Should a Christian be a Mason?
Observations by the Editor

The Plague of Masonry

If the very busy and confusing image on the next page gives you a headache to look at it, then it is very appropriate, for Freemasonry is a major headache to the Church. Involvement in Masonry has compromised the spiritual development of many a Christian, from the layman in the pew to the pastor behind the pulpit.

Many of these people are innocently involved in the sense that they do not fully understand the nature of the organization to which they have given their allegiance. They often tend to think of Masonry as nothing more than a fraternal or social club.

But as the main article in this issue will reveal, Freemasonry is not just some sort of fraternal organization. Rather, it is a false religion that teaches doctrines that are directly contrary to the fundamentals of Christianity.

Consider, for example, the ultimate goal of Masonry. It is often stated as “the deliverance of a person from darkness into light.” How could any Christian who truly knows Jesus as his Lord and Savior claim that he is in darkness and in need of light? The very thought is absurd. (Read John 8:12ff.)

Additionally, you will see that Masonry teaches salvation through good works. The Bible condemns this concept in no uncertain words (Ephesians 2:8-10). Masonry also teaches universalism — namely, that there are many different roads to God and all of them are equally valid. The Bible in stark contrast teaches there is no other way to God except through Jesus Christ (John 14:6 and Acts 4:10-12).

Masons who truly understand Freemasonry are spiritual schizophrenics. They shout “Amen!” on Sunday morning when their pastor preaches salvation by grace through faith. Then they go to their Masonic lodge and try to earn their salvation through good works.

The Bible exhorts us to “Come out of Babylon!” (Revelation 18:1-4). Babylon is a symbol of false religion.

Accountability

In response to a brief news item we printed in our last issue that was critical of Benny Hinn, several people wrote in defense of him saying that even if what he did was wrong, we should not criticize him because the Bible says, “Touch not My anointed . . .”

That statement can be found in various places in the Old Testament, and in every place it speaks of not taking the life of a king or a prophet. It never refers to criticism. The Bible exhorts us to test all things. That is a call to judgment.

Those of us who are public teachers of the Word need to be held accountable. Criticism is one of the legitimate ways of doing that. Anyone who is too thin-skinned to deal with criticism should never venture into the public forum.

Another key element of accountability is to make certain that teachers of the Word have a board of trustees that holds them accountable. The tragedy is that many boards exist in name only because they either rarely meet and/or they have virtually no power. Another common problem is that they are often packed with relatives of the evangelist whom they are supposed to be controlling.

When considering a ministry for your support, always look for the seal of the ECFA — the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability. That seal indicates that the ministry operates according to the highest ethical standards regarding both the raising and expenditure of its funds. It also guarantees that the ministry’s evangelist is accountable to a legitimate board of trustees.
Should a Christian be a Mason?

The Steps of Freemasonry

The first three steps are required of all Masons. They result in the title of “Master Mason.” Most Masons never advance beyond that point. For those who desire to proceed with the Masonic rituals, there are two paths. On the left is the Scottish Rite path of 29 degrees. On the right is the York Rite of ten degrees. The person who achieves the highest degree in the Scottish Rite is called a Thirty-Second Degree Mason (the 33rd degree is honorary). The highest degree in the York Rite is called Knight Templar. The two are considered equal. After a man reaches the highest degree of either the Scottish or York Rite, he can become a member of the Shriners. Standing in the arch above are representatives of Masonic “allied organizations” like DeMolay for boys, Order of the Rainbow for girls, and the Eastern Star for women.

Dr. David R. Reagan

In the mid-1980’s I was holding a meeting at a large church in Lexington, Kentucky, when I received a phone call at my motel from one of the church members. The caller identified himself as one of our radio listeners. He said he had heard a broadcast of mine about Masonry, and he wanted to talk with me about it. He asked if he could come to my room for a visit, and I agreed.

When he arrived, he shared with me an incident that had happened at his church. One of the assistant pastors had been teaching a course on the cults. One Sunday morning as he concluded his lesson, he announced, “Next week we will conclude our study of the cults by taking a look at the Masons.”

My visitor said he was dumbfounded by this announcement. “I immediately protested,” he said. “I told him I was a Mason, and I did not consider the organization to be cultic in nature.”

“Well,” the teacher responded, “I really don’t know that much about it. I’m just presenting the material in my teacher’s manual.”

After discussing the matter back and forth for a few minutes, the teacher made an offer: “I’ll tell you what,” he said, “next week I’ll present my material and then I will give you half the class time to present your rebuttal.”

My visitor said he accepted the offer and went to work immediately studying Masonry.

I asked what he meant by “studying Masonry.”

He replied that although he had been a Mason many years, he knew almost nothing about the fundamental beliefs of the organization.

When I asked how that could be, he explained that he had simply bought each of his Masonic degrees without doing any study.
Albert Pike

Albert Pike’s book, *Morals and Dogma* (1871) is considered to be the Bible of Masonry. It is a ponderous, thousand page tome that is full of occultic ideas, many of which are rooted in Jewish Kabalism.

Pike is the only Confederate leader to have a statue erected to his honor in Washington, D.C. Carved on the base are the words, “philosopher, jurist, orator, author, poet, scholar, and soldier.” Some of his contemporaries undoubtedly would have added: “libertine, traitor, glutton, incompetent, and thief.”

Pike was born in Massachusetts in 1809. He attended Harvard briefly, but was mainly self-taught in the classics. He was amazingly facile with languages and was able to converse in Sanskrit, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, and French.

He became a school teacher but was forced to flee Massachusetts in 1831 due to rumors of affairs. He headed West and ultimately ended up in Arkansas where he began practicing law and became a leader in the Ku Klux Klan.

When the Civil War broke out, he sided with the Confederacy and was appointed a brigadier general. He quickly proved to be ineffective in organizing, training, and leading his troops. He was finally forced to resign and was even imprisoned when his fellow officers accused him of misappropriating funds.

After the war he abandoned his wife and started roaming the mid-west. He was indicted for treason but was never tried. He finally settled in Washington, D.C. where he caused a sensation by romancing a 19 year old artist.

The final years of his life were dedicated to Masonry. He died in 1891 at the age of 82.

“What happened next?” I asked.

He said he started his research by reading the Kentucky Masonic handbook. “When I got to page 95, I put the book down, repented before God for ever becoming a Mason, took a hammer and beat my Masonic ring to a pulp, and then sent a letter of resignation to my lodge.”

“Wow!” I replied. “What in the world was on page 95?”

At that point, he handed me the handbook and told me I could keep it. I immediately turned to page 95 and found the following paragraph:

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 but one altar and one worship; one common altar of Masonry on which the Veda [Hinduism], Shastras [Buddhism], Sade [Astrology], Zend-Avesta [Zoroastrianism], Koran [Islam], and Holy Bible shall lie untouched by sacrilegious hands, and at whose shrine the Hindoo (sic), the Persian, the Assyrian, the Chaldean, the Egyptian, the Chinese, the Mohammedan, the Jew, and the Christian may kneel and with one united voice celebrate the praises of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.

Notice how this paragraph equates the Bible with the pagan scriptures and then asserts it is possible to obtain salvation through any religion. In short, this paragraph refutes the Gospel which maintains that “there is salvation in no other name under heaven except the name of Jesus” (Acts 4:12).

How could any Christian give his allegiance to an organization whose beliefs make a mockery of the Gospel? And yet, thousands of professing Christians, even many pastors and elders, have done so by becoming Masons.

The Nature of Masonry:
Fraternal Order or Religion?

Masonry is a fraternal, social, and service organization. But it is more. It is also a religious organization.

