

Section X: Personal Testimony

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3705 Dorothy Lane
Pearland, TX 77581

May 29, 1992

James L. Holly, M.D.
Mission and Ministry to Men, Inc.
550 N 10th Street
Beaumont, TX 77702

Dear Brother Holly:

I have received your booklet on Freemasonry and want to express my deep appreciation to you for it. I discern that your motive for writing this booklet is revival in the Southern Baptist Convention, the organization you identify with and love. I am certain, however, that some will accuse you of baser motives in doing what you are doing. My prayers and heart are with you.

I am an ordained minister granted credentials by the Conservative Baptist Association. Our doctrinal point of view and our notion of church polity are identical to those of the SBC. I graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School and have served as pastor, missionary, and Christian Counselor. I tell you all this to establish some credibility for what I am about to say: I have studied Freemasonry for two years and am convinced that this supposedly benign fraternal organization is, in fact, a dangerous deception.

Masonry is syncretistic, it is an ungodly amalgam of pagan religious teaching and Christianity; Masonry is humanistic, it teaches salvation by reformation of character not by faith in the redemptive work of Christ; Masonry is occultic, it purports to give unique "enlightenment" to those who progress through its ranks and such "enlightenment" is sourced in mystical writings such as the Egyptian Book of the Dead and the Jewish Kabbala.

I pastored a Baptist church in Ohio and was concerned by what I saw. It was as if there was a spiritual paralysis and numbness which had befallen the congregation. I had no idea

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James L. Holly, M.D.
May 29, 1992

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what was behind this but I noticed something. Many in the church, particularly those in leadership, were Masons or members of Eastern Star or had parents or grandparents who were.

I decided to look into Masonry and that began my extensive study. I contacted many sources and spoke to a number of Masons. What I found was shocking. I realized how ungodly Freemasonry is and how incompatible it is with authentic, biblical faith. I know, now, why my congregation was paralyzed.

I developed a plan with reference to this issue. First, I determined to do nothing but pray. Then I asked the Lord to enable me to develop good relationships with the men in my church who were Masons. After this I approached each man individually to see if we could study the issue together utilizing their own Masonic literature. I was surprised by the response I met with.

Men who claimed Freemasonry to be no more than a fraternal organization defended it with more passion than I had ever seen them exhibit with reference to anything else, including the church. Men who resisted what I sought to tell them admitted, at the same time, that they had never really examined Freemasonry prior to joining with it. Here were good men, intelligent men, Christian men, who had a disproportionate loyalty to an organization they knew little about. When I saw the resistance and experienced the contempt they showed toward me, their pastor, I realized these men were deceived by the deceiver of the brethren and that I was in the midst of a severe spiritual battle.

Faced with the facts, confronted by their own literature, prayed for, the men, by and large, resisted nonetheless. They strengthened their grip on the church and convinced people that their pastor wanted to destroy the church over an unimportant issue. My family and I were forced to resign, my leadership was rejected, and the church had a split.

I tell you my brother, I never would have taken a stand over an unimportant issue. Masonry in the church is not an unimportant issue. It is a horrible deception which has effectively permeated the church such that bondage and spiritual paralysis has resulted. No Christian leader should have, as his goal, the stirring up of controversy for its own sake. But every Christian leader charged with the watchcare of the people of God has no option

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May 29, 1992

Page Three

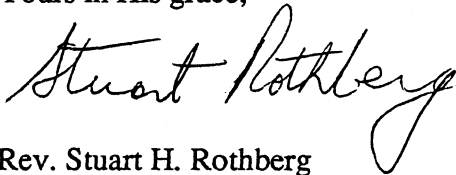
but to identify and challenge deception which is victimizing the flock.

My brother, you are performing this necessary yet uncomfortable ministry on behalf of the Southern Baptist people whom you love. You will never know how much I appreciate your efforts. My desire, too, is not to see people offended but free, free to fulfill the Commission with which we have been entrusted. I realize, as do you, that cleansing within the body must take place before we can see greater impact on those outside of the body.

I am with you in prayer and kindred spirit and would be pleased to help you in any other way you can think of. I have enclosed some materials I have come upon. Perhaps they might be helpful to you. In addition, I have found two books to be particularly helpful: 1) The Secret Teachings of the Masonic Lodge by John Ankenberg and John Weldon, published by Moody Press and 2) The Deadly Deception by Jim Shaw and Tom McKenney, published by Huntington House. The Ankerberg Association also has an excellent video series on Freemasonry. Let me know if you would like to see these tapes.

May the Lord bless you, protect you, and grant you success for His glory and the well-being of His people.

Yours in His grace,



Rev. Stuart H. Rothberg

P. S. Please send me 5 more copies of your booklet. I have enclosed \$10 for the fee.

Texe Marrs

Living Truth Ministries

8103 Shiloh Court, Austin, Texas 78745
(512) 443-6143

May 26, 1992

Larry Holly, M.D.
Mission & Ministry to Men
550 N. 10th Street
Beaumont, TX 77702

Dear Brother Larry:

What a marvelous--and inspired--work is your book, *The Southern Baptist Convention and Freemasonry!*

I want to let the people on my mailing list know of its availability. Currently, I'm working non-stop on a new book (which, incidentally, will touch on Freemasonry in a few chapters). But sometime this *July*, I'll be calling you to discuss how we might work together to get this much needed book in even greater circulation.

I know that you have taken another courageous step and will encounter stiff satanic opposition. My prayer is that our Lord Jesus will immensely bless you for your faithfulness to Him.

