

SECTION EIGHT

The Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry

This is an excellent treatment of a critical question in regard to Freemasonry. It is the work of:

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Mr. Kunk has a two-hour slide presentation based on this material. It is my strong recommendation that the Interfaith Witness Department invite Mr. Kunk to give that presentation to the Interfaith Witness Department and the executive staff of the Home Mission Board.



What is the

Secret Doctrine

of the

Masonic Lodge

and how does it relate to their

Plan of Salvation?

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Ephesians 5:11

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For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear in closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

(Luke 12:2-5)

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PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to document the Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge and show how it relates to their plan of "salvation." The Secret Doctrine is presented from a Masonic point of view as revealed in numerous Masonic documents. Some Masons are not aware of the existence of the Secret Doctrine and most do not fully understand the cost of embracing it or of being a Mason.

The majority of Christians do not have an accurate knowledge of the Masonic Lodge or the Secret Doctrine. Christians have a legitimate need to know about it so they will be able to prevent additional persons from being caught in the snare of Freemasonry and to lead Masons within their circle of influence to Jesus Christ.

Additionally, it is impossible to appreciate the effect the Masonic Lodge has on the church without an understanding of the Secret Doctrine. Many congregations have Masonic members and Masons are often found in leadership positions. The Masonic Lodge has several feeder organizations designed to attract young people. Many young people in the church are involved in these organizations. Church members and leaders usually avoid taking a firm stand against Freemasonry because they don't know enough about it. With an understanding of the Secret Doctrine, the importance of taking a rigid stand regarding the lodge and the presence of lodge members in the congregation can be fully appreciated.

FOREWORD

The Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge is the real secret behind Freemasonry. The doctrine teaches that Jesus Christ is not the only begotten Son of God but that each Mason may become a Christ by a process known as Masonic Initiation. The Secret Doctrine teaches that each Mason is his own Savior. If he doesn't save himself; he won't be saved.

The Secret Doctrine as presented in this paper is derived from Masonic books written by respected Masonic authors. A source for Masonic books is given in appendix B so that the reader can verify the accuracy of quotes if necessary.

A sincere attempt has been made to present adequate information to enable a Christian to conclusively evaluate the character of Freemasonry.

SUMMARY

The following sums up the Masonic position and that of the Christian:

From **Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry**, by "Rev." Charles H. Vail:

"Thus studying the inner teaching of the Mysteries we see that Christ is not a unique personage, but the first fruits--the promise of man made perfect. The Initiate has ever been thus regarded, for to attain the Christ-state is salvation.... Every Man is a potential Christ and the purpose of evolution is to raise every human being to the sublime degree of a Master Christ. (page 141)

From the writings of John:

Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. {19} They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. {20} But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. {21} I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth. {22} Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. {23} Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. (1 John 2:18-23)

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. {8} Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. {9} Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. {10} If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: {11} For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. (2 John 1:7-11)

Difficulty in understanding the true nature of Freemasonry

Few Masons and very few non-Masons have an accurate conception of the true nature of the Masonic Lodge. The lodge has a very good public relations program and exerts a considerable effort to control the perceptions of those they wish to be in a position to influence. The order depends upon the reputation it is able to generate for obtaining new members. Most men would not join an organization such as the Masonic Lodge without having a good impression of it.

Most people believe that the Masonic Lodge is a social organization. The Lodge has several allied organizations which are used in recruiting young people. Some of these such as Job's Daughters, Order of Rainbow for Girls, and Order of DeMolay operate openly, recruiting young people from the church. From an examination of Masonic documents published by the highest Masonic authorities, it can be easily shown that it is not a social organization at all.

One factor which interferes with our ability to accurately perceive the true nature of the Lodge is the tendency of humans to be limited by their paradigms. A paradigm is a model describing the true nature of something. When we encounter something new, we try to interpret it according to paradigms or models which we understand and are comfortable with. Christians are familiar with Christian doctrine and when they hear a religious discussion they hear it with the expectation that it will fit into a model which is described by correct doctrine as they understand it. Things which are not fully explained are in many cases misunderstood, being interpreted to conform to the paradigm. Sometimes we must listen carefully to detect the errors. Once we have detected an error, we are less likely to misunderstand what is said from then on because we know that the speaker does not share an identical paradigm.

Masonic writers do not have an orthodox paradigm of Jesus, God, Satan, salvation, baptism, deity, etc. They intentionally clothe their writings in Christian terminology in order that Christians will be limited by their paradigms. In order to understand the nature of Freemasonry, the reader must look at Masonic writings from the perspective of someone who does not believe that Jesus is the only Son of God. When reading the Masonic quotes, try to switch paradigms and see how the meanings change. Until the reader has developed a Masonic paradigm, he cannot fully understand Masonry. Many Masons do not properly understand Masonry because they have not become aware of how they are being misled by their paradigms.

The highest authority of Freemasonry

In each state the highest authority of Freemasonry rests with the Grand Lodge. There are 49 Grand Lodges in the United States. The MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE STATE OF INDIANA publishes a small book titled **INDIANA MONITOR and FREEMASON'S GUIDE**.

The "Monitor" is given to each man when he is "raised" to the Sublime degree of Master Mason. The term "raised" is used in Masonic circles in the same sense as raised from the dead. In the 1974 edition of the Monitor, under "Declaration of Principles" they state of the Lodge:

"It is a social organization only so far as it furnishes additional inducement that men may forgather in numbers, thereby providing more material for its primary work of education, of worship, and of charity." (page 35)

The Grand Lodge clearly tells all new Master Masons in writing that the lodge is not primarily a social organization; its primary purpose is education, worship and charity. That statement of purpose sounds remarkably like one might propose to describe the function of the church. But over and over again, Masons and some Masonic authors try to avoid that impression by insisting that "It's not a religion." Other respected Masonic authors such as Coil and Mackey readily admit that Freemasonry is a religion.

Manly Palmer Hall, a Masonic author with the highest credentials, described the nature of the lodge in **The Lost Keys of Freemasonry**:

"The Masonic order is not a mere social organization, but is composed of all those who have banded themselves together to learn and apply the principles of mysticism and the occult rites." (page 19)

Noted Masonic historian, H.L. Haywood gives a very truthful description of the purpose of the lodge in his book, **The Great Teachings of Masonry**. Haywood wrote the following:

"The Fraternity itself exists in order to keep fixed on a man a certain set of influences, and in order to bring about certain changes in the world, etc.: its secrecy is a means to that end, and helps to make such a purpose possible." (page 33)

After the Secret Doctrine is fully understood, the words of Haywood take on an ominous meaning. Many statements in Masonic books have one meaning for those not acquainted with the Secret Doctrine, and a completely different meaning for those who are familiar with it. Again, understanding is limited by paradigms.

Masonry's most important symbol: evidence of the Masonic plan of "salvation."

Masonry is full of symbols. The most important of those symbols is discussed in a cursory way in the Indiana Monitor:

"The Legend of the Third Degree. This is the most important and significant of the legendary symbols of Freemasonry. It has descended from age to age by oral tradition, and has been preserved in every Masonic rite, practiced in any country or language, with no essential alteration.... It was the single object of all the ancient rites and mysteries practiced in the very bosom of pagan darkness.... to teach the immortality of the soul. This is still the great design of the third degree of Masonry. This is the scope and aim of its ritual.... By its legend and all its ritual, it is implied that **we have been redeemed from the death of sin and the sepulchre of pollution.**"

(pages 38, 144-145 emphasis added.)

Much of the paragraph above was originally written by Albert G. Mackey, a man who is acknowledged worldwide as one of Masonry's most respected authors. The text is found on page 96 of Mackey's book, **Manual of the Lodge**, published in 1862.