The Masons nearly always deny this in their public statements, but their official literature and their actions make it clear that Masonry is a religion. They require a belief in God — any god — as a condition of membership. They have published a Masonic Bible that contains special study guides. They conduct funerals for their members. Most important (as we shall see later), their official, non-public literature is filled with religious doctrine.

*Coil’s Masonic Encyclopedia*, considered to be the most authoritative and influential Masonic book today, states point blank that “Freemasonry is undoubtedly a religion.” In Albert G. Mackey’s *Manual of the Lodge* he says: “As Masons we are taught never to begin any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing and protection of deity, and this is because Masonry is a religious institution.” In another of his books, Mackey (considered the third most influential Masonic writer) declares that “the religion of Masonry is cosmopolitan and universal.”

The greatest Masonic writer of all times, Albert Pike, argued that “every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion; and its teachings are instruction in religion.” He further stated, “Masonry is . . . the universal, eternal, immutable religion, such as God planted in the heart of universal humanity.”

Personal Experience

Some personal experiences have convinced me that many Masons look upon the Masonic Order as their church, or perhaps more appropriately, as their ticket to Heaven.

This conclusion is based upon the letters I received from the wives of Masons during the 22 years I had a nationwide radio program (1980 - 2002). Every time I would broadcast a series of radio programs about Masonry, I would receive a flood of letters from wives expressing deep concern about their husbands’ involvement in the organization.
The letters read like a broken record. Over and over the same sentiment was expressed: “My husband is a Mason. He claims to be a Christian. Yet he never studies his Bible, rarely prays, and attends church with me only two or three times a year. But he never misses a Masonic meeting.”

Another experience that I vividly remember occurred at a church in Indiana in the late 1980’s. When I arrived to conduct a prophecy conference for them, I noticed a large chart in the foyer. A number of people were standing around studying the chart.

When I asked what it was all about, a man who introduced himself as one of the elders, explained that the pastor had called for a 24 hour prayer vigil at the church in behalf of the conference. On the chart were the names of dozens of people who had signed up to come to the church to pray for 30 minutes, day and night. I was impressed.

I turned to the elder and asked, “Where is your name on the chart?”

“Oh, it’s not there,” he said. “You see, last night was my Masonic lodge meeting, so I couldn’t be here to pray.”

The Nature of Masonry: Is it a Cult?

As we shall see, the Masonic Order has definite cultic characteristics, but it is not a classic cult because it does not require membership in it only, to the exclusion of all other groups or churches. In fact, Masons are encouraged to be an active member of a local church.

This distinctive feature of Masonry has given the organization far more influence within Christendom than all the recognized cults put together.

Rather than labeling Masonry a cult, I prefer to call it a false religion, and I think I can prove that assertion.

Church Prohibitions

Many Christian denominations have recognized the cultic nature of Masonry and have taken decisive steps to retard its influence among their members. For example, the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church prohibits Masons from becoming members of their church. Likewise, the Nazarene Church has banned from its membership any person who is a member of a secret organization like the Masons.

The Catholic Church has also taken a strong stand against Masonry. Ever since 1728 Catholics have been prohibited from joining the Masons. That stance was reaffirmed by the Vatican in 1984 with a pronouncement that any Catholic who joins the Masons is “in a state of grave sin and cannot partake in Holy Communion.”

The British Methodist Church also condemned Masonry at its General Assembly in 1985. The Assembly acted on a report of its Faith and Order Committee. That report, entitled “Freemasonry & Methodism,” outlined the occultic nature of Masonry in detail. The report concluded with these words: “There is a great danger that the Christian who becomes a Freemason will find himself compromising his Christian beliefs or his allegiance to Christ, perhaps without realizing what he is doing.”

Many other denominations, both in the United States and abroad, have passed resolutions condemning Masonry as un-Christian in nature. Groups here in America include the Wesleyan Methodist Church, the Assemblies of God, the Evangelical Mennonite Church, the Christian Reformed Church, the General Association of Regular Baptists, the Greek Orthodox Church, and the Presbyterian Church in America — among others.

The glaring omission, of course, is the Southern Baptists, and this is a very serious matter because many Southern Baptists, including pastors and deacons, are also Masons.

Many Southern Baptists who strongly oppose Masonry were able to get a resolution passed at their 1992 convention which asked their membership to avoid association with organizations that operate in secret and which espouse doctrines that conflict with clear biblical teaching.

Even though Masonry was not specifically mentioned in this resolution, its wording infuriated Masons, and they went to work
to override it. Thousands of Christian Masons were encouraged to attend the 1993 convention. A special publication was issued that showed Baylor University officials on the cover wearing their Masonic regalia. The publication declared that “Masonry is perfectly compatible with the classic Protestant belief in justification by faith.”

During the interim leading up to the 1993 convention, a special committee studied the issue and released an incredible report in which it admitted that there were things about Masonry that were pagan, unscriptural, and in conflict with basic Christian beliefs, but recommended nonetheless that membership in the Masonic Order “be a matter of personal conscience.” The convention adopted this recommendation.

A Personal Observation

In light of the strong bans against Masonic membership that have been pronounced by many Christian denominations, I want to make one thing very clear before I proceed. I am not advocating that Masons be kicked out of their local churches. I know many fine Christian men who are Masons. Most of them are in the Masonic Order for business contacts or social purposes or because it is a family heritage. Most of them do not pay any attention to the organization’s religious teachings. In fact, most are probably ignorant of what Masonry teaches about God.

In other words, I believe it is possible for a person who is ignorant of Masonry’s religious teachings to be both a Mason and a Christian. But I do not believe a person can be an informed Mason and a committed Christian at the same time.

I have concluded that because of Masonry’s cultic characteristics and its totally false religious doctrines, a Christian who is a Mason can never grow to his full potential in Christ. For this reason, I believe that no Mason should be put in a position of leadership in a local church. How can any person serve effectively as a Christian spiritual leader when he has compromised his commitment to Christ by participating in a cult-like organization that promotes a false religion?

Cultic Characteristics

What are the cultic characteristics of Masonry? Two which cannot be denied by any Mason are the requirement of secrecy and the taking of oaths.

Masonry is a secret organization. Ask any Mason what goes on at his meetings, and he will start evading your questions. He is sworn to secrecy. This is a classic characteristic of cultic groups, and it is an attitude that stands in opposition to Scripture. The Bible says: “Everyone who does evil hates the light and will not come into the light for fear that his deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what he has done has been done through God” (John 3:20-21).

The irony in all this is that, in actuality, the Masonic Order really does not have any secrets because thousands of men have come out of Masonry and have exposed all its “secrets” in many publications. These revelations have shed light on a second cultic feature.

Blood Oaths

Every Mason is required to take three 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.”

It is incredible that the name of God would be invoked in such a demonic oath, particularly when the Bible commands us not to take any oaths at all: “Do not swear at all . . . simply let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one” (Matthew 5:34-37).

At the second degree, the Fellow Craft level, the Mason swears “to have my left breast torn open and my heart and vitals taken from thence and thrown over my left shoulder . . . if ever I should prove willfully guilty of violating any part of this my solemn oath or obligation . . . so help me God.”

The third degree Master Mason swears “to have my body severed in two in the midst, and divided to the north and south, and my bowels burnt to ashes in the center, and the ashes scattered before the four winds of heaven . . . were I ever to prove willfully guilty of violating any part of this solemn oath . . . so help me God.”

No Christian has any business putting himself under such oaths, even if they are not taken seriously. God takes them seriously, and so does Satan.

