

FREEMASONRY

"Just as there is a vital spark in man that defies definition or description, so is there in Freemasonry a divine flame—a vital, living force that transcends all descriptions."¹

--Charles Clyde Hunt, Fellow of the Philalethes Society (1939)

"Freemasonry is deceptive and fraudulent . . . Its promise is light—its performance is darkness."²

--President John Quincy Adams

"Masonry ought forever to be abolished. It is wrong—essentially wrong—a seed of evil, which can never produce any good."³

--President John Quincy Adams

Freemasonry is a fraternal organization that arose from obscure origins in the late 16th to early 17th century. Although the first Grand Lodge was formed by the merger of four local English lodges in 1717, many speculate that its origins are far older. Traces of Masonry go back to the sixteenth century, possibly to the Knights Templars in the 1100-1200's, and in a lesser form to Ancient Egypt. There is evidence in the Chapel at Rosslyn that Masonry was active in England in the 1440's. Sir Robert Moray was initiated into Freemasonry on English soil (Newcastle) in 1641 and Elias Ashmole was made a Mason in Warrington, England, in 1646.⁴

Freemasonry now exists in various forms all over the world, with **a membership estimated at around *five million***, including just **under two million in the United States and around 480,000 in England, Scotland and Ireland.**⁵

Freemasonry, and cults inspired by Masons, grew rapidly during the nineteenth century, particularly during the second half of the century. In addition to founding the Theosophical Society, Freemasonry participated in the rise and spread of Christian Science and Unitarianism; Masons Rutherford and Russell founded the Jehovah's Witnesses and Joseph Smith, another high ranking Mason, founded The Mormon Church. Smith was already heavily into the occult prior to becoming a Mason and had published his book of Mormon in 1830, some twelve years before joining the Order. However, on 15 March, 1842, Smith received his first degree in Freemasonry, and he was raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason on the very next day. "Six weeks later, on May 2, 1842, Smith was teaching these Masonic secrets as his own "revelations" to Mormon leaders as the temple Endowment."⁶ As W. J. McCormick put it, "Into the fabric of Freemasonry he wove his own peculiar brand of occultism, claiming it to be 'revelation' from on high."⁷ Brigham Young, the other significant early Mormon leader, was also a Mason and contributed to the rise of its occultic hierarchy.

Although the organization claims it is not a religion or a substitute for religion, it procured a tax exemption status (501C3) as a religion recently.

The various forms all share moral and metaphysical ideals, which, in most cases, include **a constitutional declaration of belief in a Supreme Being.**

There is no world wide controlling body for the organization. Instead, each jurisdiction has its own Grand Lodge, which is the supreme authority within the jurisdiction, which consists of subordinate (or constituent) Lodges. Many of these Grand Lodges acknowledge each other's legitimacy reciprocally. Most countries have one Grand Lodge, however each state in the United States has its own separate Grand Lodge. In addition, there are attendant bodies, (e.g. The Eastern Star—social order for adults, Job's Daughters—Girls, DeMolay—Boys, Knights of Pythias, Ordo Templi Orientis are the oriental Knights Templar and Rosicruciana) which are organizations related to the main branch of Freemasonry, but with their own independent administration.

Against the allegorical backdrop of the building of King Solomon's Temple, Freemasonry uses the metaphors of stonemasons' tools and implements to convey a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

IS FREEMASONRY BASICALLY JUST A “GOOD OLE BOY” FRATERNITY?

Is Freemasonry basically just a "good ole boy" fraternity that does good works and has a good time? Is this a mere façade presented by the Masons?

Unlike Christianity which offers salvation as a free gift, freemasonry requires dues to guarantee of heaven.

BASIC THEOLOGY

Although Freemasonry plays down the idea of being theological, it does emphasize the belief in

“The Fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the immortality of the soul.”

It does state that if it has a “basic theology” it is as follows:

“There is a Supreme Being
Who created the Universe,
Who has established and revealed a moral law,
And to Whom we must give account
in a life after this.”⁸

As they point out, “These five points are supported by material in the lectures and related contents of the degrees, such as the discourses on the Working Tools. But there is nothing in these points that is in conflict with any major religion of the Western world”⁷ (except for some branches of Buddhism that are non-theistic, and there are those who do not believe in an afterlife).

GOAL

The goal of Freemasonry seems to be expressed in the following statement:

“[Freemasonry] makes no profession of Christianity, and wars not against sectarian creeds or doctrines, but looks forward to the time when the labor of our ancient brethren shall be symbolized by the erection of a spiritual temple whose moral grandeur shall be commensurate with civilization; a temple in which there shall be but one altar and but one worship; one common altar of Masonry on which the Veda, Shastras, Sade, Zend-Avesta, Koran, and Holy Bible shall lie untouched by sacrilegious hands, and at whose shrine the Hindoo, the Persian, the Assyrian, the Chaldean, the Egyptian, the Chinese, the Muhammadan, the Jew, and the Christian may **kneel with one united voice celebrate the praises of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.**”⁹ (Emphasis added)

THREE GREAT PRINCIPLES

Freemasons adhere to three great principles:

1. **Brotherly Love**—Freemasons will show tolerance and respect for the opinion of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow human beings.
2. **Relief**—Freemasons are taught to practice charity and to care, not only for their own, but also for the community as a whole. This is done by charitable giving and by voluntary efforts and works as individuals.

3. **Truth**—Freemasons strive for truth and require high moral standards by aiming to achieve them in their own lives.

LEVELS

Freemasonry is a hidden fraternal order, and defined by them as a system of morality. The first three steps are the Blue Lodge.

The first degree is called Entered Apprentice, the second Fellow Craft, the third degree is called Master Mason. Although most men only advance to the third degree, if they choose, they may advance either through the York Rite or the Scottish Rite, which has thirty-two degrees.

In each degree, the Mason pledges himself to a different Egyptian deity. There is a thirty-third degree that is largely honorary, but the thirty-two degrees give one access to becoming a Shriner.

This means that as Shriners people pledge themselves to the pagan "god" Allah; who by the way lies that Jesus did not even die on a cross, and that God has no Son.

A MIXTURE OF IDOLATRY, PAGANISM, FERTILITY CULTS AND THE OCCULT

Masonry is a mixed of idolatry, paganism, fertility cults, Kabala and the occult.

New candidates of Masonry are offered "the light." The light they are actually giving is Lucifer, who prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He also masquerades as an "angel of light," seeking to deceive many.