All God's Best,



Texe Marrs

P.S. Larry: Have you sent a copy of your book to Ed Decker in Washington state? Recently, he's mentioned the SBC/Masonic controversy several times in his newsletter. As you no doubt already know, he's the author of *The Godmakers*. If you feel led to do so, you may contact him at the following address/phone number:

Ed Decker
Free the Masons Ministries
P. O. Box 1076
Issaquah, WA 98027
Telephone: (206) 392-2077



MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE

820 N. LA SALLE BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610-3284
312-329-4000

April 2, 1992

Rev. Pierce Dodson
404 Pennsylvania Ave.
Lebanon, Tennessee 37087

Dear Brother Dodson,

Thanks for your letter of February 7. I'm sorry for the delay in answering. I've been overwhelmed with responsibilities.

You asked regarding Masonry. I have some information on it that I can send you: a printed article and a tape. John Ankerberg and John Weldon (out of Chattanooga) have good materials on this. Their research is now more in depth than mine.

As for my understanding and contact, I must say that Masonry is an anti-Christian brotherhood or religion. It teaches what life is all about and how to live for the life hereafter. I declare that all men come to God in darkness and that they have the light and truth. The lower levels of Masonry do not understand the position and purpose of the upper levels (those in control). The oaths of secrecy taken on the first three levels (The Blue Lodge) are very similar to the oaths taken in witchcraft. Their religious stance is similar to the Muslim faith. Their burial ceremonies are similar to Egyptian rites. Theirs is a works - righteousness religion.

Membership in the Masonic order or associated groups (Eastern Star, etc.) whether personal or ancestral, has contributed to the demonic bondage I have found in persons I have counseled. This has been consistent.

Outwardly, the Masonic Lodge may seem quite helpful socially; but inwardly, religiously, it has been an opponent of the gospel rejecting the exclusive claims of Christ and the Bible. It has wrought spiritual, moral, and emotional harm on many. Not many are aware of this, but it is true.

Enclosed you'll find the article. I will seek to send the tape separately.

Yours in the Risen Savior,

C. Fred Dickason, Chairman
Department of Theology

CFD:de

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404 Pennsylvania Avenue
Lebanon, TN 37087
July 8, 1992

Dr. Larry Holly
Mission and Ministry to Men
550 North 10th Street
Beaumont, TX 77702

Dear Dr. Holly,

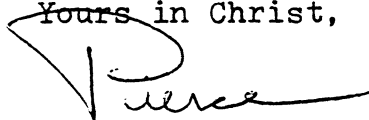
You might want to contact Dr. Don Wilton at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He knows something about the deleterious affect of Masonry on churches. See if he might be of any assistance.

I will be sharing my story on a program which airs in Evansville, Indiana, July 13. You should be hearing from the show's host (David Carrico). Pray for me.

Do you think there might be any interest in setting up a speaker's bureau to provide Southern Baptist churches with speakers to address Masonry? The problem would probably be that no one would invite us but let me know what you think.

Best wishes. Please keep me posted! (Thanks for your call - 7/8/92)

Yours in Christ,



Pierce Dodson

P.S. Are you aware that there were ten Home Mission Board trustees who are Masons? (That's the figure given me months before the convention by the present Board chairman.)

7

Dear Dr. Holly,

29 May 92

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I just read an article about your stand against Masonry, in our Baptist Courier. I praise the Lord for men that are able, by the Holy Spirit, to see into the subtle attempts of Satan to undermine the church of the living God. Thank you for your bold steps in the SBC and for stepping out-front to expose this "invisible cult in our midst."

My dealings with the Masons have brought me to a like conclusion as yours. First, through first-hand experience. As a Christian who never had the benefit of a personal disciple-maker who would warn me about such pit falls, I was drawn into the Masonic lodge by my older brother who eventually progressed to Master of the lodge or (Worshipful Master). At that time, I did not know how to spot subtle things that fear down, so I joined the lodge. Immediately, I sensed something was wrong with the whole set-up. To make a long story short, I stopped going to the meetings and lost my membership in the lodge.

Secondly, several years later, I discovered some books that exposed Masonry as a cult. I knew them, by these books in conjunction with personal Bible study, why I had such a grief in my spirit when I went into a Masonic lodge. I exposed the "real" secrets of Free And Ancient Masonry to my brother who also cut his ties with the infernal fraternity. I thank God that He has delivered me and

my brother from this dangerous organization.

Since having these experiences with the Masons, I have also discovered the strong ties that many of our Southern Baptist men have with this cult. I have talked with SBC pastors and deacons who are in Masonry who still cannot see the hidden dangers of such a seemingly helpful group of men. One of the worst tongue-lashings I've ever received was from a deacon that I had tried to speak to about the dangers of Masonry. One of his remarks to me was this, "Well, I guess I'll go to Hell because I'm a Mason, won't I?" Our churches are full of people who are involved in secret orders like Masonry, and no one seems to notice it, or even care very much about it.

After my days (literally) in the lodge, and much seeking the Lord, I have been called to be a pastor. Six months ago, the Lord led me to my first pastorate. Here, I am trying to be true to God and his word, and to the saints that he has called me to equip by guiding them away from Satanic traps such as this one, and deeper into God's commission to make disciples to the last person on earth, till the end of time. I do not know what I may be able to ~~do~~ help you in your stand in the SBC against so great a giant as Masonry, but if I can help in any way, please let me know. Be assured of my prayers concerning this tremendous problem.