Further, in the case of married men, these oaths create a barrier to the marriage relationship because they put the Mason under an obligation to refrain from revealing his Masonic activities to his wife.

Also, in these oaths, absolute allegiance is pledged to all fellow Masons, many of whom do not even confess Jesus as Christ. This violates Scripture, for we are commanded not to yoke ourselves with unbelievers, “for what fellowship does darkness have with light?” (2 Corinthians 6:14).

The Different Levels of Masonry

In addition to the three oaths above that are required of all Masons, there are many other demonic oaths that are required should a person desire to go further in Masonry.

Most Masons are content to remain a third degree, Master Mason. Few venture beyond that point because each degree thereafter is expensive to obtain. But those who desire to go further have two choices. They can either pursue the Scottish Rite which advances by numerical degrees, beginning with the fourth and ending with the 32nd (the 33rd degree is honorary). Or they can seek to achieve the degree of Knights Templar by following the York Rite and its named degrees.
Both a 32nd degree Mason and a Knights Templar are eligible to become a Shriner. The Shriners are the most conspicuous part of Masonry. They wear red fez hats and ride motorcycles in parades. They are commonly referred to by other Masons as “the party animals of Freemasonry.” Tom McKenney, who became one of the top leaders of Masonry before he found the Lord, states that the initiation ceremonies for Shriners are particularly childish, rowdy, and often vulgar and degrading.16

Most people are not aware of the fact that the Shrine is the Islamic expression of Freemasonry, making it clearly anti-Christian. The full name is “Ancient Arabic Order, Nobles of the Mystic Shrine,” and everything about the Shrine is based on the Muslim faith and Arabic symbolism.

**Other Demonic Oaths**

All Shriners are required to take an oath in which they make several promises. They conclude the oath by saying that if they should ever break any of their promises, “may I incur the fearful penalty of having my eyeballs pierced to the center with a three-edged blade, my feet flayed, and . . . may Allah, the god of Arab Moslem and Mohammedan, the god of our fathers, support me to the entire fulfillment of the same, Amen.” This is said by the candidate while he is kneeling before a Muslim altar with his hand on the Koran.17

The Scottish Rite tenth degree oath is also particularly demonic in nature. Notice how it commits the oath taker to commit murder, if necessary:18

> I do promise and swear upon the Holy Bible never to reveal where I have received this degree . . . and in failure of this I consent to have my body opened perpendicularly and to be exposed for eight hours in the open air, so that the venomous flies may eat my entrails, my head to be cut off and put on the highest pinnacle of the world, and I will always be ready to inflict the same punishment on those who shall disclose this degree and break this obligation. So may God help and maintain me. Amen.

When Tom McKenney was awarded the honorary 33rd degree at a special ceremony at the Masonic headquarters in Washington, D.C., he was required to drink wine from a skull and say, “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 [his oath].”19

One Christian writer expressed it well when he referred to Masonry’s “horrid oaths” and observed that they contain penalties which would “shame a common cannibal.”20

**Unscriptural Doctrines:**

**Many Roads to God**

Several doctrines taught by the Masons are particularly repulsive to the Word of God. One is that there are many ways to God. Consider, for example, this quote from Carl Clau\’s book, *Introduction to Freemasonry:* “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 Great First 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.”21 By contrast, Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me . . .” (John 14:6).

In other words, Masonry teaches salvation through all religions, whereas the Bible teaches there is salvation in only one name under heaven — the name of Jesus (Acts 4:12).

**Salvation by Works**

Another unscriptural Masonic doctrine is salvation by works. Masonic literature is replete with references to being justified before God through good works.

For example, in the Kentucky Masonic handbook, the lambskin apron worn by Masons is described as a reminder “of that purity of life and conduct which is essential to gaining admission to the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.”22 The Holman edition of the Masonic Bible contains a Masonic Creed that asserts that “character determines destiny.”23 The former Masonic Grand Chaplain of Pennsylvania summed it up this way:24

> The philosophy of Freemasonry is to make man the master of his own destiny, to show him that there also is an immortality on earth brought by his actions; that he can, through his own efforts . . . inscribe his name in the ‘Book of Life.’

This is a different Gospel, and as such, it is condemned by Paul in Galatians 1:8-9. The true Gospel is that we are saved by grace through faith in Jesus, and not through works (Ephesians 2:8-10).

**Jesus is One of Many Saviors**

A third unbiblical doctrine of Masonry relates to their view of Jesus. He is portrayed in Masonic literature as one of many Saviors. Consider this quote from the Kentucky handbook:25

> All antiquity . . . believed in a future life . . . and in a Mediator or Redeemer . . . The belief was general that He was to be born of a virgin and suffer a painful death. The Hindus called him Krishna; the Chinese, Kioun-tse; the Persians, Sosiosch; the Chaldeans, Dhouvanai; the Egyptians, Horus; Plato, Love; the Scandinavians, Balder; the Christians, Jesus; the Masons, Hiram.

As this paragraph indicates, Jesus comes across in Masonic literature as nothing more than one of many enlightened men. He certainly is not viewed as divine. Former Masonic leader, Jim Shaw, has written that in official Masonic doctrine, “Jesus is just a man. He is one of the ‘exemplars,’ one of the great men of the

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**Masonry often uses the all-seeing eye to symbolize its god, known as The Great Architect of the Universe. It is a common occultic symbol. Its appearance on the nation’s great seal (shown above on the back of a dollar bill) is a testimony to the influence of Masonry on our founding fathers.**

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**Introduction to Freemasonry**
past, but not divine and certainly not the only means of redemption of lost mankind.\textsuperscript{26}

In sharp contrast, the Bible teaches that Jesus was the unique and only begotten Son of God — that He was, in fact, God in the flesh (Philippians 2:1-9 and John 1:1-14).

One other thing — Masons are not allowed to pray in their lodges in the name of Jesus. Yet the Word of God says that Christians are to offer all prayers in Jesus’ name (Colossians 3:17).

\textbf{A God Alien to the Bible}

According to \textit{Coil’s Masonic Encyclopedia} all men involved in Masonry must decide between the inferior Christian God and the true God of Masonry:\textsuperscript{27}

Men have to decide whether they want a God like the ancient Hebrew Jahweh, a partisan, tribal God, with whom they can talk and argue and from whom they can hide if necessary, or a boundless, eternal, universal, undenominational, and international, Divine Spirit, so vastly removed from the speck called man, that He cannot be known, named, or approached.

This quotation makes it clear that the God of Masonry, called the Great Architect of the Universe and symbolized by the all-seeing eye, is not the true God of the Bible. The Bible reveals that the creator of this universe is a triune God consisting of one God in three persons. The Bible further reveals that He is a Father God who desires intimate fellowship with His creation. He is anything but a “tribal God” who is aloof and unapproachable (Isaiah 57:15).

Although Masons are taught that the real name of God cannot be known because it has been lost, those who pursue the higher levels of Masonry are ultimately told that the secret name of the Masonic deity is Jabulon.\textsuperscript{28} This is an acronym for Jehovah, Baal (the ancient Canaanite god), and Osiris (an Egyptian mystery god). Can there really be any doubt that Masonry is steeped in paganism?

\textbf{The Masonic Defense}

Many Masons respond to these criticisms by observing that George Washington was a Mason and that fourteen of our Presidents have been Masons. But these facts are irrelevant. No one denies that many good and great men have been and are Masons.

Others defend the Masons by pointing out that many ministers are Masons. This too does not prove anything. Many ministers are also members of the apostate National Council of Churches, and many ministers are unsaved.