Unknown to most Masons, there is an occultic side to Masonry. It is at levels in Masonry that most Masons never get to. Freemasonry delves into the occult mysteries with numbers, metaphors and symbols of which many are not acquainted.

THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A MASON

In the process of becoming a Mason, a candidate is led and hoodwinked into believing there is useful knowledge to be learned in Masonry. In each level there are "Secrets" or "knowledge" which is monetarily costly and very time consuming.

Prospective members are made to "swear" and take "solemn oaths." Most do not realize the terrible oaths they are required to take for each advancing degree in this cult. Each Entering Apprentice, for example, is required to repeat:

". . . 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 Freemasonry. . . . All this I most solemnly, sincerely promise and swear, with a firm and steadfast resolution to perform the same, without any mental reservation or secret evasion of mine whatever binding myself under no less a penalty than that of having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by its roots, and buried in the rough sand of the sea at low water mark where the tide ebbs and flows twice in twenty-four hours, should I ever knowingly or willingly violate my solemn oath and obligation as an Entered Apprentice Mason. So help me, God."¹⁰

As a group they are officially known as the "Free and Accepted Masons," sometimes called the "Ancient Free and Accepted Masons," but most often they're referred to as "Freemasons" or "Masons."

SYMBOLISM



"Great Architect of the Universe"

Jim Shaw was an Ex-33 degree Mason who claims:

"The Blue Lodge Mason is taught that the "G" in the basic Masonic symbol represents God. Later on, he is told that it represents "deity." Later still, he is told that it represents "geometry." In reality, this letter represents the 'generative principle,' the Sun-god and, thus, the worshipped phallus, the male 'generative principle. . . .

In its position (along with the square and compass) on the east wall over the chair (throne) of the Worshipful Master, it is the representation of the Sun, thus of the Sun-god, Osiris. Its earthly meaning, then, is of the sacred phallus; its cosmic meaning is of the Sun, worshipped since antiquity by pagans while facing the East."¹¹

Albert Mackey wrote in *The Masonic Ritualist*,

"Thus the trestleboard (blueprint for life) of the Jew is the Old Testament, of the Mohammedan the Koran; the Veda Scriptures of Hinduism and the writings of Baha-ullah are just as good as the Word of the Christians' God, for the fact is that **all religions are never as good as the pure teachings of Freemasonry.**"¹²

Jesus is no greater than the other "exemplars" of history (such as Mohammed, Buddah, Aristotle, or Joseph Smith).

It was after participating in a Masonic Maundy Thursday "black communion" ceremony in his Scottish Rites Temple in Florida that Jim Shaw walked away from Freemasonry. He testifies that participants of this ceremony are required to refer to Jesus as an "apostle of mankind who was neither inspired nor divine."¹³ He claims that they then mocked Jesus by enacting a strange "black communion" ceremony.

In the Scottish Rite the Thursday before Easter, "Maundy Thursday," is an important day. On this day Masons always perform a special ceremony of "Communion" in their local Scottish Rite Temple.

Dressed in long black, hooded robes during this Thursday ceremony, Masons chant:

"We meet this day to commemorate the death of our 'Most Wise and Perfect Master,' not as inspired or divine, for this is not for us to decide, but as at least the greatest of mankind."¹⁴

INITIATION CEREMONY

Jim Shaw gives the following depiction of the Initiation Ceremony of the Black Mass/Black Communion service:

"During this ceremony, Masons continue by mocking Jesus' teachings at His Last Supper and the bread and wine [Body and Blood] by saying:

'Take, eat, and give to the hungry. Take, drink, and give to the thirsty.'

One of the Conductors then handed the 'candidate' a human skull, upside down, with wine in it.

‘May this wine I now drink become a deadly poison to me, as the Hemlock juice drunk by Socrates, should I ever knowingly or willfully violate the same [the oath].’¹⁵

The great Masonic lie is that **all religions are equal, including Islam and Satanism**. If all these religions within Masonry are "correct" or of equal validity and each claims to be the valid and correct, then how can Satanists mock and blaspheme God and Muslims deny Jesus ever having died on a cross?

Jesus is hardly ever mentioned in the lodges except in vague, philosophical terms and prayers are not made in His name. Even when Scriptures such as 2 Thessalonians 3:6 is used in the ritual, the words "in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" are entirely omitted. Similarly, the ritual includes 1 Peter 2:5 the words "by Jesus Christ" are omitted. Albert Mackey, considered the highest Masonic authority after Albert Pike, calls such changes "a slight but necessary modification."¹⁶

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBERS 33 AND 3 AND 33 DEGREES

Numbers, as in many religions and the occult, play a very significant role in Masonry:

“The numbers 33 and 3 are both prominently featured in occult doctrine. Ancient mythology teach that the ‘Sons of man’ (Fallen Angels cast out of Heaven with Lucifer?) landed on earth on Mount Hermon. It was then in Phoenicia; now in Israel. Its altitude makes it Israel's primary strategic early warning system. This was the first location of extraterrestrial influence on man. Using the old Paris Meridian, this lies exactly at 33.33 degrees north and 33.33 degrees east. It is also 2012 miles from the equator and 2012 miles from the Paris Meridian. The Paris Meridian is the meridian to which many ancient structures are aligned. The number of nautical miles in 33.33 degrees of the earth is 2012.9. This corresponds to the year, month day that (December 21, 2012) the ancient Mayans believed their calendar would end.

Many believe that December 21, 2012 is the date that the ‘sons of God’ will return to earth and establish a new world order. They will be led by a powerful "unearthly" ruler. Will this be the return of the Nephilim through dimensional gates or "stargates"? Will this be the awaited antichrist? Do Nephilim need space craft to enter this dimension? Was Roswell one such craft?¹⁷

Masons expect such a "new age" or "new world order" to emerge out of chaos.

In *Nephilim Stargates - the year 2012 and the return of the Watchers*, by Thomas R. Horn

“Masonry makes no profession of Christianity...but looks forward to the time when the labor of our ancient brethren shall be symbolized by the erection of a spiritual temple . . . in which there shall be one altar and one worship; one common altar of Masonry on which the Veda, Shastra, Sade, Zend-Avesta, Koran and Holy Bible shall lie . . . and at whose shrine the Hindoo, the Persian, the Assyrian, the Chaldean, the Egyptian, the Chinese, the Mohammedan, the Jew, and the Christian may kneel . . .”¹⁸

Although Masons are often unnoticed by the general public, in 1827, our country witnessed the birth of a third political party. This new party was dedicated to countering the malevolent and subversive influence of Freemasonry. It was named the Anti-Masonic Party. In fact, in 1830 John Quincy Adams was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives on this Anti-Mason Party ticket. In 1832 the Anti-Masonic Party even managed to elect a congressman named Millard Fillmore, but their candidate for President received only seven votes in the Electoral College.