9 Sincerely,
Rev. Allen L. Elden (803) 247-2934



JESUS CHRIST IS LORD

President,
Reverend C. D. A. Oxley

Route 1 Box 257-E
206 Paradise Shores Road
Crescent City, Florida 32112 U.S.A.
(904) 698-2553 Fax: (904) 698-4690

Dr. Larry Lewis
1350 Spring Street NW
Atlanta Georgia 30367

1 September 1992

Dear Larry Lewis,

I wrote to you a year ago offering the help of this Ministry into your investigation into Freemasonry. We are in touch with Dr James Holly and others who are as concerned as we are with the potential for compromise in the study being conducted by Dr. Garry Leazer.

We here are in contact also with a prominent member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. My friend has sent me the Report of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Scotland which comes out strongly against Freemasonry, that it is evil and NOT compatible with Christianity. We have enclosed a copy for your attention. We hold copies of reports from the majority of denominations-world wide-which also denounce Freemasonry, if you do not have these reports we will send them to you. In speaking to my Baptist friends in my mother country-our whole family became born again in a London Baptist Church where we resided-the point has been raised time and time again in questioning the inability of the Southern Baptist Convention in America to apply God's Word in their discussion on Homosexuality in the Church and Freemasonry. They make the point "is Gods word not sufficient anymore, why do they have to vote on issues of such abominations which are clear and in the Bible which we are supposed to believe in and live by?"

I was a Freemason for many years. I was not a Christian when I became a Mason, I was a pagan, but with my Church of England background, and teaching of religion in school, I KNEW in the first FIFTEEN MINUTES into the first degree of Entered Apprentice that I was disobeying many of God's laws. My excuse was that in becoming a Freemason I would "get a leg up in life", this was more important to me then, than Jesus Christ.

Later, when I became a Christian, I took the Royal Arch degree in England (Pretty well the same ritual as in the U.S.A.) In this degree I committed blasphemy against God by using the "secret word of God' Jah-Bul-On, of Freemasonry. This was enough for me. You have a copy of my personal testimony which I have enclosed.

2.

Dr Larry, it really depends on what sort of a Christian you are, I am talking about those who STILL believe they can remain Masons and blaspheme God's word, they continue their relation with Freemasonry in spite of the fact that they know what Christianity is, and what Freemasonry is. Such people are without excuse, they are living each day in a deliberate disloyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ. People will say "Masons are deliberately deceived" they are. I was, as a Mason, but even when I was unsaved, I KNEW Freemasonry was evil.

When I last wrote to you, I made a strong point that Freemasonry is demonic, it is spiritual warfare. We are dealing with Luciferian Worship. You are in possession of copies of the Secret Doctrine by Larry Kunk of Indianapolis. It would appear that Dr. Leazer is saying that Freemasonry has changed, I have seen some reports that Masonry is in renewal. Freemasonry has indeed changed, it began over one hundred years ago when the Secret Doctrine came in, which is the Occult. Ritual has NOT changed. I was a member of some of the most prestigious Lodges in the World, at Great Queen Street in London, in the "Mother" Lodge of Freemasonry, the English Constitution, the Royal Air Force Lodge and "Lodge Singapore in Singapore City, where we had Muslims, Buddhists, Taoists, Hindus and called "Christians" who were members, and officers of the Lodge. I choose to disobey God's Holy Scripture, 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, but when I became a Christian this scripture, more than any other, brought me out!

Larry, Freemasonry is an inditement against the Christian Church because it depicts the Church's gross lack of spiritual insight and discernment. "He who is spiritual appraises ALL things." Paul in 1 Corinthians 2:15. The question you should examine must not be confused with what went on over one hundred years ago, or what 'they' say about Freemasonry, but MUST be directed to a PLAIN ISSUE, what goes on in the Lodge today!

Do they have oaths, secret activities, mystical knowledge, and racial discrimination-the Prince Hall Black Lodges? If freemasonry does this, and I found out as a Mason, IT DOES, then Freemasons are not just out of Christian fellowship, they are going straight to Hell that is unless, as I did, they repent and are Set-Free from the demonic curse of Freemasonry.

3.

As Christians, we have only ONE standard, God's word. I implore you not to allow yourself or the Home Mission Board to be accept any form of compromise. You have the tools in your hands to change the spiritual life of the Southern Baptist denomination for ever. If you say nothing, and if you who are responsible for this report do nothing, you will be judged, having to face a Holy God. And as I say on my audio tape and in this letter to you, God will not accept "that it depends on what sort of Christians we are"

Yours

In His Grip

Enclosure:

Baptist Union of Scotland
and Great Britain Report of Freemasonry.
"The American Christian and Freemasonry"
Audio Tape by Rev. C.D.A. Oxley
Testimony "Masonry, the Occult & Eastern Mysticism"
by C.D.A. Oxley.

Distribution:

Dr. Larry Lewis
Dr. Ed Young
Dr. Morris Chapman
Dr. Darrel Robinson
Dr. John Powers
Dr. Ron Phillips
Dr. Nelson Price
Dr. Jimmy Draper
Dr. Tom Ellif
Dr. Charles Stanley
Dr. Gary Leazer



Research & Education Foundation

P. O. Box 141455 • Austin, Texas 78714
(512) 441-0592

Sep. 5, 1992

Dear Dr. Holly,

I appreciate having the opportunity of talking with you concerning my book, The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry, and the research that went into it. Let me state at the outset that I have never been and am not now a member of any Masonic order.

Having earned degrees in the fields of philosophy, theology, apologetics, the cults and the occult, and having written over twenty five books, Freemasonry has been a concern of mine for many years.

At the suggestion of James D. Kennedy, Walter Martin and John Ankerberg, I started a research project which involved reading every book on Freemasonry in the Library of Congress and doing extensive work in the House of the Temple in Washington, D.C. and at the historic Freemasonry Library in Philadelphia, Pa.. The project covered all extant original material on the origins and teachings of Freemasonry, both past and present, and lasted several years.