Another defense of Masonry is that it honors the Bible as God’s Word. The \textit{Standard Masonic Monitor} maintains that the Bible is “the Great Light in Masonry” and even advises Masons to study it diligently.\textsuperscript{29} But this claim is highly misleading. In actuality, the Bible is officially designated as a piece of “lodge furniture.”\textsuperscript{30} In Utah, Masons place the Book of Mormon on their lodge altars. In India, the Hindu Vedras are placed on the altar, and in Muslim lands, the altar features the Koran.

The Masonic attitude toward the Bible is best summed up by an article that appears in the Masonic Bible that is published by Holman:\textsuperscript{31}

Thus, by the very honor which Masonry pays to the Bible, it teaches us to revere every book of faith . . . joining hands with the man of Islam as he takes his oath on the Koran, and with the Hindu as he makes covenant with God upon the book that he loves best. 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; knowing also, that while they read different volumes, they are in fact reading the same vast Book of the Faith of Man.

What incredible blasphemy of God and His Holy Word!

Finally, Masons try to defend themselves by pointing to the good works of the Masonic Order. But again, no one denies that Masons do many good works. Their good works are just not relevant to the issue. Furthermore, the Bible tells us that we are to do our good works in the name of Jesus so that He will receive the honor and glory (Colossians 3:17).

\textbf{The Real Issue}

The real issue is Jesus Christ. He calls us to be open about our faith. The Masons operate in secret. Jesus calls us to refrain from taking oaths. The Masons require blood oaths. Jesus call 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 Word says Jesus is “the blessed and only potentate” (1 Timothy 6:14-15). Masons exalt their temple leaders by calling them spiritual titles like “the blessed and only potentate” (1 Timothy 6:14-15). Masons exalt their temple leaders by calling them spiritual titles like “Worshipful Master.” Jesus said He is the only way to God. Masons argue there are many roads to God.

If you are a Christian and a Mason, I believe you should repent of your involvement and denounce the Masonic oaths you have taken. You should ask God to forgive you for ever having taken the oaths. You should resign your Masonic membership and rededicate yourself to Jesus and Him only.

Then you should start spending the time you used to spend in Masonry in your local church working to expand the Kingdom of God.
Notes:


5) Ankerberg & Weldon, page 17.


8) Ibid., pages 198-199.


12) Ibid., pages 129-130.

13) Ibid., page 130.


15) The blood oaths of Masonry can be found in many publications and in articles on the Internet. One good source is *The Guide for Ministry to Masons* by David L. and Donna M. Carrico (Evansville, IL: Followers of Jesus Christ Ministries, 1997), pages 14-19.

16) McKenney, pages 37-44.


22) Pirtle, page 32.


25) Pirtle, pages xiv-xxv.

26) Shaw & McKenney, pages 126-127.

27) Coil, pages 516-517.


Internet Resources:

1) Ex-Masons for Jesus: www.emfj.org
2) Ephesians 5:11: www.ephesians5-11.org
3) Saints Alive for Jesus: www.saintsalive.com

Good News Concerning the Masons

Masonic membership within the United States has been diminishing rapidly.

In 1958 the number of Masons in the U.S. stood at 4.2 million, or 2.4% of the total population.

By the beginning of 2005 the American membership had dropped to less than 1.5 million, or 0.6% of the population.

Most Masons today are over the age of 50. The movement is obviously dying, and we can be thankful for that. ☀
Apostasy —

“The Clergy Letter Project” is a movement designed to provide a Christian endorsement of Evolution. The people involved in this movement have drafted a statement about Evolution that has been endorsed by 497 congregations and over 10,000 Christian clergy. The proclamation they have formulated reads, in part, as follows:

We the undersigned, Christian clergy from many different traditions . . . believe that the theory of evolution is a foundational scientific truth, one that has stood up to rigorous scrutiny and upon which much of human knowledge and achievement rests. To reject this truth or to treat it as “one theory among others” is to deliberately embrace scientific ignorance . . . We urge school board members to preserve the integrity of the science curriculum by affirming the teaching of the theory of evolution as a core component of human knowledge.

On February 11th hundreds of churches cooperating in this movement held “Evolution Sunday Services,” during which the pastors delivered a special sermon affirming the glories of evolutionary thought.

For more information, including a list of churches and individuals who have endorsed this movement, go to the Clergy Letter website at www.butler.edu/clergyproject/clergy_project.htm.

Professing to be wise, they became fools . . . and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator. — Romans 1:22 & 25

False Christs —

Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda, 61, claims to be Jesus Christ, and thousands of his ardent followers worldwide proclaim him to be God.

He grew up in poverty in Puerto Rico and served terms in prison there for petty theft. He also says he was a heroin addict.

His proclamations amount to spiritual double-talk. In one breath he claims that “The spirit that is in me is the same spirit that was in Jesus of Nazareth.” But then he turns around and claims to be the Antichrist. “Antichrist is the best person in the world,” he says. “Antichrist means you don’t put your eyes on Jesus because Jesus of Nazareth wasn’t a Christian. Antichrist means do not put your eyes on Jesus Christ of Nazareth. Put them on Jesus after the cross.” And de Jesus says that means him!

He lives in extravagant luxury, denies the existence of sin or the devil, and has 666 tattooed on his arm. His church is called Creciendo en Gracia, which is Spanish for “Growing in Grace.” The church claims thousands of members in more than 30 countries.

For more information, check his website at www.ceenglish.com.

Many will come in My name, saying, “I am the Christ,” and will mislead many. — Matthew 24:5

Ominous Russian Moves —

In late February, Russian President Vladimir Putin made a very ominous statement in which he summarized three decisions his government had made.

First, he stated that the Russian government had decided to start giving substantial support to the Hamas-led terrorist regime in charge of the Palestinian Authority. Previously, the Russians had stood with the West in demanding that Hamas renounce terror and recognize Israel.

Second, Putin announced his intention to start supplying anti-tank missiles to Syria despite the fact that Syria is internationally recognized as a terrorist state.

Finally, Putin made it clear that Russia would oppose any sanctions against Iran and would, in fact, start making nuclear fuel deliveries to Iran.

Chapters 38 and 39 of Ezekiel contain a prophecy that in the end times Russia will invade Israel, together with certain specified allies, including Iran. These passages also say that Russia and its allies will be supernaturally destroyed by God on the hills of Israel. The Bible also prophesies in two places that the capital of Syria, Damascus, will cease to exist in the end times (Isaiah 17:1-14 and Jeremiah 49:23-27). The stage is being set for the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Polls, Polls, and More Polls —

The Barna Research Group reports that among churched kids:

- 63% don’t believe Jesus is the Son of the one true God
- 81% believe all truth is relative
- 51% don’t believe Jesus rose from the dead
- 68% don’t believe the Holy Spirit is a real person
- 65% don’t believe Satan is a real person

These are churched kids! What are our churches teaching our children? Anything? Or is it all just wiener roasts?

Concerning values, the Pew Research Center reports the results of a poll of 18 to 25 year olds (general population):

- 81% said getting rich was their most important life goal
- 51% said becoming famous was one of their greatest goals
- 30% said one of their goals was to help people in need
- 22% said one of their goals was to be a community leader
- 10% said one of their goals was to become more spiritual

So what is the goal of today’s younger generation? To be rich and famous.

Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. — 1 John 2:15-16
Who is Jesus? —

There is a story going around which purports to modernize the ancient account in the gospel of Matthew concerning Peter’s confession of Jesus. The revision goes as follows:

When Jesus came to the neighborhood of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples this question: “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

They replied, “Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

“And you,” He said to them, “who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the eschatological manifestation of the ground of being and of the faith community, the kerygma manifested in conflict, the self-realization of personhood and the motivational encounter for the process of humanizing and socializing mankind.”