By mandating that each be given a copy of the "Monitor," the Grand Lodge of Indiana tells every new Master Mason "raised" in Indiana that the ritual implies that they "have been redeemed from the death of sin." Anything which is claimed to be able to redeem a man from the death of sin can only properly be described as a **PLAN OF SALVATION**.

What does the Grand Lodge of Indiana do to encourage the new Master Mason to discover the Secret Doctrine?

On page 124 of the Indiana Monitor, the new Master Mason is told:

"In the ceremonies of making a Mason, we do not attempt to do more than to indicate the pathway to Masonic knowledge, to lay the foundation for the Masonic edifice. The brother must pursue the journey or complete the structure for himself by reading and reflection."

Clearly, the Grand Lodge of Indiana tells new Masons that they are not being given all of the facts about Freemasonry but must read and reflect to obtain a true understanding. Which books would a Mason read to learn about Freemasonry? Obviously, those written by Masonic authors. Where would a Mason look for such books? The lodge library is a prime source of material. Other sources would be Masonic publishers and supply houses. Great expense has been incurred to publish the literally tens of thousands of Masonic books which have been published world wide. There are currently hundreds of Masonic books in print in the United States alone. If Masons didn't buy and read Masonic books, Masonic publishers could not, and would not, continue to

publish those books. People still seek the Masonic pathway to knowledge today. But, some Masons don't spend the time to do the required reading to uncover the real nature of Freemasonry as embodied in the Secret Doctrine. Those who do spend the time and know the truth about Freemasonry are bound by oath not to reveal it to non-Masons. Virtually all Masons will deny the existence of the secret doctrine either because they are ignorant of it or they wish to deceive. It may be impossible to know for certain which category a man falls under initially.

Do all Grand Lodges attempt to point the way to the Secret Doctrine in the same manner?

There are slight variations from state to state. For example, in the Bluegrass state, the monitor is not published directly by the Grand Lodge of Kentucky. The **Kentucky Monitor**, which was arranged by Henry Pirtle, has been in use for more than fifty years. Pirtle is a Past Master or former Worshipful Master of the Lodge. Like the Indiana Monitor, the **Kentucky Monitor** borrows much of its verbiage from books written by Masonic authorities and those books and authors are listed in footnotes. Since the Kentucky Monitor is not published by the Grand Lodge it can be slightly more direct without linking the Grand Lodge to the Secret Doctrine. The thirteenth edition of Pirtle's work contains an index which lists "Secret Doctrine" among the entries. Seventeen pages are listed as having information pertaining to the Secret Doctrine. The most direct passage is found in a preface entitled **The Spirit of Masonry**:

"This, in short, is a synopsis of the story that Masonry attempts to tell, the Secret Doctrine, completed from the wisdom of the ancient East." (page xix)

Most of the text referring to the Secret Doctrine on those seventeen pages of the **Kentucky Monitor** is similar to the following two passages:

"Masonry has been defined as a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Now an allegory is a story told to illustrate or convey some truth. Some of the most important truths have been handed down to us through allegories, that being one of the favorite methods of the Master used to convey His teachings. It is one of the peculiarities of an allegory that its message may not be understood by all men. One must be prepared with his own mind and heart to receive the truth or else he sees it not. It is only a few of all those who hear who perceive the lesson designed to be taught by the allegory. The great majority, having ears to hear, hear not; having eyes to see, see not the beautiful lesson but hear only a pretty story that interests for a short while and then is lost. But the earnest seeker for truth, he who is duly and truly prepared for its perception, sees beyond the veil of the allegory and perceives the beautiful, simple truth which it conceals from the multitude but reveals to the chosen few." (page 20)

"So, my brother, Masonry teaches by allegories and symbols, and it is your part to extract from them the truths that will be of service to you in the building of an upright Masonic character. If you perceive only the stories that Masonry presents to you and do not see deeper into what they are designed to teach, you will miss the most wonderful part of Masonry...." (pages 20-21)

The monitors used in Ohio Lodges are not as detailed as those of Indiana or Kentucky. **Masonic Lodge Methods**, by L. B. Blakemore, a Past Grand Master of Ohio, was written for Masters, Wardens and other officers of the lodge. It discusses the importance of the lodge library and suggests the following:

"It is suggested that when a Candidate has been Raised, and while he is still in the Master's care, the Lodge Librarian, or the Chaplain, or the Master himself should address him somewhat as follows: 'I herewith present you with a Masonic book which I have borrowed for you from our Lodge Library (or other Masonic Library). You will read it and return it and secure another one and so continue your search for more light in Masonry.' This is impressive and figures in the Candidate's mind as a part of his Initiation and starts him out on a search for more "Masonic Light" and information. The book presented should be an interesting one-carefully selected with a view to his ability to appreciate it." (pages 43 and 44)

The practice of giving a book rather than loaning one from the Lodge Library is also common. Macoy Publishing and Masonic Supply Company's September 1991 catalog names **The Builders** as one of the outstanding classics in Masonic literature. The catalog goes on to state that many Grand Lodges present a copy to each newly raised Mason. Evidence of that fact was found in a small library which changed hands. A copy of the book has a bookplate which states "Presented to (the man's name) on being raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason." It was signed by the Master of a Wisconsin Lodge. **The Builders** contains a complete chapter on the Secret Doctrine. As we shall see later, the Masonic ritual encourages the new Mason to search for the meanings behind the symbols of Freemasonry. The ritual is virtually identical in all jurisdictions.

Can the nature of Freemasonry be accurately understood without an understanding of the Secret Doctrine?

Swinburne Clymer wrote the following in **The Mysticism of Masonry**:

"The Secret Doctrine is the complete philosophy of Masonic Symbolism." (page 48)

Clymer's statement is essentially accurate. The true nature of the Masonic Lodge cannot be understood without having an understanding of the Secret Doctrine and comparing it to the doctrine taught by Jesus and His apostles.

Masonic author George Steinmetz wrote **The LOST WORD ITS HIDDEN MEANING**. The book was published in 1953 by the Macoy Masonic Publishing and Supply Company, the leading Masonic source. Chapter 2 is titled **The Secret Doctrine**. We find the following:

"The Secret Doctrine, being the real secret of Freemasonry, is not divulged even to the candidate. There is no machinery set up in the ritual for the purpose, and the Secret Doctrine itself is not even acknowledged to exist.... Officially, the ritual is 'all that there is.' and no Grand Lodge will go beyond that fact and attempt to define the teachings of Masonry, nor will any Grand Lodge (to my knowledge) admit the existence of the Secret Doctrine which is so openly discussed and written about by Masonic students and authorities on Masonic symbolism." (pages 10-11)

Steinmetz continues:

"The Secret Doctrine in Freemasonry cannot be too strongly stressed. Firstly, because there are those, in the Order, who in their lack of knowledge claim that it does not exist; secondly, because the seeking Mason can gain no further light than is shed by the ritual itself, until he starts his quest for the REAL SECRETS of the hidden Mysteries of Freemasonry-- and they are found WITHIN THE SECRET DOCTRINE!" (pages 12-13)

From reading Steinmetz, the **Indiana Monitor and Freemason's Guide**, the **Kentucky Monitor** and **Masonic Lodge Methods** by Blakemore, we can gain a better understanding of the situation. The lodge says nothing directly about the Secret Doctrine but tells the new Master Mason that there is more to learn and the way to learn is to read. This gives them the ability to deny responsibility for the Secret Doctrine or even to deny that there is a Secret Doctrine. Whenever a man is upset by what he reads, the lodge is able to say something similar to the following: "We have never taught any such thing; that is the opinion of the author of that book. That is his theory about the meaning of the ritual. Masonry is made up of men belonging to many different religions. We must be tolerant of the other man's beliefs. He is entitled to believe what he wants about the meaning of the ritual."

It's a clever system; it has worked for a long time. But as we shall see, the most popular Masonic authors all have the same understanding of the meaning of the ritual and of the Secret Doctrine. And for good reason; the information ultimately can be traced to a single source. It is realized in Masons in a way which is very much a part of the Secret.