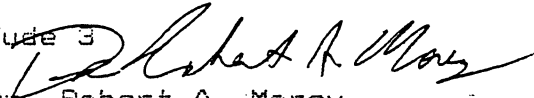
In my book I quote only from Masonic writers and I used only those writers who are approved by the highest Masonic authorities. Every effort was made to be as scholarly and fair as possible.

As I demonstrate in my book, Albert Pike was the one who was responsible for introducing the French occult system of Freemasonry into America and he is still the guiding force of Freemasonry in spirit and in doctrine. At the House of the Temple where he is buried, Pike is still lifted up as the voice of modern Masonry.

Pike was an Eastern occultist who sought to turn Freemasonry into a Hindu temple. He even induced Masonic infant baptism with the child being baptised in the name of Shiva, Krishna, and Brahmin under the sign of the triangle!

Given its present occultic teachings, no Christian in good conscience should be a Mason. I was a Southern Baptist until I moved to New York City and joined Calvary Baptist Church under Stephen Olford. I hope that the Southern Baptists get their house in order so that people like me would feel free to return.

June 3


Dr. Robert A. Morey

July 24, 1992

Dear Dr. Holly,

Time has rapidly flown by since our return from Indiana and Ohio. Let me encourage your work and sacrifice and a definite ministry. Once again, "Point of View" is having Ed Decker on this week. It has been stimulating. He also meets a need. The battle with unseen forces is raging. Let me summarize the events here for your file.

I arrived at First Mt. Pleasant on August 9, 1987. Approximately one year later, a Mr. Elbert Powell began attending our church. He was new head of the Mt. Pleasant Power Company, a local TVA cooperative. Mr. Powell came from Lawrenceburg, Tn., just down the road and was a deacon at a Baptist church there. He was personable and immediately well-received and even refused becoming too active right away. He told me he wanted to take a year to get oriented--sounded good to me.

He selected a Sunday School Class of his age group. It wasn't long before he was substituting for the Sunday School teacher (a 3rd degree Mason). When we began to remodel, he was there to work and worked hard. He gained additional following. The church was growing slowly and moving forward.

The following year he became a deacon (our Constitution requires a one-year waiting period). He seemed supportive, laid back, and said little and ended chairing a new Building and Planning Committee. He also ended up on the Long Range Planning Committee. Here he seemed to distinguish himself as a consensus person.

After another year of moderate growth and excitement (1990), problems began to brew. Some young couples left who were in my Sunday School class. They disagreed over the issue of tongues (I taught it was not a valid gift for the church today--it had ceased, 1 Cor. 12:13;14). Another young man who I was trying to disciple took issue with me over whether he needed discipling. He felt he should be given the pulpit to preach as "the spirit leads."

This criticism spread like a brush fire as I was forced to take a stand.

The deacons, as a whole, were not supportive and three, who were Masons including Mr. Powell, began to attack me and criticize my handling of the situations and my teaching on the subject.

It was about this time I came across a book at the Baptist bookstore entitled Deadly Deception by Tom McKinney. I was prompted to buy the book not knowing why for sure. My grandfather was a 3rd

15

degree Mason and a deacon. I had never asked much about it; I just knew it was not for me.

I read the book and my spiritual alarm went off. I had just recently been made aware of Masonic presence in the deacon body including Mr. Powell. I called the author, Tom McKinney. We discussed the issue at length. After hanging up, I was aware I had hold of a spiritual battle that would not soon go away. I needed information and resources.

My brother in New Jersey has a used book store. I called and he quickly sent me all the Masonic literature he had, including Pike's work. As time permitted, I read everything I could get my hands on. The more I studied the more intense the oppression and antagonism became here at church. In the swirl of the conflict that began to rage, we seemingly lost all our close friends. My wife and family became isolated and felt alone and I felt like I couldn't talk with her or anyone about what I had learned or what I now believed to be at the core of the church conflict. I myself began to contemplate quitting the ministry or at least moving. Yet no doors were open.

God sent two things (at least) that stand out in my mind to turn me to hope on Him. I attended a conference where Dr. Ron Dunn was preaching on ministerial conflict. The battle, I was reminded, is the Lord's. I picked up a book by Frank Perretti, This Present Darkness and saw myself and my church profiled in it--1 John 5:4,5 came to mind. Victory was mine, I but need to claim it through faith; but I knew faith meant action.

I gave Peretti's book out. Got on my knees fervently daily and prayed. Victory began to come as I prayed for their salvation and/or repentance and renunciation. In a bold move, I asked for an evaluation which Mr. Powell headed up. I was told by a deacon they wanted me out. The evaluation went as expected. Everything in the past 2 years was my fault. After a grueling, emotional 3 hours where I listened and said little, one of the Masons said "We got to do something!" A complete peace came over me and silence filled the room.

The Chairman of the Deacons couldn't get out any motion. In red-faced anger, Mr. Powell pointed and shouted, "We are doing this because we love you. You have got to change and let us help you do the ministry."

I listened and thanked them and we dismissed.

That Monday, I took my wife and attended a ministering in the 90's seminar for Pastors. Boy, I needed this. Problems like mine were everywhere and Masons involved in most. We returned to receive notice that a lady might recommend my dismissal. She was a former treasurer who had questionable practices and was angry with me for accepting her resignation (she quit 4 previous times and the finance committee asked her back). Out of integrity for our funds I wanted the financial data in office and an computer. It seems the Masonic

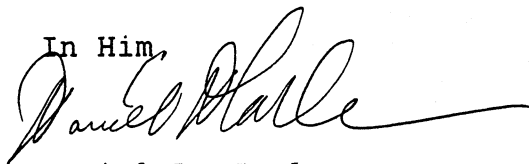
Deacons were her confidantes. They got her to make the motion for my dismissal; she did and her husband seconded the motion. The church then almost unanimously voted the motion down.