And Jesus replied, “I’m what?” Then He strictly ordered His disciples not to tell anyone who He was, for He found that He could not recall the formula and repeat it Himself.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of dribble that is being taught in many seminaries today.

Thoughts about Islam —

“How dreadful are the curses which Mohammedanism lays on its votaries! Besides the fanatical frenzy, which is as dangerous in a man as hydrophobia in a dog, there is this fearful fatalistic apathy. The effects are apparent in many countries. Improvident habits, slovenly systems of agriculture, sluggish methods of commerce, and insecurity of property exist wherever the followers of the Prophet rule or live. A degraded sensualism deprives this life of its grace and refinement; the next of its dignity and sanctity . . .

“Individual Moslems may show splendid qualities . . . but the influence of the religion paralyzes the social development of those who follow it. No stronger retrograde force exists in the world. Far from being moribund, Mohammedanism is a militant and proselytizing faith . . raising fearless warriors at every step; and were it not that Christianity is sheltered in the strong arms of science . . . the civilization of modern Europe might fall, as fell the civilization of ancient Rome.” — From Winston Churchill’s book, The River War (1899).

“Islam could soon be the dominant force in a Europe which, in the name of political correctness, has abdicated the battle for cultural and religious control.” — World renowned Islamic scholar, Bernard Lewis, as quoted in the Jerusalem Post in January 2007.

Weary Jews —

Nobel Prize Laureate, Professor Robert Aumann, addressed a conference in Herzliya, Israel in January asserting that “post-Zionism,” not Iran, is the most serious threat to the Jewish nation.

“[Our greatest threat] comes not from Iran, nor from terrorist groups, nor from any external source. It comes from within us. ‘We have met the enemy, and it is us!’

“Without motivation, we will not endure. What are we doing here? Why are we here? What are we aspiring to here? We are here because we are Jewish, we are Zionist, because of our ancient bond to this land; we aspire to realize our 2,000-year-old hope of becoming a free nation in our land, the Land of Zion and Jerusalem. Without this profound understanding, we will not endure. We will simply no longer be here; post-Zionism will finish us off.

“We are in terminal danger because we are tired . . . Our panicked lunging for peace is working against us. It brings us farther away from peace, and endangers our very existence. I think it was Churchill who said, ‘If you want peace, prepare for war.’

“Roadmaps, capitulation, gestures, disengagements, convergences, deportations, and so forth do not bring peace. On the contrary, they bring war, just as we saw last summer. These things send a clear signal to our cousins [the Arabs] that we are tired, that we no longer have spiritual strength, that we have no time, that we are calling for a time-out. They only whet their appetites. It only encourages them to pressure us more, to demand more, and not to give in on anything . . . Capitulations bring about war; determination and readiness bring about peace.”

Professor Aumann’s remarks are right on target. Arabs respect only power. Appeasement encourages them. Israel’s worst enemy today is its own Humanist leaders who mistakenly believe in the essential goodness of man and therefore believe that concessions to the Arabs will bring peace.

“We can forgive the Arabs for killing our children. We cannot forgive them for forcing us to kill their children. We will only have peace with the Arabs when they love their children more than they hate us.”

— Golda Meir, Prime Minister of Israel, 1969-1974


**Guest Editorial**

**A Subtle Deception**

Al Gist

*Editor’s Note: Al Gist is the founder and director of Maranatha Evangelistic Ministries located near De Ridder, Louisiana. The ministry’s website is located at www.maranathaevangelisticministries.com.*

John Elliott was huddled on the cabin floor, slowly freezing to death. It was high in the Rockies in southwestern Alberta, and outside a blizzard raged. Elliott, a forest ranger, had logged miles that day through the deep snows of the mountain passes. As he checked for avalanches and as dusk and exhaustion overcame him, he had decided to “hole-up.” He made it wearily to his cabin, but somewhat dazed with fatigue, he did not light a fire or remove his wet clothing.

As the blizzard blasted through the cracks in the old cabin walls, the sleeping ranger sank into oblivion, paralyzed by the pleasure of the storm’s icy caress. Suddenly, however, his dog sprang into action, and with unrelenting whines, finally managed to rouse his near-comatose friend. The dog was John’s constant companion. “If that dog hadn’t been with me, I’d be dead today,” John Elliott says. “When you’re freezing to death, you actually feel warm all over, and you don’t wake up because it feels too good.”

Such is the case with many evangelical churches today. They feel spiritually warm when they are actually freezing to death. They don’t want to “wake up” because it feels too good. They have left the sure foundation of God’s Word and been lulled ever so subtly into a doctrinal bog that will not support true spiritual growth or endurance. Although it feels good, it is an illusion that is leading Christians away from a scripturally founded fellowship with Christ. It is even deceiving some people with a false concept of salvation.

The damage that this apostasy is causing to individual lives and to the Church in general cannot be overstated. It is destroying the Church and leading many people outside the Church down a broad path to destruction!

**The Warm and Fuzzy Church**

What is this monstrous devourer of the truth? Well, it goes by many names, but I usually refer to it as the “seeker-friendly” church movement because that seems to best describe its methods. Like a corporation trying to market its product, those involved in this approach to “doing church” strive to make the church “friendly” to those who are seeking spiritual guidance. In other words, this church growth method involves finding out what the people in the community want and then giving it to them. Sometimes an area survey of what the people in the community want to experience in church is the sole basis for the seeker-friendly church’s way of “doing church.”

I ask you: Does it really make sense to ask lost people how church should be done? Can a lost person tell you how to feed people on the Word of God and how to have a genuine worship experience with God? Indeed, the “seeker friendly” church would be better labeled “sinner friendly.”

The result of such an approach to church will inevitably lead to the preaching of a watered down social gospel in a worldly environment of entertainment. The “traditional” church takes on a whole new appearance. “Casual and convenient” become the design for the attire, the facility, and the schedule, while “affirming and approving” becomes the theme of the messages. And all of this is done with one motive . . . “If we can get the world to like us, then maybe they’ll come to our church and like our Savior.” It is an ideology that Satan has used for centuries to destroy the effective and godly witness of the Church.

**The Warm and Fuzzy Message**

But we must ask ourselves a crucial question. Does the Bible teach God’s people to be a part of the world, or does it call them to come out from the world? (2 Corinthians 6:17) Didn’t Jesus make it clear that the world at large would hate Him (John 7:7) and that those who would be a friend to the world would be the enemy of God? (James 4:4) Does not the word “sanctified” mean “set apart”? (1 Corinthians 1:2, 6:11 and 2 Timothy 2:21) Does the Bible instruct Christians to “woo” the lost or to set an example of holiness that will convict the lost? (1 Thessalonians 1:6-8, 1 Timothy 4:12, 1 Peter 2:11-12, and James 4:4)

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is inherently offensive. Light displaces darkness, but men prefer the darkness because the light reveals their evil deeds (John 3:19-21). The world sees the preaching of the Cross as foolishness (1 Corinthians 1:18) and an offense to their way of life (Romans 9:33). And because generally, people do not like confrontation, the tendency of today’s Church is to avoid offending anyone by doing whatever is required to make the Gospel message more palatable. The tendency is to white-wash everything that the world finds offensive until what you have left has been so modified that it no longer represents the original. When a half truth is presented as a whole truth, then it becomes an untruth.