The sixth President, John Quincy Adams, a devout Christian, wrote a book first published in 1833 to warn the public of the secret society and fraternity of Freemasonry. He was convinced Freemasonry was Luciferian and thus very evil.

It was the tragic murder of Captain William Morgan by a group of Masons in the state of New York in the year 1826 that further heightened Adams' sense of urgency to warn of the dangers of the Masonic Lodge. Morgan, an ex-Mason, had revealed some of the secrets of the Masons—oaths, handshakes and ritual trappings, etc. In retaliation, he was ritually murdered in a gruesome manner, and his mutilated body was abandoned in a lake.

The facts of Morgan's murder were subsequently covered up by lawful authorities, reputed themselves to be Masons. When evidence ensued that the Masonic Society had assisted the culprits responsible for Morgan's death to elude capture and escape punishment, the event caused a national scandal.

Masonic Blasphemy

In the Royal Arch degree of the York Rite, the Companion Captain of the Host is asked if he is a Royal Arch Mason and he replies, "I am, that I am." This is blasphemous because when Moses asked God what name he should give to the Israelites when they asked what the name of God is, God replied, "I am that I am" (Ex 3:13).

In the Scottish Rite, one of the officer's title is Rabboni which is a name given to Jesus by Mary Magdalene (Jn 20:16). By using Jesus' name and combining it with other gods or pagan deities is another example of blasphemy.

Benjamin Franklin was a Deist, those who believe in a God who created the universe and then abandoned it. Dr. Priestley, an intimate friend of Franklin, wrote of him:

"It is much to be lamented that a man of Franklin's general good character and great influence should have been an unbeliever in Christianity, and also have done as much as he did to make others unbelievers."¹⁹

Thomas Paine, a Mason, wrote a very widely distributed pamphlet called "Common Sense" during the American Revolution in which he spells out what Masons really teach and believe. Paine, like Franklin, was a Deist. His pamphlet, "Origin Of Free-Masonry," proposed that Masonry's embodiment of the sun worship of ancient Druidism was a legitimate alternative to Christianity. He notes that Freemasonry's god, Osiris and Isis, theologically represented the Supreme Being and universal Nature. Furthermore, he wrote in his famous book, *The Age of Reason*,

"I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish church, by the Roman church, by the Greek church, by the Protestant church, nor by any church that I know of. My own mind is my church."²⁰

THE FALSE RELIGION OF FREEMASONRY

The great mason occultist Albert Pike wrote:

"Every Masonic Lodge is a Temple of Religion; and its teachings are instruction in religion."²¹

"Acacian: a term signifying a Mason who by living in strict obedience to obligations and precepts of the fraternity is free from sin."²²

Strict obedience includes not witnessing about Jesus or even mentioning His name in the Lodge.

Luciferian Doctrine

Albert Pike, the preeminent Masonic authority, was said to be a Satanist, who indulged in the occult and he apparently possessed a bracelet which he used to summon Lucifer, with whom he had constant communication. He was the Grand Master of a Masonic Luciferian group known as the Order of the Palladium (or Sovereign Council of Wisdom), which had been founded in

Paris in 1737. Palladism had been brought to Greece from Egypt by Pythagoras in the fifth century, and it was this cult of Satan that was introduced to the inner circle of the Masonic lodges. The Palladian Rite provides an intensified hands-on course in "fleshly glove" demon possession leading to walking/talking possession of human initiates by Lucifer-associated spirits, demons.²³

Most new candidates to Masonry also have no idea that what they are told initially are lies.

Albert Pike admits that Masons below the 32nd degree are intentionally misled by false interpretations but it is intended that he shall imagine he understands them. The truth is reserved for the Adepts, the Princes of Masonry (those of the 32nd and 33rd degrees).

Although they have 33 degrees, only 32 can be earned because those who are given the rank of 33rd will be selected from those who have already been 33rd degree masons to make sure they will be loyal to the fraternity, that is, "one of the boys."

In Freemasonry the strategy is that the degrees leading up to the thirteenth degree serve as a training school to gradually condition and prepare the candidate for the ultimate acceptance of Luciferian initiation. This is why so much of the language used has double meaning. As a result unsuspecting candidates are practicing occultism throughout their attempt to earn higher degrees without knowing it. They call such deception allegory, where the language is one thing and the meaning is another.

Are the virtues of brotherly love, forgiveness, and charity merely a ploy to make their satanic religion appear acceptable to the community? Freemasonry is also connected with the cult known as Rosicrucian, a secret society. It flourished in a day when secret societies were in vogue, and a century after its origin, it became more popular though its connection with Freemasonry, which borrowed customs from the writings of those who had satirized the fraternity. The Rosicrucian claim is that there is a "Hidden Church" which is a repository of great secrets learned in the East, and transmitted by various luminaries, sages and adepts down to our own time.

The name 'Rosicrucian' is derived from the Latin words "ros" and "cruces" or rose cross. However, their symbolism of the cross has nothing to do with Jesus Christ. This "Invisible Order" was founded in Germany, several centuries earlier, by Christian Rosenkrutz, born in 1378. It is claimed that in order to perpetuate an ancient tradition he had initiated a few brothers into the mysteries of the Rose Cross. The successors to these brothers brought to light the existence of the Order in 1614, with the publication of the first Rosicrucian manifesto *Fama Fraternitatis*. However, the actual foundation of the Order is believed to have taken place on the

occasion of the opening of the allegorical crypt of Christian Rosenkrutz, ten years prior to the publication of *Fama Fraternitatis*. *Fama Fraternitatis* was first published in 1614 in German and in 1615 in Latin, though there are some manuscript copies in existence dating from about 1611. According to them, however,

“The Order of the Rose and Cross has existed from time immemorial, and its mystic rites were practiced and its wisdom taught in Egypt. Eleusis, Samothrace, Persia, Chaldea, India, and in far, more distant lands, and thus were handed down to posterity the Secret Wisdom of the Ancient Ages.”²⁴

That its origin remains a mystery was emphasized by Prime Minister Disraeli, who said of the Society, in 1841, that its hidden sources defy research.