What is the Masonic Plan of Salvation and how does it tie into the Secret Doctrine?

Mystic Masonry, by J.D. Buck, M.D., also contains a chapter titled **The Secret Doctrine**. Buck writes:

"Every soul must 'work out its own salvation,' and 'take the Kingdom of Heaven by force.' Salvation by faith and the vicarious atonement were not taught, as now interpreted, by Jesus, nor are these doctrines taught in the exoteric Scriptures. They are later and ignorant perversions of the original doctrines. In the Early Church, as in the Secret Doctrine, there was not one Christ for the whole world, but a potential Christ in every man." (page 57)

Later in the chapter Buck further explains:

"It is far more important that men should strive to become Christs than that they should believe that Jesus was Christ. If the Christ-state can be attained by but one human being during the whole evolution of the race, then the evolution of man is a farce and human perfection an impossibility. Jesus is no less Divine because all men may reach the same Divine perfection." (page 62)

The Secret Doctrine redefines the meaning of Christ. Instead of referring to the Messiah when they use the term, they refer to a state or condition. Jesus was Christ but he was not the only one to attain that state according to the Secret Doctrine. Being Christ is the key to Masonic "salvation."

The Secret Doctrine teaches that each man must work out his own salvation. Jesus is said to be just another man; Jesus is not unique. All men can become Christs according to the Secret Doctrine. But, what does the Bible say?

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole. {11} This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. {12} Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. (Acts 4:10-12)

Terminology of the Secret Doctrine

The terminology associated with the Secret Doctrine of the Masonic Lodge is largely unfamiliar to Christians and for that matter, many Masons. It is necessary to understand it in order to understand the Masonic paradigm. There are general categories of terms which describe major concepts. There are often multiple terms used to refer to a particular concept which all mean the same thing.

Cosmic consciousness, Christ-consciousness and possession of the Lost Word all refer to the same state, the Christ-state, wherein the individual Mason has worked out his own salvation.

Initiation, Evolution, Divine Science, Science of Soul Development and Soul Architecture, are terms which all describe the same "salvation" process.

The Legend of the Third Degree and significance of the LOST WORD

The Lost Word and the rediscovery of it is a central theme in Masonic ritual. A previous quote from the **Indiana Monitor and Freemason's Guide** indicates that the Legend of the Third degree is the most significant symbol in Freemasonry. The setting for the legend is the building of Solomon's temple, just before completion. For working on the temple the workman are to receive the secrets of a Master Mason which will entitle them to the wages of a Master. Three of the men cannot wait to obtain the secrets. During the ritual of the third degree, each man is required to portray Hiram Abiff. Hiram is accosted by three ruffians, Jubela, Jubelo and Jebulum, who are demanding that he reveal to them the secrets of a Master Mason. Hiram is a righteous individual, he will not reveal the secrets to them until the proper time and place and then only in the presence of Hiram, King of Tyre and Solomon, King of Israel. The second ruffian demands "Give me the Master's word, or I will take your life in a moment!" The third ruffian actually does take the life of Hiram. He is unjustly murdered. When he died, the WORD was lost because it could not be mentioned except in the presence of the two Hiram and Solomon. Hiram Abiff is then buried. After the grave is located and the body confirmed to be that of Grand Master Hiram Abiff, King Solomon (the Worshipful Master) declares that the Master's WORD has been lost. He declares that the first word spoken after the body is raised will be adopted for the regulation of the Masters' Lodges, until future generations shall find the right word. **Hiram Abiff is then raised from the dead** by the strong grip of the lions paw of the tribe of Judah. (Jesus is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.) The first word spoken by Hiram Abiff after being raised from the dead was MAH-HAH-BONE. That is the substitute for the Lost Word.

Mystic Masonry, by J.D. Buck contains a good explanation of the meaning of the legend of the third degree:

"In the third degree the candidate impersonates Hiram, who has been shown to be identical with the Christos of the Greeks, and with the Sun-Gods of all other nations. The superiority of Masonry at this point over all exoteric Religions consists in this: All these religions take the symbol for the thing symbolized. Christ was originally like the father. Now He is made identical with the Father. In deifying Jesus the whole of humanity is bereft of Christos as an eternal potency within every human soul, a latent Christ in every man. In thus deifying one man, they have orphaned the whole of humanity! On the other hand, Masonry, in making every candidate personify Hiram, has preserved the original teaching, which is a universal glyphic. Few candidates may be aware that Hiram whom they have represented and personified is ideally, and precisely the same as Christ. Yet such is undoubtedly the case. This old philosophy shows what Christ as a glyphic means, and how the Christ-state results from real Initiation, or from the evolution of the human into the Divine." (pages 133-134)

In the Secret Doctrine, possession of the Lost Word is the key to salvation. In **The Mysticism of Masonry**, Clymer writes:

"After the candidate is obligated and brought to Light in the third degree, he is bantered with the statement that undoubtedly he now imagines himself a Master Mason. He is informed not only that such is not the case but that there is no certainty that he will ever become such. He subsequently starts on his journey for the discovery of the Lost Word." (page 49)

"Every man who takes upon himself the Masonic obligation, can, if he will, find this Lost Word. The material required in the process of transmutation is within himself as surely as a man who has his cellar filled with coal and a furnace wherein to burn it, has all that is required to start a roaring fire which will heat his house. Finding the Lost Word is an individual work. Each Soul must accomplish it or miss Immortality and this is true whether a man be a churchman or a Mason or both." (page 55)

Other Masonic writers concur. Consider the words of "Rev." Charles H. Vail in **Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry**:

"The symbol of the Lost Word and the legend of the search for it, embodies the whole design of Freemasonry. The primary object of Freemasonry is the search after Divine Truth. The Word is a symbol of this Divine Truth, and this truth is the key to the Science of the Soul." (page 211)

Masonic writer Manly Palmer Hall wrote the following about the Lost Word in **The Lost Keys of Freemasonry**:

"The Word is found when the Master himself is ordained by the living hand of God, cleansed by living water, baptized by living fire, a Priest King after the Order of Melchizedek who is above the law." (page 59)

This is another way of stating that the Master Mason becomes a Christ when the Lost Word is found. The Melchizedek priesthood is the priesthood of Jesus Christ. (See Hebrews 5:5-6)

How is the "Lost Word" found?

The process by which the Lost Word is re-discovered is known in Masonic circles as **INITIATION**. Initiation, Evolution, Divine Science, Science of Soul Development, Soul Architecture, and rediscovery of the Lost Word are all key terms in the language of the Secret Doctrine and all describe the same "salvation" process, or discipline by which the initiate realizes the Masonic promise. Understanding the Secret Doctrine requires an understanding of Initiation. Initiation is an art which requires discipline in order for a man to become proficient, according to the the writings of Joseph Fort Newton. One of the most popular Masonic books ever written is Newton's **THE BUILDERS**. Chapter 4 is titled **The Secret Doctrine**. We find the following:

"Qualification for the knowledge of higher things is, and must always be, a matter of personal fitness. Other qualification there is none. For those who have the fitness the Secret Doctrine is as clear as sunlight...." (page 53)

On page 57, Newton continues:

"Fitness for the finer truths cannot be conferred, it must be developed....the Secret Doctrine, whether as taught by the ancient mysteries or by modern Masonry, is less a doctrine than a discipline -a method of organized spiritual culture, and as such has a place and a ministry among men."

The significance of INITIATION

H.L. Haywood wrote about the significance of Initiation in the chapter titled **The Meaning of Initiation and Secrecy in The Great Teachings of Masonry**:

"Masonic initiation is intended to be quite as profound and as revolutionizing an experience. As a result of it the candidate should become a new man: he should have a new range of thought; a new feeling about mankind; a new idea about God...." (page 31)

The statement above is quite accurate. After the reader has become fully aware of the Secret Doctrine the statement will be understood to have a ponderous meaning.