**A Classic Example**

This seeker-friendly approach to church and the preaching of the Gospel is nowhere better demonstrated than in the preaching of Joel Osteen at Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas. It is not so much that what Joel Osteen preaches is wrong, it is what he omits from the message that is wrong. He is very careful to avoid pointing out sin and its destructiveness in both the lives of Christians and the lost. Messages on sin, repentance, judgment,
Can a preacher accurately present salvation without saying what the sinner will be saved from? Or, stated another way, isn’t a preacher of the Gospel neglectful in his duties if he does not warn the unregenerate of impending judgment and the reality of that place called Hell? Is there not something terribly false about telling people about their potential for abundant and joyful life without mentioning that God will provide that to only those who have totally surrendered their life to Him and are seeking to live a life of holiness in His service?

Joel Osteen holds doggedly to his “feel good” theme, even when given the opportunity to speak of the exclusivity of salvation in Jesus to millions of people. In an interview on June 20, 2005 on “Larry King Live,” King tried repeatedly to make Osteen take an unyielding stand on the fact that salvation is only through Jesus. When he asked if Jews and Muslims who do not accept Christ would go to Heaven, Osteen answered, “You know, I’m very careful about saying who would and wouldn’t go to heaven. I don’t know . . .”

King: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They’re wrong, aren’t they?

Osteen: Well, I don’t know if I believe they’re wrong . . . I just think that only God will judge a person’s heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don’t know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don’t know. I’ve seen their sincerity. So I don’t know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

So, it seems that Joel Osteen is unsure about whether sincere Jews, Muslims, and Hindus who do not accept Jesus would go to heaven or not. Since when is sincerity an indicator of correctness? It is possible to be sincerely wrong! Even most young, truly born again Christians understand that Jesus is the only way to salvation (John 14:6, Acts 2:21, 4:10-12).

On several occasions during the interview, Larry King gave Osteen the perfect opening to share the simple, straightforward Gospel. But in each case, he reverted back to his “don’t-want-to-be-judgmental, let’s-just-be-happy” theme, which is typical for the “seeker friendly” preachers of today. The cardinal rule seems to be: Don’t offend anyone! And if telling the plain truth offends, then just side-step it.

But I ask you, how can a man be saved until he recognizes that he’s a sinner in need of salvation? Is a mere acknowledgment of one’s sin sufficient, or does there have to be a repenting of that sin for there to be true conversion?

Hell, and God’s requirement of holiness are seen as offensive (and they are) and are therefore completely avoided. Such offensive topics (the seeker-friendly preacher believes) are thought to be too “negative,” so the aim is to focus on things more uplifting and positive.

What these seeker-friendly preachers seem to miss is the fact that telling people how to avoid an eternal Hell is the greatest act of love that we can show them. And if that message is offensive, then it’s better to be offended today than to miss Heaven for an eternity.

The bottom line is that the seeker friendly message focuses on the creature more than the Creator . . . on the individual’s felt needs rather than his spiritual needs. Rick Warren, in his book, The Purpose Driven Life starts out by saying that “it’s all about God,” but then spends the remainder of the book pointing to how it’s all about you, the person. If it’s “all about God”, then why is the seeker-friendly message so focused on helping people with problems in life (depression, divorce, financial problems, stress, etc.) through the use of support groups, recognizing one’s own God-given potential, and having a positive attitude about everything instead of simply pointing people to Jesus and instructing them on how to develop a closer walk with the Lord?

Jesus is our guide through life. He is our strength. He is the One Who has promised to walk with us through every dark valley. He is the One Who promised to never leave us or forsake us. He is the One who said that we could find the answer to our every need in life in Him (John 14:6). Jesus has always been and will always be the answer. He is all sufficient!

Has the Gospel story of Jesus become so old fashioned and out of date that it can no longer save? Must it be edited to take out all that offends? Has the tried and true method of lovingly pointing out that Man is a sinner and telling him that Jesus died for him that he might be saved from the destruction of his sin, now become ineffective? Are people today so different from people of years gone by that the Holy Spirit can no longer convict them of their lost condition as He has done for thousands of years?

We should not be opposed to change just because it’s different. Nor should we necessarily fear or oppose new methods of reaching people for Christ. But God help us if we alter one iota of the message in order to attract people.

With every “good” deed that we do, God looks beyond the deed itself and sees the person’s heart. With Him, motive is everything. So when it comes to those who would “soften” the Gospel in order to be more “seeker friendly,” we must wonder what is their motive. Do they really want the seekers to get God, or do they just want to get the seekers? *

Notes:
1) http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0506/20/lkl_.01.html
On January 4, 2007, the first Muslim in modern history was sworn in as a member of the United States Congress. His name is Keith Ellison, and he represents the 5th Congressional District of the state of Minnesota. Mr. Ellison insisted that he take his oath of office with his hand on the Quran, and not the Bible.

Needless to say, this demand created a storm of controversy. Ellison was criticized by both Jewish and Christian spokesmen, as well as by some members of Congress. I personally felt these criticisms were unjustified. I could see no reason to force a Muslim to take an oath on the Bible, since I, as a Christian, would strongly object to being forced to take an oath with my hand on the Quran.

A Special Book

But all the public posturing was not limited to one side. Ellison’s supporters pointed to the fact that he would not be taking the oath on just any copy of the Quran. No, it was going to be a two volume copy that was personally owned by former President Thomas Jefferson. The copy, published in London in 1764, was one of 6,500 titles that Jefferson sold to Congress in 1815 to help replace the Congressional Library that had been destroyed when the British burned the Capitol during the War of 1812.

Ellison and his supporters insisted that Jefferson’s possession of this volume was proof positive that he was sympathetic to Islam. As Ellison put it, “a visionary like Jefferson . . . believed that knowledge and wisdom could be gleaned from many sources, including the Quran.”

There is no doubt that Jefferson was a man who sought wisdom through voluminous reading, but his ownership of a copy of the Quran certainly does not mean that he was in any way sympathetic to the religion of Islam. I own a copy of the Quran, and I consider Islam to be a demonic religion. As we shall see, Jefferson was interested in learning about Islam for a very specific reason, but more about that later. Let’s pause first for a closer look at Congressman Ellison.

Keith Ellison’s Background

Keith Ellison was born in 1963 in Detroit, Michigan, the third of five sons. He was raised as a Roman Catholic, but at age 19, while attending Wayne State University, he converted to Islam. After graduating with a B.A. degree in Economics in 1987, he married his high school sweetheart and moved to Minneapolis where he enrolled in the University of Minnesota Law School. While attending law school, Ellison wrote several articles in support of the radical, Jew-hating Islamic leader, Louis Farrakhan.

Ellison’s wife, Kim, is a high school mathematics teacher. They have four children, all of whom are being raised in the Islamic faith, although Kim has never converted to Islam.

After law school, Ellison practiced law for several years with a private firm before becoming the director of a nonprofit legal aid organization that specialized in defending indigents.

In November of 2002, at age 39, Ellison was elected to the Minnesota State House of Representatives. He was re-elected in 2004 with 84% of the votes. In 2006 he won the Democratic nomination for the 5th Congressional District of Minnesota with 41% of the vote. He then proceeded to win the seat in the general election with 56% of the vote.

His election produced a media frenzy, especially when his supporters were shown on TV at his victory celebration shouting, “Allah akbar!” (meaning “Allah is great!”). He was hailed by the press as “the first Muslim to ever serve in Congress.” His election was headline news on Al Jazeera, the world’s leading Arab-language news network.

An Historical Footnote

There is no doubt that his election is significant, but to set the historical record straight, it needs to be pointed out that Ellison is not the first Muslim to serve in the U.S. Congress. The first was John Randolph of Virginia who served in Congress from 1799 to 1834. He was eventually converted to Christianity by his friend, Francis Scott Key, the author of the words of the “Star

The title page of Thomas Jefferson’s copy of the Quran, printed in London in 1764.
Spangled Banner.” Randolph subsequently became a strong personal advocate of his newfound faith.