After traveling in Spain, Damascus and Arabia, where he was initiated into Arabian magic, Rosenkreutz returned to Germany and set up his fraternity of the Invisibles. In a building they designated as *Domus Sancti Spiritus* they followed such varied studies as the secrets of nature, alchemy, astrology, magnetism (hypnotism), communication with the dead and medicine.

At the heart of Masonry is a secret Luciferian doctrine which a Mason only comes to understand as he reaches the higher levels. Manly Palmer Hall, in her book, *The Lost Keys of Freemasonry*, writes,

"When the Mason ... has learned the mystery of his Craft, the seething energies of Lucifer are in his hands."²⁵

Pierce Dodson gives the following disturbing testimony:

“High level Masons believe that Lucifer never fell to earth and that Lucifer is really God, and refer to Yahweh by the name of ‘Adonay.’ Masons say that it is Yahweh that is the god of evil, because he forces men to be subservient to his repressive dictates. Masonic books given to handpicked members of the 32nd and 33rd Degrees, say that Jesus was an impostor, and that Lucifer is the true God. The Masons have their own Luciferian based calendar. Where ours is based on the years before (B.C.) and after (A.D.) the birth of Christ, theirs counts its years with the suffix A.L. means Anno Lucis or ‘Year of Light (Lucifer). Masons usually refer to God with the vague and general term ‘Deity.’ The god of Masonry can be one of their own choosing, spoken generically as the ‘The Great Architect of the Universe.’ Human nature is also worshipped by some Masons as ‘Deity,’ as are Knowledge and Reason.”²⁶

SHRINERS



Most Shriners are decent men who do bow to the pagan Islamic Allah. They are given a red hat known as a Fez with an Islamic sword and crescent jewel on the front of it. The fez is named after a town in Morocco, where in 980 A.D., 50,000 Christians, including women and children, were brutally murdered by the Muslims. As the streets ran red with the Christians' blood from the massacre, the Muslims dipped their hats in that blood as a testimony to Allah. Thus the red Fez symbolizes the slaughter of Christians in that town. Yet the Masons still wear the red Fez adorned with the Islamic crescent symbol.²⁷

This sword emblem originates, a symbol of subjugation, is from 7th century Arabia when the Moslems, under the leadership of Muhammad, slaughtered all Christians and Jews who would not bow down to the pagan moon god Allah.

The Illustrious Grand High Priest swears in new members who put their hands on a copy of the Muslim Koran. They swear a long oath that culminates in a typical Masonic vow of secrecy "unto death," with the closing words "and may Allah, the god of the Arab Moslem and Mohameddan support me. Amen."²⁸

Shriners obligate themselves by making unholy oaths such as allowing the piercing of their eyeballs with a three-edged blade, and the flaying of their feet if they should reveal their Shriner "secrets." Shriners worship of the false god Allah, as the god of their fathers.

Shriners are a pagan Islamic branch of masonry who have reached higher "levels" in Freemasonry. Islamic symbols—including of world conquest—are everywhere in Shriner Temples.

As a Mason goes through the 32 degrees of the Scottish rite, he ends up giving worship to every Egyptian pagan god, the gods of Persia, gods of India, Greek gods, Babylonian gods, and others.

In his book, *Satanic Rituals — Companion to the Satanic Bible*, Anton Szandor LaVey, States:

“Satanic Ritual is a blend of Gnostic, Cabbalistic, Hermetic, and Masonic elements, incorporating nomenclature and vibratory words of power from virtually every mythos. . . . Masonic orders have contained the most influential men in many governments, and virtually every occult order has many Masonic roots.”²⁹

Declaration on Masonic Associations

The following is an English translation of a Latin Document from the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (November 26, 1983) by the Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect (now Pope) and Father Jerome Hamer, O.P. Titular Archbishop of Lorum, Secretary.

“It has been asked whether there has been any change in the Church's decision in regard to Masonic associations since the new Code of Canon Law does not mention them expressly, unlike the previous code.

This sacred congregation is in a position to reply that this circumstance is due to an editorial criterion which was followed also in the case of other associations likewise unmentioned inasmuch as they are contained in wider categories.

Therefore, the Church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic associations remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the Church and, therefore, membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful, who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive Holy Communion.

It is not within the competence of local ecclesiastical authorities to give a judgment on the nature of Masonic associations which would imply a derogation from what has been decided above, and this in line with the declaration of this sacred congregation issued Feb. 17, 1981.

In an audience granted to the undersigned cardinal prefect, the Supreme Pontiff John Paul II approved and ordered the publication of this declaration which had been decided in an ordinary meeting of this sacred congregation.

Rome, from the Office of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Nov. 26, 1983.”³⁰

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Prefect
Father Jerome Hamer, O.P. Titular Archbishop of Lorium, Secretary

No Roman Catholic may be a Mason. To continue as a Mason in the light of such knowledge is to be in contempt of this decision and guilty of a “grave matter,” a “mortal sin” thus disqualifying such a person from receiving Holy Communion until that person renounces Masonry.³¹

PEOPLE OF INFLUENCE

"The world is governed by people far different from those imagined by the public."³²

--Benjamin Disraeli, Victorian-era Prime Minister of Britain

"In politics, nothing happens by accident. If it happens, you can bet it was planned that way."³³

--President Franklin D. Roosevelt

“Tell me thy company, and I’ll tell thee what thou art.”³⁴

--Miguel de Cervantes (1547-1616), Spanish writer

The following list shows the tremendous influence of Masons on the history of our country.

1764 - Samuel Adams, signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Served as delegate to the Continental Congress until 1781, and became governor of Massachusetts from 1794-97.

1775 - Joseph Warren, a soldier and leader in the American Revolution who sent Paul Revere and William Dawes to Lexington and Concord on their famous ride to warn local patriots that British troops were being sent against them.

1775 - Paul Revere, GRAND MASTER GRAND LODGE OF MASSACHUSETTS A.F. & A.M. 1795 – 1797.

1776 - John Hancock, wrote and the first to sign the Declaration of Independence, and served nine terms as the Governor of Massachusetts.

1776 - Benjamin Franklin, helped draft the Declaration of Independence, one of the five who signed this document, and was instrumental in achieving the adoption of the U.S. Constitution. He was Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania and published the first Masonic book in America. Was also a member of Sir Francis Dashwood's Hell Fire Club, along with the Collins family of Satanists. Both Franklin and Thomas Jefferson were members of this purely Satanic group who practiced satanic sexual occult rituals.

1777 - Lafayette. French noble who fought with the American colonist against the British in the American Revolution.