In the chapter titled **The Secret Doctrine (Continued)** in Buck's book **Mystic Masonry**, we find that the process of Human Evolution (Initiation) is one in which man evolves from man into God by becoming Christ.

"....becoming perfect in Humanity, man attains Divinity. In other words, he becomes Christos. This is the meaning, aim, and consummation of Human Evolution; and this Philosophy defines the one-only process by which it may be attained. The Perfect Man is Christ: and Christ is God. This is the birth-right and destiny of every human soul." (page 85-86)

Initiation is the evolutionary process by which the Secret Doctrine declares that man can become a Christ and therefore God. Salvation is said to be attained when man has become a Christ. This is the same deception which Satan used with Eve. After Adam and Eve ate of the tree, they sewed fig leaves together and made aprons for themselves. In like manner Masons wear aprons to hide their nakedness before God. Masons are told in the ritual that the lambskin apron is to be their covering before God when they stand naked and alone before the Great White Throne! The Great White Throne judgment is the judgment of the damned found in Revelation chapter 20.

How would a Mason go about becoming a Christ? What is the technique of Initiation?

From **Mystic Masonry**, by Buck:

"All real Initiation is an internal, not an external process.... It is thus that man must 'work out his own salvation.' The consummation of initiation is the Perfect Master, the Christos, for these are the same. They are the goal, the perfect consummation of human evolution."

(page 86)

This paragraph gives a clue to the true nature of Initiation. Initiation does not refer to a ceremony but to an inward process. It truly is an initiation.

The discipline of Initiation is discussed in great detail in **THE MASONIC INITIATION**, by W. L. Wilmschurst:

"It may be a surprise to some members of our Craft to be told that our ceremonial rites, as at present performed, do not constitute or confer real Initiation at all, in the original sense of admitting a man to the solemn mysteries of the human soul, and to practical experience in divine science..... We profess to confer Initiation, but few Masons know what real Initiation involves; very few, one fears, would have the wish, the courage, or the willingness to make the necessary sacrifices to attain it if they did.
(page 17)

The meaning of the last sentence in the above quote is profound.

Wilmschurst continues:

"For real Initiation means an expansion of consciousness from the human to the divine level."
(page 19)

"For those upon the path to real Initiation, meditation is essential."
(page 45)

"....Initiation always occurs when the physical body is in a state of trance or sleep, and when the temporarily liberated consciousness has been transferred to a higher level.... yet in the actual experience of soul-architecture Initiation succeeds Initiation upon increasingly higher levels of the ladder as the individual becomes correspondingly ripe for them, able to bear their strain and to assimilate their revelations."
(page 87-88)

"Initiation has no other end than this-- conscious union between the individual soul and the Universal Divine Spirit."
(page 54)

So we see that Initiation is a process in which a Mason goes into trance by passive meditation and attains conscious union - that is, he establishes communications, with the Masonic god. By attaining conscious communion, he becomes a Christ. The process of Initiation reoccurs over months and years and after each conscious union with the Masonic god he has new understandings about himself and about the god. The process is evolutionary; the Mason evolves into a god himself.

In **Ancient Operative Masonry**, S.R. Parchment sums up Masonic teaching on the Lost Word, the Christ within and redemption contained in the the Secret Doctrine:

"The 'Lost Word' is the Christ within, to which the Mystic Mason looks for redemption. Thus the Master Jesus, who was an Initiate of the Ancient Operative School, taught his followers that the kingdom of heaven is within. In the early church, as in the secret doctrine, there was not a personal Christ for the whole world but a potential Christ in every living being. Yea, the mystic while investigating the intangible realms beholds potential Christs in the atoms which compose the universe. Hence **Masons believe in the Architect of the Universe, but positively not in Jesus the man as the only Son of God.**"

(Page 35, emphasis added.)

Who is the god of Freemasonry and how can we be sure of his true identity?

We can be sure that the god which Masons have conscious communion with is not God the Father because of what Jesus said:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)

Paul clearly understood that when he wrote to Timothy:

For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men,
the man Christ Jesus; (1 Timothy 2:5)

Now, it is clear that Masons do not attain conscious union with their god through Jesus because they deny that he is the one true Christ. From the writings of John, we can be certain that the God of the Bible is not the Masonic god.

Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?
He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.
Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father:
(but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.
(1 John 2:22-23)

John tells us that he that denieth that Jesus is **THE** Christ is antichrist. Paul tells us that there is only one God and one Christ:

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. (1 Corinthians 8:6)

Masonry teaches that Jesus was born an ordinary man and that he became a Christ later on. He did not come as a Christ in the flesh. **The Meaning of Masonry**, by Lynn Perkins contains the following:

"Jesus of Nazareth had attained a level of consciousness, of perfection, that has been called by various names: cosmic consciousness, soul regeneration, philosophic initiation, spiritual elimination, Brahmic Splendor, Christ-consciousness."
(page 53)

We know from the writings of John that the spirit of Masonry is antichrist:

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
(1 John 4:3)

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
(2 John 1:7)

Is there anything in Masonic writings which would lead us to believe that Satan or Lucifer is the god of Freemasonry?

In **Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry**, the "Rev." Charles H. Vail provides a clue:

"In all the Initiations and Mysteries, the Gods exhibit many forms of themselves, and appear in a variety of shapes; and sometimes, indeed a formless light of themselves is held forth to the view; sometimes this light is according to a human form and sometimes it proceeds into a different shape."
(page 26)

Manisis was the leader of a sect of Gnostics who were known as Manicheans according to page 565 of **Morals and Dogma**. Swinburne Clymer wrote the following in **The Mysticism of Masonry**:

"The mysteries have now, as throughout the long ages past, for their foundation, the existence of God, as Jehovah Adonai-the Father of Light...."
(page 19)

Clymer recognized Manisis as a prophet of his god, the Father of Light. He quotes Manisis:

"And Jehovah Adonai-that is to say, the Father of Light-spoke unto his Messenger, Manisis, saying: 'I will appear to thee in the image of Light, for did I not promise those who have gone before thee that 'the Woman clothed with the Sun' should be with them? 'And I now establish a Covenant with thee and bind my Laws to a fulfillment of this Covenant, that all of my children who will obey the Laws, shall be blessed and cheered when in misfortune or sorrow, for I shall appear to them in the Fire, as an Angel of Light.' -Manisis to his apostles." (page 29)

Paul warned us that Satan could appear as an angel of light. Masons are told that Masonry is a search after light; and such it is.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (2 Corinthians 11:14-15)

The Lost Keys of Freemasonry is listed in Macoy's catalog as being a book for the Mason and non-Mason alike. It is touted as "revealing the profounder aspects of an ancient fraternity which has always wrought for the benefit of mankind, the book is one to be read over and over again." The "Lost Keys" is listed in "Basic Group No. 1" in the Macoy Library Collection. It contains the following quote:

"When the Mason learns that the key to the warrior on the block is the proper application of the dynamo of living power, he has learned the mystery of his Craft. **The seething energies of Lucifer** are in his hands and before he may step onward and upward, he must prove his ability to properly apply energy." (page 48, emphasis added)

Morals and Dogma, often called the "Bible" of Freemasonry was written by Albert Pike. It contains the following:

"Masonry is a search after Light." (page 741)

"Lucifer, the Light-bearer! Strange and mysterious name to give to the Spirit of Darkness! Lucifer, the Son of the Morning! Is it he who bears the Light, and with its splendors intolerable blinds feeble, sensual, or selfish Souls? Doubt it not!"

(page 321)

The organization known as the Eastern Star is a Masonic organization composed of Master Masons and their close female relatives. The object of the Eastern Star is "for inciting the influence of females towards the purposes of the Masonic institution...." according to the **Adoptive Rite Ritual, a Book of Instruction** of the Eastern Star.

