

A Study Of Freemasonry #2

Introduction. In the continuation of our study, we will consider Masonry's religious element and discuss some of the Masonic rituals. We saw in our previous lesson that Masonry is indeed a religion. Hopefully, Christians who are Masons see that they cannot be a Christian and a Mason, just like one cannot be a Christian and a Catholic.

For one to deny that Masonry is a religion does not necessarily make it so. It is possible that he has been deceived from the time he went into Masonry: "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 the 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; and whoso attempts to undeceive them will labor in vain ..." (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 819).

Hence, the initiate (the candidate for membership) is misled and only imagines he understands the symbols of Masonry. In other words, he might think that he knows all that is represented in Masonry, but he is deceived and therefore must seek "greater light." It is the responsibility of those who are members of the church to not be deceived, but to know fully the organizations they have chosen to be a part of and to represent (Colossians 2:8).

I. **Masonry's Religious Element**

A. Masonry claims to contain all truth.

1. Quotes.

- a) "All Masonry is devoted to unbuilding of the individual -- the common man. It is the repository of whispering of ancient truths discovered in the oldest religions which once ruled the minds of men ..." (*Kentucky Monitor*, p. xiii-xiv).
- b) "It is the Great Light of Masonry which unfolds the beauties of God's Eternal Truth" (*Ibid.*, p. 11).
- c) "It is the province of Masonry to teach all truth -- not moral truth alone, but political and philosophical, and even religious truth ..." (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 148).

2. Hence, Masonry claims that it is the "repository of truth" and that all truth including "religious truth" is found in Masonry. It claims that it has safely kept "all the great truths of the primitive revelation." Every child of God knows that all religious truth is found in the Bible, not in Masonry (2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 16:13; Ephesians 3:1-5) and we cannot go beyond it (1 Corinthians 4:6; Revelation 22:18-19).

B. Masonry claims to be of divine origin.

1. Quotes.

- a) "... King Solomon, inspired by Deity, conceived that grand idea, which culminated in speculative Masonry, a system which, entering into abstruse investigations of the soul, reminds us of a higher and better life, and eternity beyond the grave; a profound Science that takes from the operative Art its technical terms, its implements and its rules, clothes them in symbolism and teaches the speculative Mason their spiritual use" (*Kentucky Monitor*, pp. 94-95).
 - b) "The true Philosophy, known and practiced by Solomon, is the basis on which Masonry is founded" (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 785).
2. In view of the above, Masonry has either come through the inspiration of God or it has not; it is either of divine origin or it is not. If it is of divine origin, then it must be believed and practiced by all who wish to please God. The man of God is thoroughly furnished unto all good works through the scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Masonry cannot pertain to life and godliness because God has given to us all things that pertain unto life and godliness and Masonry was not included (2 Peter 1:3). The very essence of Masonry rests entirely upon oral traditions, most of which cannot be trusted.

C. Masonry has a savior.

1. Quotes.

- a) "All believed in a future life, to be attained by purification and trials; in a state of successive states of reward and punishment; and in a Mediator or Redeemer by whom the Evil Principle was to be overcome and Supreme Deity reconciled to His creatures. The belief was general that He was to be born of a virgin and suffer a painful death. The Hindus called him Krishna; the Chinese, Kiountse; the Persians, Sosiosch; the Chaldeans, Dhouvanai; the Egyptians, Horus; Plato, Love; the Scandinavians, Balder; the Christians, Jesus; the Masons, Hiram" (*Kentucky Monitor*, pp. xiv, xv).
 - b) "KHURIM, therefore, improperly called Hiram, is KHUR-OM, the same as Herra, Hermes, and Heracles, the 'Heracles Tyrius Invictus,' the personification of Light and the Son, the Mediator, Redeemer, and Savior" (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 79).
2. Hiram is to Masons what Jesus is to Christians -- Mediator, Redeemer, Sanctifier and Reconciler. If a Christian is also a Mason, he has two redeemers and is in the position of trying to serve two masters (Matthew 6:24). This point alone should convince everyone that no one can be a Christian and a Mason any more than he can be a Christian and a Muslim or Hindu. There is only one Mediator

between God and man (1 Timothy 2:5). Likewise, there is only one Reconciler and Redeemer (Colossians 1:20-23; 1 Peter 1:18-19). Christians are complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10).

D. Masonry claims that it saves.

1. Quotes.

- a) "What, in fact, are the true wages of a Master Mason? They are rewards of a well-spent life, a glorious immortality ..." (Ibid., p. xiii).
- b) "Heaven, the future life, the higher state of existence after death, is the foreign country in which the Master Mason is to enter, and there he is to receive his wages in the reception of that Truth which can be imparted only in that better land" (*Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, p. 363).
- c) "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 Dogma*, p. 343).