Since this time the deacons have quieted somewhat. I also discovered Mr. Powell was a 32nd degree Mason. Upon returning from the SBC, I passed out your book to all the deacons and some extra's to the congregation. Shortly thereafter I received a call from the Grand Master of the Lodge for the State of Tennessee (a Baptist deacon at Brentwood Baptist). I was harassed and told to desist. However, I got him to talk and took him into his Christian experience and got him to interact peaceably, at least, after the initial attack. He is deceived and blind as a bat spiritually, but I am now praying for him.

I am still here and pressing on boldly towards the mark of high calling in Christ Jesus. I know not the outcome, but my desire is to be faithful and put the future in His hands.

May God bless your work for His glory and the purification of His bride!

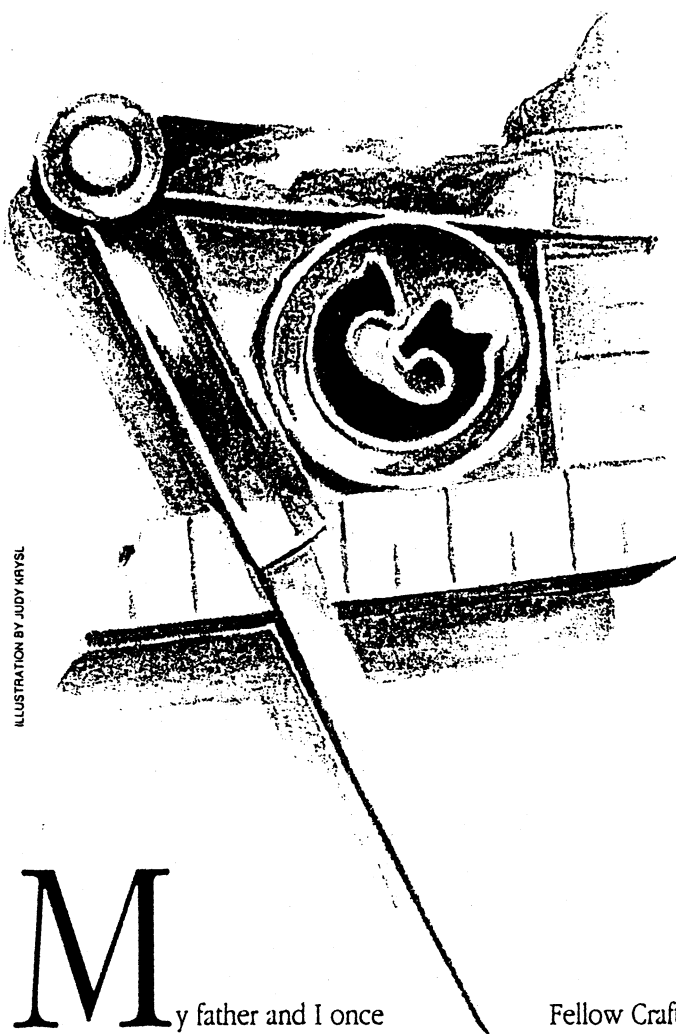
In Him,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Daniel D. Carlen", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel D. Carlen
Pastor

DDC/bc

ILLUSTRATION BY JUDY KRYSL



I made a decision that I knew was right. But it alienated me from friends and relatives and caused my father to stop speaking to me.

I Broke Family

My father and I once shared a relationship that few fathers and sons share—until I made a decision that broke Dad's heart. Until the day he died, our relationship was never the same again.

I had several things in common with my father, including my first name. I shared the name William with both my father and grandfather. Also, my father was in the army for 24 years, and I followed in his military footsteps by enlisting in the air force when I was 19.

Another distinctive of the Garner family was the importance of the Masonic Lodge. My father, grandfather and great-grandfather were all Masons. Dad never pushed Masonry at home, but I followed in his Masonic footsteps by becoming an Entered Apprentice on August 17, 1976.

I went from Entered Apprentice to
by Ed Garner as told to Harold J. Berry

Fellow Craft to Master Mason in about a month and a half. Quite a bit of memory work was involved. To pass from one degree to the next, you must recite a lecture, answer a battery of questions and explain different symbols and terminologies.

When I was raised to the Third Degree of Master Mason on October 1, 1976, I was given a Masonic Bible. When I opened it, the first words to catch my eye were "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. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

When a man goes through the degrees and takes the oath, it is clearly understood that Masonry will be the master of his life. As I looked at that verse, the thought struck me that I couldn't serve both Masonry and Jesus Christ (whom I knew but not in a personal way). But I rationalized away the

conflict—for the time being.

After becoming a Third Degree Master Mason, I went through the Scottish Rite fourth through 32nd degrees during one weekend in October, 1976. About 150 of us met in a theater auditorium and went through the ritual at the same time. One person was selected from the group to go on the stage and symbolically represent everyone in the class. We all took the oath for each degree at one time, but only the person on the stage was going through the ritual. The rest of us were just watching it.

Such a weekend is usually designed for people who have to travel a lengthy distance and cannot come to the lodge on a weekly basis to go through the various degrees. Although there had been much to memorize for the first through third degrees, there was little memory work during this weekend. We needed only to know such things as codes and

ldshakes for the principal lodges. The Masons say one can never be more of a Mason than he is after he's received the Third Degree to become a Master Mason. But after receiving the 32nd Degree, I felt much more knowledgeable.