The emblem of the Eastern Star is a five pointed star with two points up. "I have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him" is a phrase used to identify those members who are entitled to participate in its rituals. Whose star is the Eastern Star? The answer is found in the **History of the Ancient and Honorable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons, and Concordant Orders**:

"When the Pentagram elevates two of its points, it represents Satan, or the goat of the Mysteries; and when it elevates one of its points only, it represents the Savior, goodness, virtue." (page 101)

Another entry in the same book states it in a slightly different way:

"This star represents God, all that is pure, virtuous, and good, when represented with one point upward: but when turned with one point down it represents Evil, all that is opposed to the good, pure, and virtuous, in fine, it represents the GOAT OF MENDES." (page 49)

Masonic writer Manly Hall confirms the secret behind the five pointed Eastern Star in his book **An Encyclopedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy**:

"When used in black magic, the pentagram is called the 'sign of the cloven hoof,' or the footprint of the Devil. The star with two points upward is also called the 'Goat of Mendes,' because the inverted star is the same shape as a goat's head. When the upright star turns and the upper point falls to the bottom, it signifies the fall of the Morning Star." (page CIV)

All forms of magic including black magic involve Satan or his demons. Man has no supernatural powers; anything supernatural is done either by God, angels or demons. God and His angels don't provide magicians with supernatural powers.

Is there any direct evidence from Masonic literature that they would provide information or instructions to conjure Satan or his demons?

The Builders was written by Joseph Fort Newton in 1914. It is the classic which today is often presented to newly raised Master Masons. The bibliography contains references to most of the major books and authors which reveal the hidden meanings behind Masonry. In the chapter titled **Secret Doctrine**, the following is found:

"Perhaps the greatest student in this field of esoteric teaching and method, certainly the greatest now living, is Arthur Edward Waite, to whom it is a pleasure to pay tribute...." (page 57)

The tribute continues through page 61. Newton speaks of Waite's writings as:

".....a series of volumes noble in form, united in aim, unique in wealth of revealing beauty, and of unequaled worth." (page 59)

Waite, who until his death in 1945 was considered to be a great student of the Secret Doctrine, wrote such books as **Devil Worship in France**, **The Book of Black Magic**, and **The Way of Divine Union**. On page 244 through 248 of the **Book of Black Magic** are detailed instructions for conjuring "Emperor Lucifer, Master and Prince of Rebellious Spirits." For rather obvious reasons this will not be quoted here.

Another book, revered by Masons, which contains information about conjuring demons is **Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic & Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy** by Manly Palmer Hall. This book has a second title which is found on the spine: **The Secret Teachings of All Ages**. It is known by both titles in the "fraternity." Note the Rosicrucian connection. We find the following in the chapter **Ceremonial Magic and Sorcery**:

"While the elaborate ceremonial magic of antiquity was not necessarily evil, there arose from its perversion several false schools of sorcery, or black magic.... While the learned and godlike daemon of Socrates seems to have been an exception, this really proves that the intellectual and moral status of the magician has much to do with the type of elemental he is capable of invoking.... The majority of modern mediumistic apparitions are but elemental creatures masquerading through bodies composed of thought substance supplied by the very persons desiring to behold these wraiths of decarnate beings." (page CI)

The Secret Teachings of All Ages, the same book by the other name, then goes into the theory and practice of black magic. The following section called **MODUS OPERANDI FOR THE INVOCATION OF SPIRITS** contains detailed information on conjuring spirits. The following example pact which a person might make to secure the services of a demon is found:

"I hereby promise the Great Spirit Lucifuge, Prince of Demons, that each year I will bring unto him a human soul to do with as it may please him, and in return Lucifuge promises to bestow upon me the treasures of the earth and fulfill my every desire for the length of my natural life. If I fail to bring him each year the offering specified above, then my own soul shall be forfeit to him.
[Invocant signs pact with his own blood.]" (page CIV)

Where would the man who had made such a pact go to ensnare a human soul? Satan's influence has already been established on those in the world. Satan wouldn't be willing to accept as payment one of those he already has. If the man can't go into the world, he must go into the church. Possibly he can induce someone to become a Freemason.

Is there any "common ground" in the Rosicrucian and Masonic teachings which can help us to better understand the nature of Initiation?

Mackey's Encyclopedia of Freemasonry, contains a three and one half page article on Rosicrucianism which begins with the following:

"Many writers have sought to discover a close connection between the Rosicrucians and the Freemasons, and some, indeed, have advanced the theory that the latter are only the successors of the former. Whether this opinion be correct or not, there are sufficient coincidences of character between the two to render the history of Rosicrucianism highly interesting to the Masonic student."
(page 639 or 877 depending on edition)

Rosicrucian and Masonic philosophy are virtually identical. Many Masonic writers try to claim that the Rosicrucian Order was started by Freemasonry. **More about Masonry**, by H.L. Haywood contains the following:

"There is no evidence that any Society of Rosicrucianism was ever organized with that name until a Masonic Side Order was set up in England late in the Nineteenth Century..."
(page 7)

Many who are both Rosicrucians and Freemasons would take exception. It is the opinion of more than a few that during the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, Rosicrucians were quite instrumental in formulation of the ritual and teachings. Rosicrucians often mentioned as being influential include Robert Fludd and Elias Ashmole.

Swinburne Clymer who wrote **The Mysticism of Masonry**, had the following to say about the influence of Rosicrucianism in Freemasonry:

"...the Rosicrucians were the real leaven in all Masonic organizations:"
(page 97)

Many Rosicrucian authors are also Masonic authors and vice versa. Clymer was both a Rosicrucian and a Mason. The boundaries between the literature of the two organizations blur and disappear as research progresses. Both Rosicrucians and Freemasons are involved in Initiation.

Is there anything in the literature which would lead us to believe that Initiation is a method to communicate with demons?

The following quote is from a Rosicrucian source. The explanation is clear, concise and leaves little doubt. **In the Pronaos of the Temple of Wisdom**, by Franz Hartmann, M.D. contains the following description:

"Persons in a state of receptivity or passivity may become mediums through which divine demons (influences) may be attracted within the body of man and cause men to perform wonderful things. If the soul of such a person breaks away from the bonds of the body and surrenders herself to the power of imagination, she may become the habitation of demons of a lower order, which may enable her to perform extraordinary things."
(page 32)

The Lost Keys of Freemasonry contains the following:

"In Freemasonry is concealed the mystery of creation, the answer to the problem of existence, and the path the student must tread in order to join those who are really the living powers behind the thrones of modern national and international affairs."
(page 18)

"The Master Mason, if he be truly a Master, is in communication with the unseen powers that move the destinies of life."
(page 57)

What does the Bible say? Who is the unseen power which controls the world?

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. (1 Jn 5:19 NIV)

Does the Bible support the conclusion that there would be a method such as Masonic Initiation which would enable a man to communicate with demons?

Consider Paul's words to Timothy:

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;
(1 Timothy 4:1-2)

It is obvious that for anyone to give heed to seducing spirits and their doctrines that the doctrines must be communicated from the seducing spirits to man. The Masonic doctrine that a Mason can become a Christ is not of God. It is clearly of Satan, the Antichrist. The Secret Doctrine is communicated to Masons by demons while they are in trance. The previously quoted passage from **The Masonic Initiation** can be understood to agree with the realities as predicted in scripture:

"yet in the actual experience of soul-architecture Initiation succeeds Initiation upon increasingly higher levels of the ladder as the individual becomes correspondingly ripe for them, able to bear their strain and to assimilate their revelations."
(page 87-88)

The process of Masonic Initiation is one in which the conscience of the individual is seared as with a hot iron. As his spirit is progressively deadened, he is able to bear more and more of the revelations.