Charles Taze Russell (founder of the Watchtower and Bible Tract Society).

1779 - John Paul Jones, navel hero in the U.S. War of Independence.

1785 President George Washington, our first president, although Samuel Huntington served as President from September 28, 1779 to July 6, 1781. Washington was a member of Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Virginia where he became a "Worshipful Master."

1790-1791 John Rutledge, S.C.J. Associate Justice. Chief Justice 1795.

1789-1810 William Cushing, S.C.J. Associate Justice.

1795 John Rutledge, S.C.J. Chief Justice.

1796-1800 Oliver Ellsworth, S.C.J. Chief Justice.

1789-1796 John Blair Jr. S.C.J. Associate Justice. Grand Master of Virginia from 1778 to 1784.

1793-1806 William Paterson. S.C.J. Associate Justice, Nominated by Mason President George Washington.

1800 Aaron Burr, Presidential candidate for Presidency.

1800 John Adams, Presidential candidate for Presidency.

1809 Thomas Jefferson, 3rd. President of the United States and primary framer of the Constitution.

1805-1809 Vice President George Clinton.

Albert (Abraham Alfonse) Gallatin. 4th. Secretary of the Treasury.

1801-1835 John Marshall, S.C.J. Chief Justice. He was not proud or enthusiastic about being a Freemason, at least later in his life.

John Adams. Previously Grand Master of Virginia, from 1793-1795.

1807-1826 Thomas Todd, S.C.J. Nominated by President Thomas Jefferson.

1809-1817 James Madison, 4th. President of the United States.

1811-1845 Joseph Story, S.C.J. Nominated by President James Madison.

1811-1821 Jose de San Martin. Soldier and Statesman.

1812 De Wit Clinton, Presidential candidate.

1812 Winfield Scott. Unsuccessful Whig candidate for President in 1853.

1814 Francis Scott Key, lawyer and the author of the U.S. national anthem. The US Circuit Court said, "In God We Trust" comes from "The Star-Spangled Banner" by Francis Scott Key and is not a reference to a specific faith.

1816 Rufus King, served in the state legislature, in the Continental Congress and was a presidential candidate.

1817-1825 James Monroe, 5th. President.

1824 Henry Clay, Presidential candidate.

Andrew Johnson, U.S. President. Greenville Lodge No. 119, Tennessee.

William McKinley, U.S. President. Hiram Lodge No. 21, Virginia.

William Howard Taft, U.S. President.

Thomas Todd, US Associate Justice (1807–1826)

Robert Trimble, US Associate Justice (1826–1828). Union #16 in Paris, Kentucky

Levi Woodbury, US Associate Justice (1845–1851)

William B. Woods, US Associate Justice (1881–1887)

Thomas C. Clark, US Associate Justice (1949–1967).

John H. Clarke, US Associate Justice (1916–1922).

Henry Clay Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Grand Master of Kentucky

Davy Crockett, 19th-century American folk hero, frontiersman, soldier and politician.

William Cushing, US Associate Justice (1789–1810), St. Andrews Lodge, Boston.

Alexander John Cuza Romanian Domnitor of the Danubian Principalities, 1859-1866.

Cecil B. DeMille Movie Director, member of Prince of Orange Lodge No. 16, New York City.

Willis Van Devanter, US Associate Justice (1911–1939).

Thomas Dewey, American politician (1902–1971).

Stephen J. Field, US Associate Justice (1863–1897).

Charles Finney, American Preacher, Evangelist and Author (1792–1875). Meridian Sun Lodge No. 32 in Warren, New York. Finney asked for dismissal and was honorably discharged.

Hamilton Fish IV, US Politician

Henry Ford, founder of the Ford Motor Company. Raised in Palestine Lodge No. 35.

Nathan Bedford Forrest, confederate general. Member of Angerona Lodge no. 168 in Tennessee, but later resigned from Freemasonry.

James A. Garfield, U.S. President. Magnolia Lodge No. 20, Columbus Lodge No. 30, and Garrettsville Lodge No. 246, Ohio

James Buchanan, U.S. President.

John H. Glenn, Jr., Astronaut and US Senator. Concord Lodge No.688 Concord, Ohio.

Manly Palmer Hall, Esoteric author. Raised 1954/11/22 into Jewel Lodge No. 374, San Francisco.

John Hancock, American revolutionary, merchant and statesman.

Winfield Scott Hancock, U.S. General. Charity Lodge #190, Norristown, Pennsylvania.

Warren G. Harding, U.S. President. Marion Lodge No. 70, Ohio.

John M. Harlan, US Associate Supreme Court Justice.

Joseph Hewes, Signer of the American Declaration of Independence.

J. Edgar Hoover, First Director of the FBI. Grand Cross. Federal Lodge No. 1, Washington, D.C.

Harry Houdini, Escape artist.

Jesse Jackson, US Civil Rights leader and Politician, Harmony Lodge No. 88, Chicago, Illinois (PHA).

Robert H. Jackson, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice (1941–1954).

John Jay, Chief Justice of the United States (1789–1795).

Lyndon B. Johnson, U.S. President. Johnson City Lodge No. 561, Texas (EA degree only).

Frank S. Land, member of the Ivanhoe Lodge #446 on June 29, 1912 in Kansas City. He was the founder of DeMolay International.

Joseph Lamar, US Associate Justice (1888–1893), Webb Lodge No. 166 F.& A.M., Augusta, Georgia.

Charles Lindbergh, US Aviator and chairman of the America First Committee, Keystone Lodge No. 243, St. Louis, Mo.

John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States (1801–1835), Grand Master of Virginia from 1793-1795.

Thurgood Marshall, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice (1967–1991), Coal Creek Lodge No. 88, Tulsa, Oklahoma PHA.

General Douglas MacArthur, US General during World War II, Manila Lodge No. 1, 1936, Philippines.

Harpo Marx, US film comedian.

John S. McCain, Sr. (1884–1945), US admiral, Carrollton Lodge No. 36.

John McLean, US Associate Justice (1829–1861)

J. B. Milam (1884–1949), Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, 32 degree Mason.

Sherman Minton, US Associate Justice (1949–1956).

Samuel Nelson, US Associate Justice (1845–1872).

Sam Nunn, US Senator.

Irving Berlin. Composer.

Arnold Palmer, Professional Golfer, Loyalhanna Lodge No. 275, Latrobe, Pennsylvania.

William Paterson, US Associate Justice (1793–1806) and 2nd governor of New Jersey.