2. Consequently, Masonry claims not only to be a religion, but a religion sufficient within itself to carry those who embrace it to heavenly rest. If Masonry is a way, what becomes of Him who is "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6)? Masonry either carries men to heaven or it does not. If it does not, it makes false claims and is therefore a deceiving institution, deceiving its adherents and giving them a false hope. If Masonry saves anybody as it claims, the gospel cannot be true, for it claims to be the only religion wherein is salvation. The Lord adds Christians (the saved) to His one body and He is the only Savior of that singular body (Acts 2:47; 4:11-12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6; 5:23).

E. Masonry teaches fellowship with all religions.

1. Quotes.

- a) "Be assured that God is equally present with the pious Hindu in the temple, the Jew in the synagogue, the Muhammadan in the mosque, and the Christian in the church" (*Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, pp. 409-410).
- b) "We do not tell the Muslim that it is only important for him to believe that there is but one God, and wholly unessential whether Muhammad was his prophet. We do not tell the Jew that the Messiah whom he expects, was born in Bethlehem nearly two thousand years ago; and that he is a heretic because he will not so believe. And we do not tell the sincere Christian that Jesus of Nazareth was but a man like us, or that his history is but a revival of older legends. To do either is beyond our jurisdiction. Masonry, of no one age, belongs to all time; of no one religion, it finds its great truths in all" (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 524).

2. Thus, in Masonry, the Jews, Methodist, Muslims, or whoever are all left with the impression that they are on their way to the heavenly city regardless of their disobedience to Christ (cf. John 8:24; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8). How can a Christian be a part of an institution which teaches this kind of doctrine?

F. Masonry has a new birth.

1. Quotes.

- a) "There you stood 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, you came inquiringly to our doors, seeking the new birth, and asking a withdrawal of the veil which concealed the divine truth from your uninitiated sight. And here, as with Moses at the burning bush, the solemn admonition is given, 'Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.' Ceremonial preparations surrounded you, all of a significant character, to indicate to you that some great change was about to take place in your moral and intellectual condition. There was to be not simply a change for the future, but also an extinction of the past; for initiation is, as it were, a death to the world and a resurrection to a life" (*Kentucky Monitor*, pp. 26-27).
- b) "Lavation with pure water, or baptism; because to cleanse the body is emblematical of purifying the soul" (*Morals and Dogma*, pp. 14-15).
2. Jesus speaks of the new birth as being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:3-5). To be born of water is to come forth from the watery grave of baptism and to be born of the Spirit is to be born of the teaching of the Spirit -- the word of God (Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 1:23). Consequently, to say the least, the "new birth" of Christ is not an initiation into the Masonic Lodge as Masonry claims. The Christian who is a Mason is actually having fellowship with two new births. The Masonic claim is either true or false. If it is true, it makes the precious blood of Christ worthless for Masonry is not conditioned upon it (cf. Hebrews 9:12, 22).

G. Masonry has a temple.

1. Quotes.

- a) "Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instructions in religion" (*Morals and Dogma*, p. 213).
- b) "Every Lodge is erected to God and labors in His name, seeking to make His will the design upon its Trestle-Board" (*The Religion of Masonry*, p. 59).

- c) "... Lodges, which are but temples to the Most High, are consecrated to sacred purposes for which they are built, by strewing corn, wine, and oil upon the Lodge, the emblem of the Holy Ark" (*A Lexicon of Freemasonry*, p. 98).
2. The New Testament teaches that the body of Christ (the church, Ephesians 1:22-23) is the temple of God (Ephesians 2:19-22). The church is the house of God (1 Timothy 3:15). Jesus Christ built the church and shed His blood for it (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). The church is the body of the saved (Acts 2:47; Ephesians 5:25). The wisdom of God is expressed in the church (Ephesians 3:9-10). God is glorified in the church (Ephesians 3:21). In view of this, where does Masonry stand in its claim that Lodges are temples of God? When another organization claims to have temples of God, it stands in conflict with the church and supplants it.

II. ***The Masonic Ritual***

A. Entered Apprentice (*The First Degree*).

1. In the ante-room, the candidate is divested of all metal, hood-winked, his left shoe removed, his clothing is arranged so that his left knee and left breast are exposed and a cable tow is placed around his neck.
 - a) He is now "duly and truly prepared."
 - b) He must knock three times at the door of the Lodge with his own hand.
2. After entering the Lodge, the Senior Deacon pierces his left breast with the point of a compass.
3. He kneels before an altar to take his first oath:
 - a) "I furthermore promise and swear that I will not write, print, stamp, stain, cut, carve, hew, mark or engrave them on anything moveable or immovable, capable of receiving the least impression of a sign, word, syllable, letter or character, whereby they may become legible or intelligible to any person under the canopy of heaven, and the secrets of Masonry be thereby unlawfully obtained by my unworthiness. All this I most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to keep the same, without the least equivocation, mental reservation or secret evasion whatsoever, binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut from ear to ear, my tongue torn out by its roots and buried in the sands of the sea at low water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in 24 hours, should I in the least, knowingly or unwittingly, violate or transgress this my Entered Apprentice Obligation. So help me

God and keep me steadfast" (*King Solomon's Temple*, pp. 24-25).

b) Compare Matthew 5:33-37 and James 5:12 as to the rightness of swearing oaths as a child of God.