What is the expected result of Masonic Initiation?

Knowing the identity of the Masonic god, a clear understanding of the result of conscious union with that god becomes possible. From **Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry**:

"Initiation, as we shall see in a subsequent lecture, was a regeneration--a real spiritual 'new becoming' or re-birth. The candidate himself became the thing symbolized--Hermes, Buddha, Christ, etc. This state was the result of real Initiation--an evolution of the human into the divine.
(page 33)

The initiate is reborn and has a "new becoming." When a man becomes a Christian, he is reborn. Masonry has a similar born-again experience which will literally change a man's life.

From **The Masonic Initiation:**

"True self-knowledge is unobstructed conscious union of the human spirit with God and the realization of their identity. In that identic union the unreal, superficial selves have become obliterated. The sense of personality is lost, merged in the Impersonal and Universal. The little Ego is assumed into the great All, and knows as It knows. Man realizes his own inherent ultimate Divinity, and thenceforth lives and acts no longer as a separate individual, with an independent will, but in integration with the Divine Life and Will, whose instrument he becomes, whose purposes he thenceforth serves." (page 49, emphasis added.)

The Mason becomes unable to act as a separate individual and becomes an instrument of the Masonic god.

From **Ancient Mysteries and Modern Masonry**, by "Rev." Charles H. Vail:

"The consummation of all this was to make the Initiate a God, either by union with a Divine Being without or by the realization of the Divine Self within." (page 25)

The Initiate realizes the Masonic god within. He is demon possessed. He is no longer able to act as a separate individual; he is now an instrument of the Masonic god; he has been filled with an unholy spirit.

With a clear understanding of the Secret Doctrine, we are able to understand the true meaning of the following passages which were quoted previously. From the chapter titled **The Meaning of Initiation and Secrecy in The Great Teachings of Masonry:**

"Masonic initiation is intended to be quite as profound and revolutionizing an experience. As a result of it the candidate should become a new man: he should have a new range of thought; a new feeling about mankind; a new idea about God...." (page 31)

The statement from **THE MASONIC INITIATION**, by W. L. Wilmshurst also is now seen to have a profound meaning:

"We profess to confer Initiation, but few Masons know what real Initiation involves; very few, one fears, would have the wish, the courage, or the willingness to make the necessary sacrifices to attain it if they did." (page 17)

Most Masons who are involved with Initiation are unaware that they are dealing with demons. Buck accurately explains why in **Mystic Masonry:**

"How much one's idea of God colors all his thoughts and deeds, is seldom realized." (page 59)

What is the purpose of the Masonic Lodge?

In **The Great Teachings of Masonry**. H. L. Haywood wrote the following:

"The Fraternity itself exists in order to keep fixed on a man a certain set of influences, and in order to bring about certain changes in the world, etc.: its secrecy is a means to that end, and helps to make such a purpose possible."
(page 33)

Now it is clear from an understanding of the Secret Doctrine and of scripture, the certain set of influences he is referring to are demons.

From **The Masonic Initiation**, we can see that the objective of Masonry is to bring men under the influence of demons through the process of Masonic Initiation:

"Initiation has no other end than this-- conscious union between the individual soul and the Universal Divine Spirit."
(page 54)

"....the union of the personal soul with its Divine Principle. Masonry has no other objective than this; all other matters of interest connected with it are but details subsidiary to this supreme achievement."
(page 55)

The Lost Keys of Freemasonry reveals that the purpose of Masonry is to participate in occult rites:

"The Masonic order is not a mere social organization, but is composed of all those who have banded themselves together to learn and apply the principles of mysticism and the occult rites."
(page 19)

Is knowledge of the Secret Doctrine confined to just those in the "higher degrees" of Freemasonry?

Many people hold the mistaken opinion that only those in the higher degrees know the truth about Masonry. That opinion is false for two reasons:

1. Nothing in the higher degree rituals reveals the Secret Doctrine explicitly.
2. The Secret Doctrine is discovered by reading and reflection. At the conclusion of the third degree or Master Mason ritual the new Master Mason has complete access to the lodge library.

There is a significantly greater number of men who complete only the first three degrees. According to **Coil's Masonic Encyclopedia**, in 1957 there were 4,085,767 Master Masons in the US. Only 22.22% of those were Scottish Rite Masons, only 17.43% were Royal Arch Masons, only 9.56% were Knights Templar and only 19.06% were Shriners. To become a Knights Templar, a man must complete the Royal Arch degree. To be eligible to be a Shriner, a man must be either a Knights Templar or a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason. Only 40% of Masons are in any higher degree.

It is likely that the majority of Masons who are acquainted with the Secret Doctrine are in the lower degrees only. Not everyone can afford the higher degrees. But everyone can afford to use the library.

Are there Masons who are following Jesus in the Masonic Lodge?

From a careful examination of the Secret Doctrine, we find no evidence that anyone in a position of authority or leadership in the Masonic Lodge is attempting to follow Jesus and in fact they are attempting to lead those under them away from Jesus and into bondage.

Can a man remain under the authority of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge and have Jesus as the Lord and Master of his life?

Jesus said:

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. (Matthew 6:24)

Could a Christian be involved with the lodge and not know that it was incompatible with Christianity? Would the average Christian be tipped off somehow?

All of the rituals in the first three degrees are conducted under the direct supervision of the Worshipful Master of the Lodge. The first degree of Freemasonry is the Entered Apprentice degree. During the first ritual in which a man participates, he is asked if he is willing to take an oath. He must answer affirmatively for the ritual to proceed. The Entered Apprentice oath contains the following verbiage:

"I, (man's name), of my own free will and accord... most solemnly and sincerely promise and swear, that I will always hail, ever conceal, and never reveal, any of the arts, parts, or points of the hidden mysteries of Ancient Free Masonry.... binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and my body buried in the rough sands of the sea, at low-water mark, where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours; should I ever knowingly violate this my Entered Apprentice obligation. So help me God, and keep me steadfast in the due performance of the same."

Each degree contains another oath with an equally bloody penalty. The second degree, known as the Fellowcraft degree, contains the following penalty:

"....binding myself under no less penalty than of having my breast torn open, my heart plucked out, and placed on the highest pinnacle of the temple...."

The penalty for the oath taken in the Master Mason degree is as follows:

"....binding myself under no less penalty than that of having my body severed in two, my bowels taken from thence and burned to ashes, the ashes scattered before the four winds of heaven...."

In the Fellowcraft and Master Mason oaths, the Candidate is bound to other members of the lodge. The Master Mason Degree oath contains the following:

"Further, that I will always aid and assist all poor, distressed, worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans, knowing them to be such, as far as their necessities may require, and my ability permit, without material injury to myself and family. Further, that I will keep a worthy brother Master Mason's secrets inviolable, when communicated to and received by me as such, murder and treason excepted."

This could prevent a Mason from testifying truthfully concerning another Mason in a court of law. Masonic judges are obligated to do whatever they can to help a Masonic defendant out of difficulty if they know him to be a Mason. In the seventh degree, the crimes of murder and treason are not excluded but left to the discretion of the Mason.

The Master Mason's oath continues:

"Further, that I will not give the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress, except in case of the most imminent danger, in a just and lawful lodge, or for the benefit of instruction; and if ever I should see it given, or hear the words accompanying it, by a worthy brother in distress, I will fly to his relief, if there is a greater probability of saving his life than losing my own."

All Masons in the United States except those "raised" in Pennsylvania in recent years have taken the above oaths. In Pennsylvania, the Master of the Lodge reads the oath to the Candidate in each degree and the Candidate agrees to be bound by them.

Keeping those oaths in mind, consider these words which were spoken by Jesus:

Again, ye have heard that it hath been said by them of old time, Thou shalt not forswear thyself, but shalt perform unto the Lord thine oaths: But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King. Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black. But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay; for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

(Matthew 5:33-37)

Some translations, NIV for one, says "comes from the evil one." James also had something to say about oaths:

But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation.