Matthew Calbraith Perry, Commodore, US Navy, The Holland Lodge No. 8, New York, New York, 1819.

John J. Pershing, Commander, American Expeditionary Force, World War I, Lincoln Lodge No.19, Lincoln, Nebraska.

George Pickett, Confederate general at Gettysburg.

James K. Polk, U.S. President. Initiated June 5, 1820, Columbia Lodge No. 31, Tennessee.

Stanley F. Reed, US Associate Justice (1938–1957).

Ed Rendell, Governor of Pennsylvania.

Roy Rogers, American actor, Hollywood Lodge No. 355, California.

Will Rogers American political commentator and satirist, Claremore Lodge No. 53, OK.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, U.S. President. Holland Lodge No. 8, New York.

Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. President. Matinecock Lodge No. 806, Oyster Bay, New York.

John Rutledge, Chief Justice of the United States (1795), Associate Justice (1789–1791).

Peter Sellers, actor, comedian, star of The Goon Show and The Pink Panther movie series, Chelsea Lodge No 3098, UGLE.

Joseph Smith, Sr., Mormon leader, Ontario Lodge No. 23 of Canandaigua, New York, 1818.

Joseph Smith, Jr., Founder of the Latter Day Saint movement, Nauvoo Lodge, Illinois.

Hyrum Smith, Mormon leader, Mount Moriah Lodge No. 112, Palmyra, New York.

John Philip Sousa, Composer,^[26] Hiram Lodge No. 10, Washington, D.C.

Richard Bernard "Red" Skelton, American comedian, Vincennes Lodge No. 1, Vincennes, Indiana.

Potter Stewart, US Associate Justice (1958–1981).

Joseph Story, US Associate Justice (1811–1845).

Sir Arthur Sullivan, Sullivan of 'Gilbert and Sullivan', and was also Grand Organist of the UGLE in 1887.

Noah H. Swayne, US Associate Justice (1862–1881).

Alphonso Taft, U.S. Attorney General and Secretary of War. Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Ohio.

William Howard Taft, U.S. President. Made a "Mason at sight" inside Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Ohio, February 18, 1909 Kilwinning Lodge No. 356, Ohio.

Dave Thomas, Founder of Wendy's, raised as a Master Mason in Sol. D. Bayless Lodge No. 359 Fort Wayne, Indiana. Received the 33rd Degree, N.M.J., on 11/16/1961, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Strom Thurmond US Senator from South Carolina and segregationist candidate for the United States presidency in 1948.

Harry S Truman, U.S. President, Belton Lodge No. 450, Belton, Missouri. Grand Master of Missouri, 1940-1941.

Mark Twain, American author. Polar Star Lodge No. 79, A.F.& A.M., St. Louis, Missouri. (Suspended for non-payment of dues and later reinstated April 24, 1867.

Earl Warren, Chief Justice of the United States (1953–1969), Grand Master of California 1935 to 1936.

John Wayne, American actor, Marion McDaniel Lodge No. 56.

Oscar Wilde, Irish playwright, novelist, and poet, Apollo University Lodge No. 357, Oxford (UGLE).

Cy Young, Perhaps the greatest pitcher in the history of baseball.

Andrew Young, Former Ambassador of the United Nations.

James Doolittle, US General.

William O. Douglas, US Associate Justice (1939–1975).

Oliver Ellsworth, Chief Justice of the United States (1796–1800).

Sam Ervin, US Senator.

Darryl Zanuck, Legendary Co-founder of 20 Century Productions who valued his Masonic affiliation above all other accomplishments!

Norman Vincent Peale, Minister.

Steve Wozniak Co-founder Apple Computers, Charity Lodge No. 362, Campbell, California.

Henry Dodge U.S. Senator from Wisconsin.

Gerald Ford, U.S. President. Malta Lodge No. 465, Grand Rapids, MI.

Bob Dole, US politician. Russell Lodge No. 177, Kansas.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel who was initiated into the Masonic Lodge while in U.S. (Spring 1994).³⁵

Ronald Reagan has often been referred to as a Freemason. Although he was an honorary member of the Imperial Council of the Shrine and was on numerous occasions involved in Shrine and Masonic functions throughout his career, he was not a Freemason.

Part of the confusion as to his membership comes from a ceremony held in the Oval Office of the White House on February 11th, 1988, when a group of Freemasons presented President Reagan with a certificate of honor from the Grand Lodge of Washington, D.C. Then he was made an Honorary Scottish Rite mason. The title of Freemason can only be conferred by a Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, which in Reagan's case, was not done. It is believed the reason was because the ceremonies would have taken a full day to confer and the president's time was limited. Therefore, President Reagan should only be referred to as a Shriner or Scottish Rite mason because the Shrine and Scottish Rite are concordant bodies and cannot confer the title Freemason on any person.³⁶

The symbols on the back of the U.S. dollar bill (the pyramid, the all-seeing eye, the number of feathers on the eagle's spread wings, the stars above the eagle's head in the shape of the Star of David, and the mottos *e pluribus unum* meaning "out of many one" and *novus ordo seclorum* meaning "a new order of the ages" appear to emanate from Freemasonry.³⁷

Perhaps this should not be surprising since many of our country's founding fathers were Masons such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Ethan Allen, John Hancock, John Paul Jones, Paul Revere, Robert Livingston, and 35 other lesser known men who were signers of the Declaration of Independence and/or the Constitution and 13 of 39 of those who signed the Constitution.³⁸ There were also several founding fathers who condemned masonry such as John Adams, John Quincy Adams, James Madison, Millard Fillmore, Daniel Webster, and Charles Sumner.³⁹

SUMMARY

Freemasonry is deeply embedded in **a false mystical religious system of salvation by works:**

"... salvation by faith and the vicarious atonement were not taught as now interpreted, by Jesus, nor are these doctrines taught in the esoteric scriptures. They are later and ignorant perversions of the original doctrines."⁴⁰

Any "god" will do in the Masonic religion:

“In his private petitions a man may petition God or Jehovah, Allah or Buddha, Mohammed or Jesus; he may call upon the God of Israel or the First Great Cause. In the Masonic Lodge he hears petition to the Great Architect of the Universe, finding his own deity under that name. A hundred paths may wind upward around a mountain; at the top they meet.”⁴¹

Because they deny the reality of sin, Masons see no need of salvation in the biblical sense. They see salvation as a step-by-step enlightenment, which comes through initiation into the Masonic degrees and their mysteries. Ultimately, **it isn't God who saves one's soul; it is one's own good works.**

For an organization that claims not to be a religion, isn't it rather strange that the room they meet in is referred to as a “temple,” the chairman for that year is called “Worshipful Master,” the seat he sits on is referred to as an “altar,” and the ceremonies end with the phrase “so mote it be,” which is the same terminology used in major satanic rituals?