In addition to the Scottish Rite branch of the Masons, there is also a York Rite. I became involved in the York Rite when I was transferred to Japan. I eventually earned the highest degree in the York Rite—Knight Templar.

I didn't seriously question whether or not I should be a Mason until I started attending a Baptist church while stationed in Nebraska in 1981. The first Sunday I visited the church, no one said anything to me about the Masons, even though I was wearing my Masonic ring,

church invited me to go on a retreat. During the outing, we had a time of sharing and testimony around a campfire. While others were praising the Lord, I felt an increasingly heavy burden on my shoulders.

I found the pastor and asked if we could talk. We talked and prayed for a couple of hours. That night—September 19, 1981—I trusted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. And that same night I realized I had to leave the lodge. A few days later I drafted letters and sent them to all the lodges with which I was associated.

In effect, I wrote to each one: "I do not feel I should be involved with the Masonic organization any longer because its teachings are contrary to the Bible. I want out of the lodge

telephone. This went on for months.

It must have been quite a shock to my father that I wanted out of the Masons. Because I asked for a demit so soon after my salvation, we had not talked about it. And because my father was in one of the lodges from which I was asking to be demitted, he was probably present when my name came up for action. He was no doubt greatly embarrassed in front of his friends that his own son no longer wanted to be a Mason.

Dad had been involved with my Masonic connections since I first entered. Other members of the same lodge who signed my Masonic Bible included my father, grandfather, and two uncles. A Garner family reunion was a reunion of Masons!

At the time I asked for a demit from the lodge, I didn't realize the impact my actions would have on my relationships with relatives and friends. I know I made the right decision, but I didn't realize my father would take it so hard. To him, I was turning my back on a family tradition.

I now realize that when someone comes out of Masonry, we need to support and encourage him all we can because he will desperately need new friends.

I still regret that my decision to leave the lodge broke my father's heart. But when I finally found the true Light, I could no longer stay in the darkness of Freemasonry. No man can serve two masters, and I have decided to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. CL

Ed Garner and his family live in Sumter, South Carolina. Ed plans to retire from the U.S. Air Force in July after having served 20 years. He is currently taking courses toward a teaching degree in elementary education.

Harold Berry, chairman of Back to the Bible's Board of Trustees, lives in Omaha, Nebraska, where he is the Professor of Bible and Greek at Grace College of the Bible. He is the author of What They Believe, a study of counterfeit groups (including Masons) and how they compare to biblical Christianity. Harold met Ed when Ed was stationed in Omaha. Harold and his wife, Donna, have two grown children.

Tradition

Masonic lapel pin and a Masonic belt buckle. But after I attended a few more Sunday services, a layman said to me, "That's a Satanic symbol, and we don't wear it in this church."

"Oh, really," I responded. "I don't think it is. It's an organization I'm involved with, and I don't see anything wrong with it."

"Well, we don't allow it in this church," he firmly stated again. Needless to say, I wasn't impressed with what he said, but he did trigger my interest. Although some Masons might never have entered that church in, I quit wearing my Masonic symbols and kept attending services. The pastor gave me John R. Rice's book *Bibles Examined by the Bible* (Sword of the Lord Publishers, 1971). Using Rice's book, my Bible and some of my Masonic books, I did an intensive study about six months.

Soon thereafter the men of the

because I can no longer serve two masters." Although I had shrugged off Matthew 6:24 earlier, those convicting words had stayed with me since I first opened my Masonic Bible. I asked each lodge to give me a demit.

Some of the lodges never responded. One demit is dated January 20, 1982. In part, the writer said, "I am afraid you have allowed some enemy of our fraternity to sell you a rotten 'bill of goods.'" He also wrote: "You refer to 'serving two masters,' as though you thought we compared ourselves to the master of your religion."

I replied to his letter, giving him the Gospel. I also told him, "The only enemy of the fraternity I have fallen in with is the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God."

My most serious problem in leaving the lodge was that it alienated me from my father. He would have nothing to do with me—not even talk to me on the

Back to the Bible (Lincoln, NE 68501)

Westside Baptist Church

1300 BERTRAND DRIVE
LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70506

June 12, 1992

Mr. Larry Hough,
713 Alonda Dr.
Lafayette, La. 70503

Dear Larry,

I am writing this letter in response to your visit to my office several weeks ago when you stated that I must change my beliefs about the Masons or you would leave the church. Larry, I have closely re-examined many aspects of Masonry, but so that this response will remain a letter and not turn into a book, I am going to limit my discussion to what I feel are several key issues.

The Masonic Altar Bible, which sits on the altar of worship in every Masonic Lodge in America, states:

"For Masonry knows, what so many forget, that religions are many, but Religion is one...Therefore, it invites to its altar men of all faiths, knowing that, if they use different names for 'the Nameless One of a hundred names,' they are yet praying to the one God and Father of all;"

"So that great and noble as the Bible is, **Masonry sees it as a symbol** of that eternal Book of the Will of God...What Homer was to the Greeks, what the Koran is to the Arabs, that, and much more, the grand old Bible is to us...like everything else in Masonry, the Bible, so rich in symbolism, is itself a symbol -- that is, a part taken from the whole. It is a sovereign symbol of the Book of Faith, the Will of God as man has learned it in the midst of the year -- that perpetual revelation of himself which God is making mankind in every land and every age. Thus by the very honor which Masonry pays to the bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith in which men find help for today and hope for the morrow, joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best."