(James 5:12)

Many Christians take a literal view of those scriptures; they maintain that we should not take an oath of any kind. Others say that you have to understand the context in which the words were spoken: The Pharisees would swear by God's throne when they intended to be bound by an oath but would swear by heaven, the earth, or God's footstool when they didn't intend to be bound by the oath. Their heart was not in agreement with their words.

Many if not most Masons will deny taking a blood oath. They prefer to call it an "obligation." If they didn't see it as a sin why would they deny it? Probably because they have sworn to ever conceal and never reveal any part of the Masonic ritual. They see lying about the oath as preferable to breaking it. Other Mason's claim that those "obligations" do not constitute oaths because they did not literally intend to be bound by the penalties. The penalties are never carried out they claim; they are merely symbolic. In that case they are doing exactly the same thing the Pharisees did; taking oaths with no intention of abiding by them.

Could any man take three blood oaths such as found in the first three degrees of Freemasonry without deviating from the teachings of Jesus? The oaths are taken over a period of weeks or months as the memory work is completed and the man is ready to take the next degree. There is plenty of time to reflect on each oath before another is taken. By the time a man is ready for the Master Mason, or third degree ritual, he has to know what to expect and must be going into the lodge with the intention of taking those oaths.

Almost every Christian has read the book of Matthew. Could a Christian man be lured into taking Masonic oaths? It has happened. John R. Rice wrote a book entitled **Lodges examined by the Bible**. John joined the Lodge and "choked" his way through the

entered apprentice oath; he had a very difficult time taking it. It grieved his spirit so badly that he never went back into the Lodge. He renounced his oath and wrote his fine book. Obviously, no mature Christian could take three such oaths without suffering spiritually. One man explained that taking the oaths bothered him at first but, after a while he was no longer bothered. His conscience had been seared and the Holy Spirit was no longer able to work fully in his life. Today, he is not a Mason. After realizing the truth about the Lodge, he renounced the oaths and any involvement with Masonry. Possibly the greatest danger of Masonic oaths for a true Christian is that it would yoke him with unbelievers.

Yoking with unbelievers

Christian men who join the lodge undoubtedly yoke themselves with unbelievers. From an examination of the Secret Doctrine, that is obvious. But again, not all Masons are aware of the Secret Doctrine. However, by the lodges own admission, there are Moslems, Buddhists, Jews, Hindus and men of many other religions who are Freemasons. Therefore, there can be no reasonable argument that they have not been yoked with unbelievers. Consider the following scripture:

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? {15} And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? {16} And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. {17} Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, {18} And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. {7:1} Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

(2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

In verses 17 and 18 of the passage, we find a covenant. God promises that he will be a Father to us and we will be his sons and daughters if we remain separate and touch not the unclean thing. Can any Mason truly claim to be a child of God?

Some attempt to deny the evil that a friend or loved one is involved in. They have known a particular man for years and know that he would not be involved in evil. They claim that the Mason with whom they have formed a relationship is a Godly man. Can we truly say that any Mason is a Godly man? Consider the words of John:

Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.

(2 John 1:9-11)

Clearly from just the two issues of the oaths and yoking with unbelievers we can see that not a single man in the lodge is really following Jesus. However, there have been thousands of Christian men who have left the lodge to follow Jesus. Some of them provided material for this paper.

Will the "Christian" Mason have salvation?

That is not for us to decide. Jesus will make that decision. But what has Jesus said?

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

(Matthew 7:22-23)

Masons worship a god referred to as the Great Architect of the Universe. The Great Architect is Satan or Lucifer. Masons are idolaters - all of them. The rituals for the first three degrees constitute witchcraft. The rituals are in many places word for word the same as those used in the church of Wicca. All Masons are guilty of practicing witchcraft. Participation in Masonry makes witchcraft a way of life. What did Paul say concerning idolatry and witchcraft?

Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

(Galatians 5:20-21)

Most of the men who enter the lodge are deceived. Is being deceived an excuse acceptable to God? Consider the words of Paul:

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

(Ephesians 5:6)

After the truth is revealed, can any man remain in the lodge and abide in Jesus?

What did John say?

Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. (1 John 3:4-10)

What are the prospects for a man who is willing to confess the sins of Masonry, renounce the oaths and repent of his involvement in the lodge?

If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: {7} But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. {8} If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. {9} If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. {10} If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:6-10)

And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. {4} He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. {5} But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. {6} He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked. (1 John 2:3-6)

Can a man be released from Masonic oaths which were supposedly taken unto God?

Virtually all men entering the lodge took the oaths before they knew what it is that they were swearing to keep secret. Consider the following scripture:

Or if a soul swear, pronouncing with his lips to do evil, or to do good, whatsoever it be that a man shall pronounce with an oath, and it be hid from him; when he knoweth of it, then he shall be guilty in one of these. {5} And it shall be, when he shall be guilty in one of these things, that he shall confess that he hath sinned in that thing: {6} And he shall bring his trespass offering unto the LORD for his sin which he hath sinned, a female from the flock, a lamb or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering; and the priest shall make an atonement for him concerning his sin.

(Leviticus 5:4-6)

For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: {2} Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. {3} And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. {4} And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron. {5} So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. {6} As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec. {7} Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; {8} Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; {9} And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; {10} Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

(Hebrews 5:1-10)

Masonic oaths are a sin and must be confessed as sin. The sacrifice God demands for a sin offering is a lamb. Each repenting Mason must go to the priest and the priest shall make atonement for him. The lamb has been provided by God. He is without spot or blemish. His name is Jesus and he was put to death as an offering for the sins of the world. He is also the high priest to whom we must go to confess our sins. Masonic oaths are not binding after they are confessed as sin, and all involvement with Masonry is severed.

CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions are unavoidable after examining Masonic literature documenting the Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry:

1. Freemasonry is a religion.
2. The god of Freemasonry known as the Great Architect of the Universe is Satan or Lucifer.
3. Freemasonry has a Secret Doctrine which is well documented in Masonic literature.
4. The Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry denies the unique deity of Jesus Christ.
5. The Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry contains a false plan of salvation wherein each man earns his own salvation by attaining conscious union with a deceiving spirit.
6. The Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry teaches that each man can evolve into a Christ and therefore, a God.
7. The Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry constitutes a false gospel and is therefore condemned according to Galatians 1:6-9.
8. A man cannot accept both the Gospel of Jesus Christ as found in the Holy Bible and the teachings embodied in the Secret Doctrine of Freemasonry at the same time.
9. Involvement of a Christian man in Freemasonry would be inconsistent with the teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ even if he were unaware of the Secret Doctrine.
10. A Christian cannot be involved in Masonry without yoking with unbelievers. A "Christian" Mason would not be considered to be one of the sons of God under the covenant found in 2 Corinthians 6:17-18.
11. The religion of Freemasonry constitutes witchcraft.
12. Participating in worship of the Great Architect of the Universe through Masonic rituals constitutes IDOLATRY.
13. Involvement of any "Christian" in IDOLATRY or WITCHCRAFT places his salvation in question according to Galatians 5:19-21.
14. A man cannot be a knowledgeable Christian and a knowledgeable Mason at the same time.
15. A congregation which is knowledgeable about Freemasonry cannot allow anyone involved in the fellowship to remain a Freemason without deviating from the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Apostles. Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians chapter 5 and 2 John are relevant scriptures.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Charles Finney, one of the most successful evangelists of the nineteenth century, wrote a book, **The Character, Claims and Practical Workings of Freemasonry**. Finney, a former Freemason who had no knowledge of the SECRET DOCTRINE, was converted in 1820 and died in 1875.