Many people of good are Freemasons because they were attracted to its appearance as an organization deeply involved in various charitable activities. Unfortunately, Freemasonry must be understood not by its advertisement and promotional gimmicks, but by their teachings which are diametrically opposed to historic Christianity.

Since the majority of the poor in our nation are single women, and their children, the physically and mentally challenged, the African Americans and Hispanics, they are pretty much left out of this fraternity because becoming a Mason requires serious dues. Was it not the poor and the disenfranchised that Jesus reached out to the most?

Although it may be that the rank and file Mason has no idea that the goal of Masonry is **world domination**, the organization does aim for such a goal. This is evident through control of currency, control of major corporations including banking, media, entertainment and communications. Moreover, their influence is seen in their infiltration in the areas of education (e.g. textbooks) and religion, especially the Roman Catholic Church (e.g. Knights of Columbus). This is ironic since Pope Leo XIII, as early as 1884, accused Freemasons as being on the wrong side of the battle raging between "the kingdom of God" and the "kingdom of Satan." Pope Leo XIII identified Freemasonry as "partisans of evil . . . boldly rising up against God Himself."⁴² He claimed that the ultimate purpose of Freemasonry was

"the utter overthrow of that whole religious and political order of the world which the Christian teaching has produced, and the substitution of a new state of things in accordance with their ideas, of which the foundations and Laws shall be drawn from mere naturalism."⁴³

Leo criticized them for believing that human nature and human reason "ought in all things to be mistress and guide"⁴⁴ and therefore

"... care little for duties to God, or pervert them by erroneous and vague opinions. For they deny that anything has been taught by God; they allow no dogma of religion or truth which cannot be understood by human intelligence, nor any teacher who ought to be believed by reason of his authority."⁴⁵

Masons, like New Agers, are working towards a **one world government** and a **one world religion**. Because of their desire to "belong," new candidates are in the dark about their fraternity's goal.

It is the belief of Masons that one day all of the Ancient Mysteries will be revealed to all those living on the earth. In the Masonic Legend of Hiram Abiff, that day will be marked by his resurrection to rule the world. According to the Bible, the Beast (Antichrist) will be disguised when he comes to rule. He may come as Hiram Abiff to the Masons, as Crishna to the Hindus, as Imam Mahdi to the Muslims and as Sosiosch to the Zoroastrians.

Masons consider Christians of being sectarian and Christianity to be a sect because of its belief its teachings are based on Jesus Christ who is **the Truth**. Such a claim of being the only source of truth runs counter to Freemasonry in which all religious beliefs and institutions are freely accepted whether Buddhists, Muslim, Zoroastrians, Voodooists. All are welcomed so long as each agrees that his particular religion is not exclusive because that would be sectarianism.

Since Jesus Christ testified that He alone is the one true God, that He alone is "The Way, The Truth, and The Life" (Jn 14:6) He and His message is not compatible with Freemasonry. "Christians" who are not dogmatic on the teaching of particularism—the doctrine that Jesus is the only Way to God—are accepted by Freemasonry.

IS JESUS CHRIST *THE ONLY WAY TO GOD*?

“More and more people care about religious tolerance as fewer and fewer care about religion.”⁴⁶

--Alexander Chase

Is the God of the Bible narrow-minded? Why do Christians believe that God will save only a few people? Is He not the God of all mankind?

Religious pluralism assumes that all religions are works of human interpretation and that no one religion has “the truth.” A question often asked is, “Doesn't the sincere Muslim or Buddhist or Hindu worship the same God as the Christian, but under a different name?” In other words, **“Is Jesus Christ really the only way to God?”**

IS CHRISTIANITY “SPIRITUALLY RACIST”?

Rabbi Schmuley Boteach stated:

“I am absolutely against any religion that says that one faith is superior to another. I don't see how that is anything different than spiritual racism. It's a way of saying that we are closer to God than you, and that's what leads to hatred.”⁴⁷

Spiritual racism? That is to say that many people consider it arrogant, narrow-minded and bigoted for Christians to teach that the only path to God is through Jesus Christ. The Indian philosopher Swami Vivekenanda fits that label much better when he told the World Parliament of Religions in 1893: “We [Hindus] accept all religions to be true.”⁴⁸ He then went on to say that the real sin is to call someone else a sinner.⁴⁹

The only way then to hold to such a position would be to jettison the Law of Non-contradiction which makes reason, logic, and language nonsensical. Even the Hindus do not do that though at times they claim to do so. Vivekenanda's claim simply does not fit his own religion of Hinduism since it holds certain beliefs that are totally contrary to the beliefs of other religions. It is uncompromising on at least three issues: karma—the law of moral cause and effect, reincarnations, and the authority of the Vedas, their holy book. Although Hinduism allows people to practice their own religion it is only as long as they do so as they buy into the Hindu view of syncretistic truth, that is, the attempt to blend together different or even opposing beliefs. But even syncretistic truth must blend in with the Hindu beliefs of karma, reincarnations, and the Vedas.

Furthermore, Hinduism in its purest form teaches that everyone, no matter what their religion is now, is eventually reincarnated as a good Hindu in a future life and then enters paradise. Hindus, therefore, believe that Hinduism is the only way to paradise.

Charles Templeton called the biblical claim that there is

“**no other name** under heaven by which we must be saved” (Ac 4:12)

“insufferable presumption”,⁵⁰

Templeton reasons:

“Christians are a small minority in the world. Approximately four out of every five people on the face of the earth believe in gods other than the Christian God. The more than five billion people who live on earth revere or worship more than three hundred gods. If one includes the animist or tribal religions, the number rises to more than three thousand. Are we to believe that only Christians are right?”⁵¹

Is it presumptuous for Christians to claim they are right and everybody else in the world is wrong? In the first place, Christians are not the only ones that believe that. Muslims also believe that. Not only that, but they claim that the Qur’an is the consummate miracle of Islam, which is interesting since it is only recognizable in Arabic. In fact, they contend that any other translation makes the Qur’an sacriligious. This is especially strange since it takes not just a basic knowledge of Arabic to understand it, but a sophisticated knowledge of the language. This not only rules out foreigners who do not know Arabic, but also their own people, many of whom do not have a sophisticated understanding of the language. Talk about exclusivity! How different with the Bible which is written for the common person (*Koine* Greek) with translations in more than 98% of the world’s languages.⁵²

