUTALITY OF ITS OATHS:

Oaths taken by the candidate on his knees, hands on the Holy Bible repeated after the Worshipful Master sentence by sentence. Here is a part of the oath of the Entered Apprentice.

I promise and swear that I will not write, print, stamp, stain, hew, cut, carve, indent, paint or engrave it (Masonic secrets) on anything moveable or immoveable Binding myself under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by the roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea at lower water mark. (Mather & Nichols, Masonic Lodge 11)

When seeking entrance into the Fellow Craft degree, the oath includes additional words.

Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my left breast torn open, my heart plucked out and given as a prey to the wild beasts of the fields and the fowls of the air.

When seeking entrance into the third degree, the Master Mason's degree, the oath adds,

Binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my body severed in twain, my bowels taken from hence and burned in ashes. (Mather & Nichols Masonic

Lodge & Ron Carlson, Fast Facts on False Teachings Eugene or Harvest House 1994, 75)

Though it is highly doubtful that such threats have ever been carried out, the very fact that such words are spoken within a Masonic Lodge is nothing less than barbaric. One Mason on being faced with the serious implications of his oath said, " *That doesn't mean anything. Of course we go through the form, but it doesn't mean anything.*" Oaths taken on the Bible mean nothing. If they mean nothing, then it is blasphemy to swear in the name of God. If they mean something and are to be taken seriously and literally, then how can a Christian take such oaths upon himself? Do you recall Paul's words? " *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God and ye are not your own.*" (1 Cor 6:19) The professing Christian taking Masonic oaths disobeys God's command to glorify Him in his body. (Lev 5:4-6 Matt 5:14-16, 33-37 James 5:12) (a)

(b) THE SECRECY OF ITS OATHS:

For this is essentially a secret society, secret signs, secret codes, secret meetings. Indeed its oaths are with a view to compelling absolute secrecy on its members. You see, in one degree after another a man is required to bind himself in advance by a solemn oath on the Bible, to secrecy in matters of which nothing is revealed to him previously. In other words, he must make promises to secrets he has not yet had revealed to him. He does not what they are all about. The Rev A. W. Rainsbury notes,

The man has got to see his conscience to the Worship Master before he can proceed. But what right has any man to make another the custodian of his conscience ? This is to make man his God.

D.L. Moody the great American evangelist make this statement against Freemasonry,

I do not see how any Christian, most of all a Christian minister, can go into these secret lodges with unbelievers. They are unequally yoked with unbelievers.

My to be a member of any secret society ought to be a problem for any Christian. The Lord Jesus did not come to found a secret society. On the contrary He said, “ *I spake openly to the world, I ever taught in the synagogue and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort, and in secret have I said nothing.*” Can that be said of Freemasonry ? Still again, the Saviour said, “ *There is nothing covered that shall not be revealed and hid that shall not be known. What I tell you in darkness that speak ye in light, and what ye hear in the ear that preach ye upon the housetops.*” (Matt 10:26-27) In other words, there is nothing hidden about the gospel. It was revealed so that it could be preached to the ends of the earth. Do Freemasons “ *preach upon the housetops,*” what they “ *hear in the ear,*” in their Masonic lodges ? If not, why not ? (1) (2)

(3) THE OBJECTIONS TO FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry is incompatible with Christianity. Mackey claims that its symbols and rites are antecedent to

Christianity. In the book An Encyclopedia of Freemasonry p. 162 he states,

If Masonry were simply a Christian institution the Jew and the Moslem, the Brahmin and the Buddhist could not conscientiously partake of its illumination. But its universality is its boast. In its language citizens of every nation may converse, at its altar men of all religions may kneel, to its creed disciples of every faith may subscribe.

I want to list some serious objections to Freemasonry. The first is,

(a) THE BIBLE IS DEBASED:

In Freemasonry the Bible is called the “ *Volume of the sacred Law.*” The V.S.L. is an indispensable part of what is called “ *the furniture,*” in a Masonic lodge. But the Volume of the Sacred Law, one of the Three Greater Lights in Masonry (the Square and the Compasses being the other two) can be the Bible, the Vedas (Hindu) or the Koran (Muslim) it just depends on the prevailing religion of the lodge members. You see, the Masonic view of the Bible is in keeping with the Masonic openness to all religions. No greater authority can be cited than Albert Pike. Pike said,

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. (Albert Pike
Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish
Rite of Freemasonry, Charleston: Supreme Council of the
Thirty Third Degree, 1905 p. 11)

You see, no claim is made for the sole authority of the Bible as the only Great Light. Fancy putting the Word of God on the same level with the words of fallible men, philosophers and false prophets. Jim Shaw was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason before he was gloriously delivered by the Saviour. Concerning the Bible Shaw says,

Masonry, contrary to popular belief is NOT based on the Bible. Masonry is actually based on the Kabala (Cabala) a medieval book of magic and mysticism. (Jim Shaw and Tom McKenney, The Deadly Deception Freemasonry Exposed by One of Its Top Leaders Lafayette, LA: Huntington House, Inc 1988, p.128)

Is Jim Shaw right ? Well, Albert Pike had no doubt about his belief that the Kabalah was the ultimate source of Masonic beliefs. He said,

Masonry is a search after Light. That search leads us directly back, as you see, to the Kabalah. (Pike, *Morals and Dogma* p.741)

But Christian believers assert that the Bible alone is the Word of God. Paul says, “ *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God*,” (2 Tim 3:16) John adds, “ *If any*

man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book,”
(Rev 22:18) Those who set forth other holy books that are in really man made fall under God’s condemnation.