The nature of Freemasonry has not changed since Finney's day. However, now that the Secret Doctrine has been revealed, we have a crystal clear understanding of Freemasonry. Nothing of significance remains to be revealed. Over one hundred years ago, proper advice concerning Freemasonry and the church was offered by Charles Finney. It is time we took action on that advice.

From the chapter **Relations of Masonry to the Church of Christ**:

"We are now prepared to consider the question of the relation of Freemasonry to the Church of Christ. On this question I remark:"

"God holds the church and every branch of it, responsible for its opinion and action in accordance with the best light, which, in his providence, is afforded them.... If any particular branch of the church has better means of information, and therefore more light on moral questions, than another branch, its responsibility is greater, in proportion to its greater means of information. Such a branch of the church is bound to take a higher and more advanced position in Christian life and duty, to bear a fuller and higher testimony against every form of iniquity, than that required by less favored and less informed branches of the church. They are not to wait till other branches of the church have received their light, before they bear a testimony and pursue a course in accordance with their own degree of information."

"While Masonry was a secret, the church had no light, and no responsibility respecting it. Although individual members of the church were Freemasons, as a body, she knew nothing of Masonry; therefore she could say nothing.... Hence God did not require the church to bear any testimony on the subject as long as Masonry was a secret...."

"But the state of the case is now greatly changed. Freemasonry is now revealed. It is no longer a secret to any who wish to be informed..... Now, since these revelations are made, and both the church and the world are aware of what Masonry really is, God demands, and the world has a right to expect, that the church will take due action and bear a truthful testimony in respect to this institution. She can not now innocently hold her peace. The light has come. Fidelity to God, and to the souls of men, require that the church, which is the light of the

world, should speak out, and should take such action as will plainly reveal her views of the compatibility or incompatibility of Freemasonry with the Christian religion. As God's witnesses, as the pillar and ground of the truth, the church is bound to give the trumpet no uncertain sound, upon this question, that all men may know, whether, in her judgment, an intelligent embracing and determinate adhering to Freemasonry are compatible with a truthful profession of religion."

"Judging then from these revelations, how can we fail to pronounce Freemasonry an anti-Christian institution?...."

"Every local branch of the Church of Christ is bound to examine this subject, and pronounce upon this institution, according to the best light they can get. God does not allow individuals, or churches, to withhold action, and the expression of their opinion, until other churches are as enlightened as themselves. We are bound to act up to our own light, and to go as far in advance of others as we have better means of information than they. We have no right to say to God that we will act according to our own convictions, when others become so enlightened that our action will be popular and meet their approval."

"Again: Those individuals and churches, who have had the best means of information, owe it to other branches of the church, and to the whole world, to take action and to pronounce upon the unchristian character of Freemasonry, as the most influential means within their reach of arousing the whole church and the world to an examination of the character and claims of Freemasonry. If churches who are known to have examined the subject withhold their testimony; if they continue to receive persistent and intelligent Freemasons; if they leave the public to infer that they see nothing in Freemasonry inconsistent with a creditable profession of the Christian religion, it will justly be inferred by other branches of the church, and by the world, that there is nothing in it so bad, so dangerous and unchristian as to call for their examination, action, or testimony. Before the publishing of Morgan's book, the Baptist denomination, especially, in that part of the country, had been greatly carried away by Freemasonry. A large proportion of its eldership and membership were Freemasons. A considerable number of ministers and members of other branches of the Christian Church had also fallen into the snare. The murder of Wm. Morgan, and the publication of Masonry consequent thereupon in the books I have named, broke upon the church - fast asleep on this subject - like a clap of thunder from a clear sky. The facts were such, the revelations were so clear, that the Baptist denomination backed down, and took the lead in

renouncing and denouncing the institution. Their elders and associated churches, almost universally, passed resolutions disfellowshipping adhering Masons. The denomination, to a considerable extent, took the same course. Throughout the Northern States, at that time, I believe it was almost universally conceded that persistent Freemasons, who continued to adhere and co-operate with them, ought not to be admitted to Christian churches. Now it is worthy of all consideration and remembrance, that God set the seal of His approbation upon the action taken by those churches at that time, by pouring out his Spirit upon them. Great revivals immediately followed over that whole region...."

"And should the question be asked, 'What shall be done with the great number of professed Christians who are Freemasons?' I answer, Let them have no more to do with it. Again, let Christian men labor with them, plead with them, and endeavor to make them see it to be their duty to abandon it.... Let them be distinctly asked whether they intend still to aid and abet the administration and taking of these oaths, if they still intend to countenance the false and hypocritical teachings of Masonry, if they mean to countenance the profanity of their ceremonies, and practice the partiality they have sworn to practice. If so, surely they should not be allowed their places in the church."
(emphasis added)

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Addresses of sources of material exposing the lodge:

Christian Truth and Victory Publications
Rt. 5, Box 252-A
Alexandria, MN 56308
Phone (612) 846-0835.

Many new Masonic books are available from this source.
Call for catalog. They will have a new address in 1992 or 1993.

Larry Kunk
Ephesians 5:11
P.O. Box 291
Fishers, IN 46038.
Phone (317) 842-8087

Edward Decker
Bill Schnoebelen
Free the Masons Ministries,
P.O. Box 1076
Issaquah, WA, 98027
Phone (206) 228-0175

They sell a video entitled **Freemasonry: From Light to Darkness?**.
It has a section with former witches and Masons comparing the rituals. They are virtually identical.

Harmon Taylor
HRT Ministries
Box 43
Redford, NY. 12148-0043.

Mick Oxley
In His Grip Ministries
Route #1 Box 257-E
Crescent City, FL 32012
Phone (904) 698-2553

Tom McKenney
Words For Living Ministries
P.O. Box 413
Marion, KY 42064
Phone (502) 965-5060

Rev. Jim Shaw
P.O. Box 884,
Silver Springs, FL, 32688.

John Ankerberg
P.O. Box 8977
Chattanooga, TN 37411
Video tapes of rituals and books.

Masonic Organizations and Degrees

The following is a partial list of Masonic organizations from **Masonic Organizations and Allied Orders and Degrees**, by Harold V. B. Voorhis. (1952)

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons

General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters

Grand Encampment of Knights Templar

Supreme Council, 33^o, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Southern Jurisdiction

Supreme Council, 33^o, Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite, Northern Jurisdiction

The Royal Order of Scotland

The Red Cross of Constantine

Supreme Grand Chapter of the Grand Cross of Constantine

Knight Grand Cross, Red Cross of Constantine

Societas Rosicruciana in Civitatibus Foederatis

The York Cross of Honour

Sovereign College of Allied Masonic and Christian Degrees for America

The Allied Masonic Degrees for the U. S. A.

The Grand College of Rites of the U. S. A.

Order of Knight Masons (of Ireland)

Holy Order of Knights Beneficent of the Holy City (C. B. C. S.)

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests

The Philalethes Society

The Society of Blue Friars

The Order of the Bath of the United States of America

National Sojourners

Heros of '76

The Acacia Fraternity

Masonic Organizations and Degrees - continued

Order of the Golden Key

Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine

The Royal Order of Jesters

Mystic Order of Veiled Prophets of the Enchanted Realm

Tall Cedars of Lebanon of the United States of America

Ancient Egyptian Order of Sciots

The Order of the Eastern Star

Order of the Amaranth

The Social Order of the Beauceant of the World

Supreme Conclave True Kindred

The Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem

Ancient Toltec Rite

Daughters of the Nile

Ladies Oriental Shrine of North America

Daughters of Mokanna

Order of the Golden Chain

Order of DeMolay

The Order of the Builders

Order of Job's Daughters

Order of Rainbow for Girls

Daughters of the Eastern Star

Order of Rameses and Daughters of Osiris

Sword of Bunker Hill

The Order of Desoms

Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Mark Master Lodges

Prince Hall Negro Masonic Lodges