FAITH AND TRUTH CLAIMS

Neither sincerity nor intensity of faith can create truth. **Faith is no more valid than the object in which it is placed.** Believing doesn't make something true, *per se*, and refusing to believe a truth cannot make it false. **The real issue is the question of *truth*.**

Truth by its very nature is exclusive. We simply cannot say that it is arrogant to claim that $2+2=4$ or that poison is detrimental to our health. If we begin to say that $2+2$ equals “whatever,” we will overthrow science in a hurry and if we say that poison is as good as medicine, we bring the whole medical profession into question. Scientists and physicians have to be dogmatic on certain things or their advice will not only be useless, but in fact dangerous. If truth does not exclude, then no assertion of a truth claim can be made. This reduces truth claims

to mere assertions or opinions. A truth claim by definition excludes its opposite, that is, falsehood. The irony is that to deny the exclusive nature of truth is also to make a truth claim. Is that person then not arrogant as well?⁵³

Consider Islam and Christianity. In the moral and ethical realms we can find many similarities between them, but the two faiths are diametrically opposed on the most crucial question: Who is Jesus Christ? Islam denies that Jesus Christ is God the Son. It denies that He died on the cross and rose from the dead. Christianity, on the other hand, affirms and focuses upon the fact that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died on the cross for our sin and then rose from the dead. Both faiths cannot simultaneously be true at this particular point. One is correct, one is incorrect, or both are incorrect. If the crux of Christianity is false, our faith is worthless.

THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST

The claims of Christ cannot be ignored! He claimed **a *unique relationship*** to God. He demands **the same trust** that God demands: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. *Trust in God; trust also in Me*” (Jn 14:1).

Jesus demands **the same devotion** as God the Father: “. . . anyone who does not *carry his cross and follow Me* cannot be *My disciple* . . . any of you who does not *give up everything* cannot be *My disciple*” (Lk 14:27,33; compare with Mk 10:17-31).

He was to receive **equal love** as God the Father: “If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life--he cannot be *My disciple*” (Lk 14:26; compare with Mt 22:34-40 and Mk 12:28-31).

He was to receive **equal honor and glory** as God the Father: “. . . that all may *honor the Son just as they honor the Father*. He who does not *honor the Son* does not *honor the Father*, who sent Him” (Jn 5:22-23).

The apostle Paul points out that Jesus is **the image of God**:

“He is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created *by Him and for Him*.

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood shed on the cross" (Col 1:15-20; see also 2 Co 4:4).

The statement, "For God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Him" (Col 1:19) and the statement, "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Col 2:9) show that the very essence of deity was present in totality in Jesus' human body and thus Jesus alone is the embodiment of **all the fullness of the Godhead**. Similarly in Hebrews 1:3 Christ is described as "**the radiance** of God's glory and the **exact representation** of His being."

JESUS PAID THE PRICE

Buddha did not claim to die for anyone's sins. Zoroaster didn't die for our sins. Neither did Muhammad or Confucius. The Christian truth claim is unique.

Those who don't think God has done enough for mankind should be reminded of what the Son of God went through to provide the only way of salvation. How can anyone fault God for not going far enough to redeem humanity?

THE WRONG QUESTION

Instead of asking, "Why is there only one way to God?" we should be asking, "Why is there any way at all?" How is it that God is so merciful as to grant us repentance after we have repeatedly rebelled against Him?

CREDIBLE EVIDENCE

This bold claim of the Christian faith is based upon supernatural evidence. The miracles that Jesus and the apostles performed gave witness to the truth of the message of salvation. Eyewitnesses recorded the miracles in the Bible. And miracles have continued down through the centuries.

The hundreds of predictive prophecies and fulfillment contained in the Bible witness to the authenticity of Christian truth claims. Jesus' life and ministry was prophesied centuries before He came. Other historical events in the affairs of nations were also prophesied centuries before they came to pass. Scores of these prophecies have been fulfilled down to the most minute detail.

No other alleged sacred or scholarly writing can make such a claim. The Muslim *Qur'an* cannot, the Hindu *Vedas* or Darwin's *The Origin of Species* cannot make the claim to predictive prophecy and fulfillment.

THE ONLY WAY TO GOD

Many contend that Christians are being bigoted and prejudiced or presumptuous when they say that Christ is **the only way to God**. Is such an indictment fair? Not really, for *we have no other option because Jesus Christ Himself has said this: "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved"* (Acts 4:12).

No one else! No other name!

Similarly He claimed: "I am *the way* and *the truth* and *the life*. No one comes to the Father **except through Me**" (Jn 14:6).

Jesus did not say "a way," "a truth," "a life." Jesus is not one way among many, but *the way*. This means that Jesus is the way to the Father in that He is the truth and the life.

Jesus then is asserting in strong terms **the uniqueness and the sufficiency of His work** for people. These words were spoken on the eve of the crucifixion. It is ironic that the One who would shortly hang helpless on a cross would say, "I am the Way," and who would say, "I am the Truth" when the lies of evil people were about to enjoy a spectacular triumph, and who would say, "I am the Life," when within a few hours His corpse would be placed in a tomb. This is the paradox (a seeming contradiction) of Christianity.

Although one may choose to believe whatever he wishes, he has **no right to redefine Christianity** in his own terms. If we are going to be faithful to Jesus Christ, we must take our stand on **what He said**. If He is God, this is the only answer. Bigotry is irrelevant to the issue for we are dealing with truth that has come to us by revelation, through the invasion into human history of God Himself in Jesus Christ.

R. C. Sproul uses a couple of illustrations to make this point clear. In some areas of life, the penalties for breaking laws are socially determined. For instance, there's a stop sign on the corner. By vote the community can decide on a \$10, \$30, or \$60 fine for going through that sign. Or it can abolish the fine. The penalty is not determined by the act of going through the stop sign; the legal penalty is not inherent in the violation. In some other aspects of life, such as in the physical realm, we find laws that are not socially determined. Suppose our community passed a unanimous resolution to suspend the law of gravity an hour a day, from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. Who would join in jumping off the roof to try it out? Suppose we passed the resolution three times?

Would there be any takers? We do not determine socially the penalty for violating the law of gravity; **the penalty is inherent in the violation.** No matter what we think, say, or do, jumping off roofs will probably maim or kill us.⁵⁴

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