Religions are many, yes, but Christianity is separate and unique. To become a Christian it is first necessary to realize that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one and the only true God. To become a Christian is to enter into a solemn, binding, covenant relationship with Jesus. 2 Corinthians 11:2 says, "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy: for I betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin." To take that which is joined in Covenant to Christ and to join it in covenant to the man of Islam and the Hindu is to **commit spiritual harlotry!**

To say, "if they use different names for the **Nameless One of a hundred names**," they are yet praying to the one **God and Father of all** is **blasphemy!** Jesus said, "**No man comes to the Father, but thru Me!**" The Bible states that **there is no other Name but Jesus** given among men whereby we must be saved. The Bible states that God has given Jesus Christ a **Name which is above every name, at which Name every knee will bow.** If the Bible is right...the Masons are wrong...**dead wrong!** Jesus Christ never commanded toleration of other faiths; in fact, that type of toleration is the **antithesis of the Christian message!** When the religious people of Jesus day told Him, 'we have one Father, even God', Jesus told them, 'If **God** were your Father, you would **love Me**...you are of your father the **devil**...'! The Bible says "every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the **anti-christ!**"

To refer to the Bible as a **symbol - a part taken from the whole** is **heresy!** The concept of a "**perpetual revelation**" - God continuing to speak to men with new and different revelations - is what gives birth to cults such as John Smith and the Mormon Church. The Word of God contains the complete counsel of God to His people; the Canon of Scripture is closed! Nearly all of the Mormon Temple rites were copied by Joseph Smith directly from the secret rites of the Masons. What are the cultic characteristics of Masonry? Two which cannot be denied are the requirement of **secrecy** and the **taking of oaths.** Every Mason is sworn to secrecy. This is a classic characteristic of cultic groups, and stands in direct opposition to the commandments of the Word of God! "**AND THIS IS THE JUDGMENT, THAT THE LIGHT IS COME INTO THE WORLD, AND MEN LOVED THE DARKNESS RATHER THAN THE LIGHT; FOR THEIR DEEDS WERE EVIL. FOR EVERYONE WHO DOES EVIL HATES THE LIGHT, AND DOES NOT COME TO THE LIGHT, LEST HIS DEEDS SHOULD BE EXPOSED. BUT HE WHO PRACTICES THE TRUTH COMES TO THE LIGHT, THAT HIS DEEDS MAY BE MANIFESTED AS HAVING BEEN WROUGHT IN GOD.**" JOHN 3:19-21 The Bible repeatedly warns believers **not** to do things in secret and in the dark. For a **Christian to allow himself to be blindfolded, symbolically confessing thereby that he is blind, when Jesus, the Light of the World abides in his heart, is an abomination!**

Ephesis 5:6-13 alone imparts enough instruction to condemn Masonry! Those who worship any other God but Jesus are **idolaters** and the Christian is instructed not to be partakers with them, not to participate in their deeds of darkness, but, rather than be pledged to secrecy, to **instead even expose them;** for it is **disgraceful** even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

Larry, as you admitted in my office, Masons are required to take blood oaths. For example, in the first degree of Masonry, as an Entered Apprentice, the person is required to place a curse on himself by swearing an oath that he will bind himself "under no less penalty than to have my throat cut across and my tongue torn out by the roots....so help me God." The Bible says, "**AND BY THIS WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. THE ONE WHO SAYS, 'I HAVE COME TO KNOW HIM,' AND DOES NOT KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, IS A LIAR, AND THE TRUTH IS NOT IN HIM.**" Now let me remind you of a commandment of our Lord Jesus: **BUT I SAY TO YOU, MAKE NO OATH AT ALL, EITHER BY HEAVEN, FOR IT IS THE THRONE OF GOD, OR BY THE EARTH, FOR IT IS THE FOOTSTOOL OF HIS FEET, OR BY JERUSALEM, FOR IT IS THE CITY OF THE GREAT KING. NOR SHALL YOU MAKE AN OATH BY YOUR HEAD, FOR YOU CANNOT MAKE ONE HAIR WHITE OR BLACK. MATT. 5:34-36** Larry, I believe you have told me that one of your favorite books of the Bible is James. James 5:12 repeats this instruction and shows the importance of obedience to this command by stressing, "**But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath.**" The Mason's therefore **require** a Christian to be **disobedient** to a direct command of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Larry, I must tell you in all honesty, it is beyond my comprehension how any Christian could be led to take an oath and drink from a human skull, the symbol of death, and not realize that he is engaging in satanic practices. In the initiatory ritual of the thirtieth degree the Thrice Puissant Grand Master [even these title should be an offense to the Christian! I have only One Master, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He has said that I cannot serve two masters!] as a part of his ritual says, "You must collect all your power of your mind, **for on yourself alone** you will have to depend." The Bible says, "Trust in the Lord with **all** your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding." **Everything** about this initiation speaks to me of **satan**: a room hung with black tapestry; a knight in a coffin; three skulls. No Christian has any right to put himself under such oaths, even if he does not take them seriously. God takes them seriously, and so does satan!

To "**revere every book of faith**" is to give **devotion, honor and respect to deceitful and destroying lies!** For a Christian to join hands [a symbol of covenant] with the **man of Islam with the Hindu** is to participate in his deception by encouraging him that he can continue to believe a lie that will result in his eternal damnation!

Larry, I could continue and write volumes on all of the error for a Christian that I see in the various oaths and symbolisms of Masonry. But in my opinion the basic truths stated above are sufficient evidence to condemn Masonry. The issue is Jesus Christ. He calls us to be open about our faith; the Masons operate in secrecy. Jesus calls us to refrain from taking oaths; the Masons require blood oaths. Jesus calls us to do all things in **His Name**, to His honor and glory; Masons do their good works in the name of Masonry and to the glory of "The Great Architect of the Universe." The Bible says Jesus is the blessed and **only** Sovereign, the King of kings, and Lord of lords...and that man cannot serve two masters; Masons exalt their temple leaders by calling them spiritual titles like "Worshipful Master".