David Barton, the renowned historian of the American religious heritage, has pointed out that numerous Muslims were living in North America at the time of the founding of the American republic. Islam had been introduced into the country in the early 1600’s through the slave trade. It is estimated that ten percent of all slaves were Muslims. There were enough Muslims in the country to justify the first publication of the Quran in 1806.

The Muslim Problem in Jefferson’s Time

With that background, let’s return to Jefferson’s copy of the Quran. His ownership of this volume was most likely associated with his attempt to better understand one of the initial enemies of the new American government — namely, the Islamic Barbary Pirates who preyed on commercial vessels off the coast of North Africa.

These pirates were notorious for their slave trade. They pillaged villages along the coast and commandeered vessels on the high seas, seeking both booty and slaves.

When the American colonists rebelled against British rule in 1776, American merchant ships lost the protection of the Royal Navy. Since there was no American Navy, the nation’s ships were attacked with ease and their crews were enslaved.

The situation became so serious that the Continental Congress decided in 1784 to try to negotiate treaties with the Barbary states. A special commission consisting of John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin was appointed to oversee the negotiations.

The Compromise Approach

Adams favored paying tribute to secure safe passage for American ships. Jefferson was opposed because he believed that bribes would only whet the appetite of the pirates. He proposed that they form a league of trading nations and settle the matter “through the medium of war.”

In 1786 Jefferson and Adams met in London with the ambassador of the “Dey of Algiers,” the leading Islamic warlord of Algeria. At the time Jefferson was ambassador to France and Adams was ambassador to Great Britain. During the meeting, the Americans asked the Islamic ambassador why Muslims held so much animosity towards the United States. They later reported to the Congress that the ambassador told them:

That it was written in their Quran that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners and that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as prisoners, and that every Muslim who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise.

Congress decided to pay tribute, and millions of dollars were paid to the Muslims over the next 15 years. The payments in ransom and tribute amounted to 20 percent of the American government’s revenues in 1800!

The Confrontational Approach

After Thomas Jefferson’s inauguration as President in 1801, he decided that the time had come to end American payments. He stated that he was no longer willing to acquiesce to the “humiliation of paying a tribute to those lawless pirates.”

In response, Tripoli declared war against the United States (and Algiers threatened to do so), thus constituting America’s first official war as an independent nation. Jefferson responded by declaring that America would spend “millions for defense, but not one cent for tribute.” He then sent a group of frigates to defend American interests in the Mediterranean.

The American ships bombarded coastal areas while Marines landed and fought to capture towns, ultimately resulting in the surrender of Tripoli, a military victory enshrined in the Marine Hymn with the words, “From the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, we will fight our country’s battle on the land as on the sea.”

Ted Sampley, in an excellent article in the U. S. Veteran Dispatch, summed up the conflict and its modern day significance very succinctly in the following words:

Jefferson had been right. The “medium of war” was the only way to put an end to the Muslim problem. Mr. Ellison was right about Jefferson. He was a “visionary” wise enough to read and learn about the enemy from their own Muslim book of Jihad.

Nothing has really changed since the days of Jefferson. Islamic fundamentalists still aim at taking over the world for Allah. They are still willing to die for the cause of jihad. And the only thing they still respect is power.

Sources:


Jesus’ Bones?

Dr. David R. Reagan

In February Oscar-winning director, James Cameron (The Titanic), and his counterpart, Emmy award-winning documentary film maker, Simcha Jacobovici, held a press conference in New York to promote a film they had produced for the Discovery Channel entitled The Lost Tomb of Jesus.

Displaying some ossuaries (bone boxes) discovered in Jerusalem, they claimed that the boxes came from “the family tomb” of Jesus and that one of the boxes actually contained the bones of Jesus.

Needless to say, this announcement caused a sensation — not among the general public, but among professional archeologists. The general public seemed to yawn and dismiss the whole show as nothing but a bunch of Hollywood hype. Archeologists, on the other hand, reacted in fury. They were outraged that two amateurs who know little or nothing about archeology would have the audacity to make such absurd claims.

The Original Discovery

You see, the discovery was nothing new. The tomb and its contents were discovered in 1980 by some construction workers who were digging a foundation for a new building in Jerusalem. The find was immediately turned over to a team of professional archeologists headed up by Professor Amos Kloner of Bar-Ilam University in Israel.

The tomb contained ten limestone ossuaries. Six of the ten had names scratched on them: Jesus the son of Joseph, Matthew, Jofa, Judah the son of Jesus, and two with the name of Mary.

Professor Kloner never made any attempt to associate this find with Jesus of Nazareth. His reasons were quite simple. First, the father of Jesus was a humble carpenter who could not have afforded a luxury crypt for his family. Second, the name of Jesus was so common among Jews in the First Century that it appears on 98 other tombs and 21 other ossuaries.

Professor Kloner responded to the claims of Cameron and Jacobovici as “nonsense.” “It makes a great story for a TV film,” he said, “but it is impossible.” He added:

There is no likelihood that Jesus and his relatives had a family tomb. They were a Galilee family with no ties to Jerusalem. This tomb belonged to a middle-class family . . . I refute all their claims and efforts to waken a renewed interest in the finding. With all due respect, they are not archeologists.

Counter Points

There are other factors to be taken into consideration in evaluating the claims of Cameron and Jacobovici. For one thing, there is no historical record of Jesus ever being referred to by His followers as “Jesus, the son of Joseph.” To His disciples He was “Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God.”

Nor did His family live in Jerusalem. Their residence was 70 miles north in the village of Nazareth, located in the Galilee of Israel. At the time Jesus was killed, He was a pilgrim in Jerusalem — thus the necessity to bury Him in a borrowed tomb, not a family tomb.

Cameron and Jacobovici tried to buttress their claim with a reference to DNA testing. But all the DNA tests showed is that some of the people buried in the tomb were related, and some were not.

Joe Zias, who was the curator for anthropology and archaeology at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem from 1972 to 1997, and who personally catalogued the ossuaries, was very harsh in his evaluation of the claims made by Cameron and Jacobovici: “Simcha has no credibility whatsoever . . . He’s pimping off the Bible . . . Projects like these make a mockery of the archeological profession.”

The Bottom Line

Perhaps the best summary quoted in the press was by Pastor Nick Stewart of the Lighthouse Free Will Baptist Church in Victoria, Texas. He said:

It is ludicrous to believe this is anything more than a Hollywood attempt to malign the faith during the Easter season. It is the same tired nonsense that they tried with The Da Vinci Code. The thought of a righteous, risen Savior and Judge who contradicts their worldly lifestyle is more than they can stand.

Oh yes, there is one more point that should be made. Regardless of where the tomb of Jesus may be, we know for certain from the testimony of many eye-witnesses that it is empty. In short, no one is ever going to find the bones of Jesus. Praise the Lord!
Television Update

This has been a very busy year for our media crew. As of March 1st, they had already produced and completed the editing of 5 new programs. An additional 9 new programs were in the process of editing. Three programs had been revised for re-broadcast, one video program had been completed, and two video programs were being edited.

Five of the 9 new programs being edited consisted of a series about the Lord’s letters to the seven churches of Revelation. Dr. Reagan recorded these programs with the assistance of Dennis Pollock and Don McGee. These programs are scheduled for broadcast in June and July.

Two other programs that were still being edited were taped with Don Perkins concerning False Christs. Rounding out the nine were two programs in which Gary Fisher interviewed Dr. Reagan concerning Bible prophecy questions.

