

Mission and Ministry to Men, Inc.

550 N. 10th Street ■ Beaumont, TX 77702 ■ (409) 835-0314

Freemasonry and The Southern Baptist Convention

**A Report
for The Interfaith Witness Department
of The Home Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention**

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September 17, 1992**

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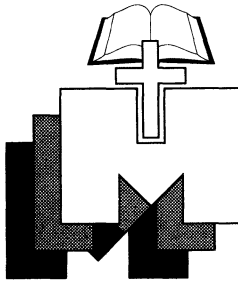
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September 15, 1992

Dear Fellow Believer:

This syllabus has been prepared with the prayer that it will be used of God to free Southern Baptists from one of the encumbrances to revival in our Convention.

The writer of Hebrews admonished Christians to disencumber themselves from that which impeded their "running the race of salvation." In Hebrews 12:1-3, he said:

"THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony of the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance -- unnecessary weight -- and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us. Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher, [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Just think of Him Who endured from sinners such grievous opposition and bitter hostility against Himself -- reckon up and consider it all in comparison with your trials -- so that you may not grow weary or exhausted, losing heart and relaxing and fainting in your minds." (Amplified Bible)

Freemasonry is one of those "encumbrances -- unnecessary weights", and it is one of those "sin(s) which so readily (deftly and cleverly) cling to and entangle us." The arduous task of exposing the Masonic Lodge, and removing it from the Southern Baptist Convention are made possible by the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. As each of us looks to fill up the earth with His glory and praise, there is no hardship, there is no conflict, which will cause us to draw back from the task before us.

If there is any doubt in your mind as to the true nature of the Masonic Lodge, please read the enclosed material. The extensive quotes from Manly P. Hall are particularly damning. Hall embraced Freemasonry as a young man. However, before he became a Freemason, he wrote his most famous book entitled, The Lost Keys of Freemasonry.

Hall's position in Masonry is attested to by his obituary in the November, 1990 edition of The Scottish Rite Journal (the official publication of the Southern Jurisdiction of the Scottish Rite, U.S.A.); it stated:

"Illustrious Manly Palmer Hall, often called 'Masonry's Greatest Philosopher,' departed his earthly laborers peacefully in his sleep on August 7, 1990....He is best known for writing The Lost Keys of Freemasonry (1923) (Document #3, Section VI, Holly presentation to HMB)... and, of course, his monumental Encyclopedic outline of Masonic History, philosophy and related subjects (Document #10, Section VI, Holly presentation to HMB)...(he) received the Scottish Rite's highest honor, the Grand Cross, in 1985 because of his exceptional contributions to Freemasonry, the Scottish Rite and the public good...Like Grand Commander Albert Pike before him,...Hall did not teach a new doctrine but was an ambassador of ageless tradition of wisdom that enriches us to this day....".

This is the same man who said:

"The true disciple of ancient Masonry has given up forever the worship of personalities. With his greater insight, he realizes that all forms and their position in material affairs are of no importance to him compared to the life which is evolving within. Those who allow appearances or worldly expressions to deter them from their self-appointed tasks are failures in Masonry, for Masonry is an abstract science of spiritual unfoldment." (p. 64)

"The true Mason realizes that behind these diverse forms there is one connected Life Principle, the spark of God in all living things. It is this Life which he considers when measuring the worth of a brother. It is to this life that he appeals for a recognition of spiritual Unity. He realizes that it is the discovery of this spark of Unity which makes him a conscious member of the Cosmic Lodge." (p. 64)

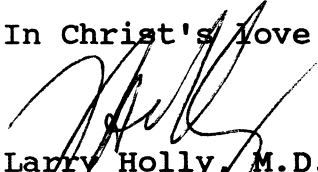
"The true Mason is not creed-bound. He realizes with the divine illumination of his lodge that as a Mason his religion must be universal: Christ, Buddha or Mohammed, the name means little, for he recognizes only the light and not the bearer. He worships at every shrine, bows before every altar, whether in temple, mosque or cathedral, realizing with his truer understanding the oneness of all spiritual truth. All true Masons know that they only are heathen who, having great ideals, do not live up to them. They know that all religions are but one story told in divers ways for peoples whose ideals differ but whose great purpose is in harmony with Masonic ideals." (emphasis added) (p. 65) (The Lost Keys of Freemasonry)

How much warning must Southern Baptists have before they force themselves to declare the truth about Freemasonry?

As I prepared this report for the Home Mission Board Interfaith Witness Department, the Lord encouraged me with Hebrews 12:1-3. I have prayed that God will give Southern Baptists the heart and the will to expose the Lodge, to exalt the Saviour and to announce to the world that this body of believers known as the Southern Baptist Convention is forever done with compromise of truth and accommodation with evil.

God bless you, as you "run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before (you)." God bless you, as you delight in "Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus." What a joy in the midst of the battle, "looking away to Jesus."

In Christ's love and service,



Larry Holly, M.D.
Proverbs 22:17-21

Attachment