(b) GOD IS DISHONOURED:

Does that sound strange ? You see, in the minds of so many is the thought, “ *Surely if God could be honoured anywhere He is honoured in Freemasonry.*” The Christian however, must ask the question, “ *What God is worshipped in Freemasonry and how does sinful man approach that God ?*” The name given to God is Freemasonry is that of “ ***The Divine Architect of the Universe,***” but in the degree of the Royal Arch alone is the name of God finally revealed. Do you recall what I said at the start ? Freemasonry claims that Hiram Abif was murdered when building Solomon’s Temple and he was the only one who knew God’s name, so the divine name was lost with him. Freemasonry is trying to recover the lost name of God. That name of God is eventually revealed when a Freemason reaches the Royal Arch Degree. Let me quote from the ritual of this degree which contains the following words.

The word you have solemnly pledged yourself never to pronounce except in the presence and with the assistance of two or more Royal Arch Companions is a compound word and its combinations form the word J.B.O. It is in four languages, Chaldean, Hebrew, Syriac, and Egyptian. J is the Chaldean name for God, it is also a Hebrew word signifying I am and shall be, B is

a Syriac word and signifies Lord, O is an Egyptian word such my newly exalted companion is the best explanation that can be given of these sacred words.

(Quoted from G. B. Duncan The Life of Faith)

So the Mason is told that the real name for God is **JAH-BUL-ON**, the name of three different gods. First is the name of Jehovah, the God of the Bible. Second is the name of the Assyrian deity “ *Baal*,” whose worship was condemned in the Old Testament. The third name is “ *On*,” a word used in ancient mysticism when offering prayers to the Egyptian god “ *Osiris*.” What a blasphemous insult to “ *the high and holy one that inhabiteth eternity, whose name is holy*,” to associate His Holy Name, with such foul names as these. My can now we say with any real sincerity that God is worshipped in this craft ? If you are in any doubt, you would be well to consult Elijah. Moreover, God’s name was never lost, there is a record of it in His Word, wherein His Son truly reveals the Father. (Jn 1:18) (a) (b)

(c) CHRIST IS DETHRONED:

For the Christ of the Bible is nowhere to be found in Freemasonry. When the Bible is used in Freemasonry the reference to the Lord Jesus are omitted lest other religions be offended. For instance when (1 Pet 2:5) is used in a Masonic Lodge , it is quoted as, “ *Ye also as lively stones are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God.*” But they deliberately omit the last three words of the verse, “ *By Jesus Christ.*” This shows the true attitude of the Lodge

towards Christ. Do the Masonic temples ring with the praises of Christ, the Son of God ? Is prayer offered to Him or through Him to the Father ? The answer is very simply “ *No.*” Indeed J.D. Buck, M.D. another Masonic writer of importance in his book Symbolism or Mystic Masonry wrote p. 57

In the early church as in the secret doctrine there was not one Christ for the world, but a potential Christ in every man. Theologians first made a fetish of the Impersonal Omnipresent Divinity, and then tore the Christos from the hearts of all humanity to deify Jesus, that they might have a god-man peculiarly their own.

Is that not a denial of the deity of Jesus Christ ? Freemasonry is a search for light, yet the Lord Jesus said, “ *I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.*” (Jn 8:12) Don’t ever set Christ beside Buddha, or Mohammed, or any other leader for He is the eternal Son of the Living God. Are you dethroning Christ ? As a Christian Mason are you prepared to exclude Him from your heart as Masons exclude Him from their lodges ?

(d) THE SINNER IS DELUDED:

For Freemasonry rests on the false doctrine of justification by works. It defines itself in the Second Degree ceremony as

A peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols. (Rainsbury Freemasonry of God or of the Devil p. 7)

A system of morality, but what is the foundation of the system ? For “ *other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.* ” (1 Cor 3:11) But sure Christ has been cast out of the Masonic Temple ?

Do you still doubt that Freemasonry rests on works ? Then listen to this, from the Worshipful Master’s charge after initiation.

“ Indeed no institution can boast a more solid foundation than that on which Freemasonry rests, the practice of every moral and social virtue.” (Rainsbury Freemasonry p. 8) “ *More solid,*” than Jesus Christ. David Legge in his book tells us that Freemasons who reach the 19th degree of Scottish Masonry are told,

Masons who have given proof of their attachment to the statutes and rules of the Order, which in the end will make them deserving of entering the celestial Jerusalem.
(Strongholds Shaken Legge, p 289)

They talk of hoping to arrive in heaven by the assistance of a ladder called in Scripture Jacob’s ladder. My it isn’t up the steps of your “ *Jacob’s ladder,* ” that you need to climb, but its down the steps of your self sufficiency, your own self effort, down, down to the foot of the cross, where Christ bore your sins and shed His blood that you might be saved. The Bible says, “ *Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under*

heaven whereby we must be saved. ” (Acts 4:12) What are you resting on for time and eternity ? Having seen what Freemasonry is, what is to be our response ? Let me close of W. J. McCormick of Carryduff.

1. REJECT IT:

Don’t be a member of that which dishonor’s Christ.

2. RENOUNCE IT:

The Bible says, “ *be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness ? And what communion hath light with darkness And what concord hath Christ with Belial ? (Baal) or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel ? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols ? Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing.* ” (2 Cor 6:14-18) Do you need to come out of Freemasonry ?

(3) REPROVE IT:

Paul says “ *have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them.* ” (Eph 5:11) That which Masonry debases we declare, the Word of God, that whom Masonry dishonors we honour, the God of the Bible, that who Masonry dethrones we enthrone, our wonderful Lord, that who Masonry deludes, we seek to deliver, the sinner to whom we say,

**On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand.**