B. Fellow Craft (*The Second Degree*).

1. His body is prepared in similar fashion to the first degree, but the right side of the body is exposed.
2. The Senior Deacon presses the angle of the square against his breast.
3. The candidate is there to "receive more light."
4. Part of his obligation reads, "I furthermore promise and swear that I will not cheat, wrong or defraud a Lodge of Fellow Crafts, of a brother of this degree, knowingly or wittingly ... binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my left breast torn open, my heart plucked from thence and given to the beasts of the field and the birds of the air as a prey, should I, in the least, knowingly or wittingly, violate or transgress this my Fellow Craft obligation. So help me God and keep me steadfast" (*King Solomon's Temple*, Indiana edition).
5. In the second degree he promises not to commit adultery with another Mason's wife, daughter, mother or sister.
6. He also swears he will always defend another Mason in all cases except murder and treason, these being left to his own conscience.
7. Would you trust a judge or a police officer who took this oath?

C. Master Mason (*The Third Degree*).

1. He is prepared by having his pants leg rolled up above the knees, his arms taken out of his shirt and his breast left bare.
2. He is hoodwinked and a cabletow is wrapped around his neck.
3. He then relives the legend of the Grand Master Hiram Abiff (cf. 1 Kings 7:40; 2 Chronicles 4:11).
 - a) Fifteen Fellow Craft Masons desired the "secrets of a Master Mason" that Hiram Abiff possessed.
 - b) Twelve later changed their minds and three ruffians (Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum) tried again to gain the secrets by force.
 - c) Hiram was finally hit by a setting maul and died.
 - d) They buried him and planted an acacia at the head to conceal the burial.
 - e) King Solomon ordered a search.
 - f) After 15 days, the body was found.
 - g) The Fellow Crafts were ordered to exhume the body.
 - h) When the smell arose from the body, they placed their hands over the nostrils in the form of the dueguard (a paper maker's device) of a Master Mason.

- i) They tried to raise Hiram with the grip of an Entered Apprentice, but the flesh left the bone.
 - j) They tried to raise Hiram with the grip of a Fellow Craft, but it failed also.
 - k) After prayer, King Solomon took the body by the strong grip of a Master Mason (the lion's paw) and brought Hiram back to life.
4. "The idea that lies behind the Hiram Legend is as old as religious thinking among men. The same elements existed in the story of Osiris, which was celebrated by the Egyptians in their ancient temples; the Persians told it concerning Mithras, their hero god. In Syria, the Dionysian Mysteries had the very same elements in the story of Dionysius; the Romans; Bacchus was the god who died and lived again. There is also the story of Tammaz, older than any of these. These are collectively referred to as 'the Ancient Mysteries'" (*The Master Mason*, Grand Lodge of Indiana, p. 9).
 5. As the candidate is raised from the dead by the strong grip of the lion's paw, he is brought into the "five point of fellowship" (foot to foot, knee to knee, breast to breast, hand to back and mouth to ear) and given the grand omnific word: MAH-HAH-BONE.
 - a) The Hebrew rendering is "What! The builder?"
 - b) The candidate is told that he must never give this secret word in any manner other than that in which he receives it.
 6. All of this is similar to the secret rituals in the Mormon Church.

Conclusion. For something to be expedient, it must first be lawful (1 Corinthians 6:12). Masonry is not an aid in carrying out God's will (an expediency), it is an addition to God's will. All additions are sinful (Psalm 19:13; Matthew 7:22-23; 15:9; 1 Corinthians 4:6; 2 John 9). We have shown conclusively in this study that Masonry is not merely a harmless opinion; it is indeed a religion. The Bible wants Christians to be nothing more; to follow Jesus Christ and none other; to be a member of Christ's church and nothing else.

Since Masonry has been conclusively shown to be an organization of human origin, which speculates on such subjects as deity, the universe, science, humanity, morality and immortality through the use of ancient religions and philosophies, surely it falls into the category of human philosophy which is of men and not after Christ (cf. 1 Corinthians 1:19-21). To get caught up in practicing and defending Freemasonry amounts to letting others make "spoil of you through philosophy and vain deceit ..." (Colossians 2:8).

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