As I have studied these past few weeks on Masonry, it has been by fervent prayer for you, Larry, that you will see the clear contradictions between the narrow way of Jesus that leads to life, and the broad way of the Masons (which includes all faiths who acknowledge any god) which leads to destruction. I pray that you will publicly denounce the Masonic oaths you have taken, ask God to forgive you for ever having taken them, burn your apron and all other Masonic materials, and rededicate yourself to the Lord Jesus Christ, and Him **only!**

I plead with you: "Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial [satan], or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? 2 Cor. 6:14-16

His bondservant,



Pastor Jim Allen

Addendum:

The Masonic Creed says the Holy Bible is the **Great Light**.
The Holy bible says **Jesus is the Light!**

The Masonic Creed says **character determines destiny**.
God's Word says destiny is determined by the **grace of God**.

The Biblical Index to Freemasonry continues this reasoning that salvation is dependent upon a man's own righteousness in regards to the symbolism of the APRON: "in the ritual of the First Degree the initiate is presented with the pure white lambskin apron as a reminder of that purity of life and rectitude of conduct which is so **essentially necessary** to his **gaining admission** into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the universe forever presides."

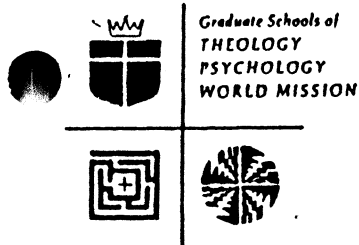
God's word says our purity of life and righteous conduct is as filthy rags in His sight.
We are **redeemed ONLY** by the blood of the Lamb of God!

The Biblical Index to Freemasonry says "there once existed in the ancient craft a **WORD** of surpassing value, known to but few, which was **lost** under certain unfortunate circumstances. The lost Word was a symbol of **Divine Truth**."

God's Word says Jesus is the **WORD** and He has **never** been lost!
Jesus is the Divine Truth!

17th Degree: "**The Master of Nazareth passed away in doing good**, and we are rich with the splendid inheritance he left us. His death teaches us civil and religious toleration...."

Blasphemy! Blasphemy! Jesus of Nazareth is the **Christ, the incarnate God**.
Jesus Christ did not "pass away." He laid His life down of His own will.
He **never** taught religious toleration, but said, "I am **The Way**....no man comes to the Father but **through Me**."



Fuller Theological Seminary

School of World Mission

December 9, 1991

Dr. Larry Lewis
President
Home Mission Board
Southern Baptist Convention
1350 Spring Street
Atlanta, GA 30367

Dear Larry:

As you are aware, the Christian media has recently given some significant notice to the surprisingly high degree of penetration of Freemasonry into Southern Baptist churches on both lay and clergy level. It is also mentioning that the SBC is taking steps to investigate this issue more thoroughly.

I am writing simply to encourage you, Larry, in the pursuit of this investigation. I do not pretend any expertise in Masonry per se, but I have been researching spiritual warfare and have become aware that Freemasonry is much more than a fraternal or civic organization. I believe it is one of the Enemy's most subtle and pernicious front line agencies of deception designed ultimately to keep lost souls from being saved. Infiltration into our churches has been a frighteningly deceptive tactic that most of us have been unaware of until recently.

The more I research the spiritual dimensions of church growth, the more I am becoming aware of the reality of the power and strategy of Satan to choke off our best efforts at evangelism on all levels. Purging strongholds such as Freemasonry from our churches will go a long way toward opening new doors for effective evangelism.

Warmly,

C. Peter Wagner
Professor of Church Growth

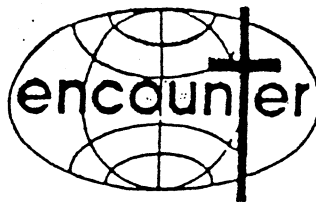
CPW:pm

cc: Charles Chaney

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Reaching the World.. Preaching the Word.

Dr. Stephen F. Olford
President

901
757-1372

October 4, 1991

Dr. Larry Lewis
Home Mission Board
1350 Spring St., N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30367

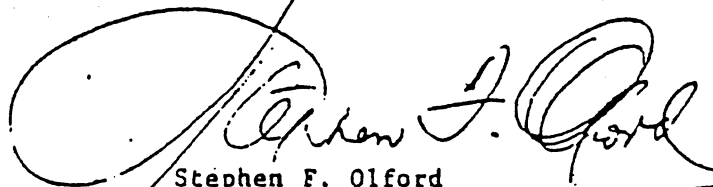
Dear Dr. Lewis:

Greetings in the precious name of the Lord!

Our mutual friend, Pierce Dodson, has just written to me mentioning that the Home Mission Board is conducting a study on Masonry. I consider this movement to be one of Satan's most subtle forms of intrusion into the life of the church. As subtle as a serpent he has slithered into the fellowship of God's people without being observed, leave alone hindered. As far as I am personally concerned, Masonry is unbiblical, attacks the person and work of Christ and is a satanic deterrent in keeping able men from being and doing what they should in the life of the church. Its very secrecy and binding influence shackles the manpower of the church of Jesus Christ. I want to encourage you and the others on the Home Mission Board to take a stand against this formidable attack of the enemy to neutralize the power and blessing of the Christian church.

With every good wish,

Yours very sincerely,



Stephen F. Olford

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