Editing is a very time-consuming process. The rule of thumb, if it is done correctly, is that it will take one hour of editing for every minute of running time. Thus, a program lasting 28 minutes and 30 seconds will normally require at least 30 hours of editing. The editing consists mainly of inserting charts, diagrams, pictures, video clips and animations to accent or help explain what is being said in the program.

New programs scheduled to be recorded include interviews with Dr. Gary Frazier, an expert on Israel, and Dr. Charles Ryrie, the renowned Bible scholar and author of the Ryrie Study Bible. We are also hoping to do a series of interviews with Joel Chernoff, the founder of the Messianic musical group, Lamb, and the president of the Messianic Jewish Alliance of America.

We are currently contemplating the possibility of taking a video crew to Israel in September to shoot several television programs. We will need to take at least six volunteers with us to work as members of the crew. The all-inclusive cost, including meals, will be $3,000 each. If you would be interested in serving on the team, please contact the ministry’s media director, Don Gordon at don.lamplion@gmail.com. Please keep in mind that the entire cost is tax deductible since this is a short term, working missions trip and not a tour.

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“Christ in Prophecy” Broadcast Schedule

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Family Vision

“Christ in Prophecy” is also broadcast throughout southern Louisiana on the Family Vision Network: Sunday at 6:30pm; Monday at 8:30am; and Wednesday at 7:00pm. For specific stations, check the network’s website at www.kajn.com/familyvision.

We received a very enthusiastic response in February to the two programs we broadcast about the Jehovah’s Witnesses. Both programs featured Dr. Charles Love who was born and raised among the JWs. He is the author of a book entitled 20 Questions Jehovah’s Witnesses Cannot Answer. He is so confident of the book’s title, that he offers a $10,000 reward on his website to any JW who can answer the questions.

We are offering the book for $15, including the cost of mailing. To order a copy, call 1-800-705-8316. Call during regular office hours: Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm, Central time.
Have you visited our Website recently?

Our website is located at www.lamplion.com, and it is loaded with information about all aspects of Bible prophecy. The site was recently revised to include our most recent television programs. On the site’s home page, look on the left side under “What’s New?” and click on “Recent TV Programs.”

Another new feature is the provision of pictures that can be used to illustrate PowerPoint presentations. Again, under “What’s New?” click on “PowerPoint Pics.”

Past issues of our magazine, The Lamplighter, can also be found on the website. These are particularly useful to people in foreign countries since we cannot afford to mail the magazine to addresses overseas.

We need you as a Prophecy Partner!

Our Prophecy Partners provide the financial foundation of this ministry through their commitment to provide the ministry with $20 per month or more for one year.

We currently have almost 1,900 Prophecy Partners. Our goal for this year is to exceed 2,000 and hopefully increase our number to over 2,200. The faithful and generous support of our Prophecy Partners is what has made it possible for us to gradually expand our TV outreach to three national networks that have a combined access to over 71 million homes in the United States.

Each month, Dr. Reagan sends a special letter to our Prophecy Partners in which he updates them on the ministry’s projects, activities, financial needs and prayer requests. He also sends with the letter a gift that normally consists of a DVD containing one of the ministry’s latest TV programs. To enroll as a Prophecy Partner, call 800-705-8316.

“A joyful heart is good medicine.” — Proverbs 17:22

Last month the feature article in our magazine focused on the message of Elijah and its application for us today.

One of our readers responded to the article by sending us a very funny story about a Sunday School teacher who was explaining the story of Elijah to her elementary age students.

She carefully related how Elijah confronted the false prophets of Baal by challenging them to request that their god send down fire from the heavens. When they failed, she then explained how Elijah built his own altar, put wood upon it, slaughtered a steer and cut it into pieces, and laid it upon the altar. He then commanded the people of God to fill four barrels with water and pour the water over the altar. He had them do this three times.

“Now,” said the teacher, “can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour so much water over the steer on the altar?”

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand. “I know! I know!” she said. “It was to make the gravy!”

Out of the mouths of babes . . .
Ministry News

In mid-February Dr. Reagan was one of the featured speakers at the Steeling the Mind Conference held in San Juan Capistrano, California. Over 1,500 people were registered for the conference. Dr. Reagan spoke twice. His first topic concerned Israel in the end times. During that presentation, he focused on the fallacy of Replacement Theology. His second presentation was about the inevitability of judgment for all people.

Dr. Reagan recently visited with Barry Thompson in Crowley, Louisiana. Mr. Thompson is the owner and operator of KAJN Radio and the FamilyVision television network. He and his wife are Prophecy Partners and have been long time supporters of Lamb & Lion. We aired our radio program over his station for almost 22 years before we switched to television broadcasting. Our TV program is carried over his network of stations in Southern Louisiana.

The Ministry’s Board of Trustees met in late February and elected a new trustee. He is Emery (Buddy) Cain. He and his wife, Susan, live in Livingston, Texas, where he works as a forestry expert for the International Paper Company.

The Ministry recently donated $6,000 to Pastor Remegio Blanco in the Philippines for him to use in purchasing audio equipment for his outdoor evangelistic crusades. He is pictured at the right with his wife, Siony. Last year we provided the funds necessary for Pastor Blanco to purchase a mini-truck. We also assisted with the cost of sending Dennis Pollock to the Philippines this past February where he conducted a pastor’s seminar and an outdoor crusade with Pastor Blanco.

Regarding scheduling, the next Holy Land pilgrimage the Ministry is planning to conduct will be in April or May of next year. To get on the notification list, call 972-736-3567. There was an error in our last issue regarding the date of Dr. Reagan’s appearance this year at the annual conference of Olive Tree Ministries in Minnesota. The correct date is October 19-20. The conference will be held at Grace Church in Eden Prairie, MN.

The rest of Dr. Reagan’s speaking engagements for the year are listed on the Ministry’s website at www.lamblion.com.
New Video Programs

Dr. Charles Love grew up in the Jehovah’s Witnesses and became a regional leader of the organization. In this in-depth interview with Dr. Reagan, he explains in detail why this religious group is a classic cult.

He exposes the mind control techniques of the group’s collective leadership, called the Watchtower. He reveals their sordid history of incorrect prophetic predictions. And he shows why their basic doctrines are totally unbiblical.

He also tells how to deal with the Jehovah’s Witness who may come calling at your door. He concludes the program with a direct appeal to Jehovah’s Witnesses to test their doctrines against the Word of God.

Dr. Love has written a book entitled 20 Questions Jehovah’s Witnesses Cannot Answer (see page 17 for details). He discusses some of those questions on this program.

DVD format. 50 minutes. $12.

Special Offer!

Order all three videos for only $30 plus the cost of shipping and save $6.

William Hallmark is a remarkably talented, self-taught artist from Alabama whose symbolic paintings of Jesus have captivated the hearts of Christians all over the world. Dr. Reagan interviews this great artist together with Gary Fisher of Lion of Judah Ministries. In the process, William reveals himself as a humble servant of God.

DVD format. 50 minutes. $12.

At long last! Dr. Reagan has made a video recording of his most frequently requested sermon and the one he has preached more than any other.

He preaches through Psalm 2 verse by verse, showing how it is one of the greatest passages in the Bible concerning the Second Coming of Jesus.

It is a passionate presentation from beginning to end. In the process Dr. Reagan demonstrates that God has the wisdom and power to orchestrate all the evil of Man and Satan to the triumph of Jesus. In short, he shows how we are going to win in the end and then participate in the Lord’s worldwide, glorious reign.

You will be shouting, “Maranatha! Maranatha!” with Dr. Reagan at the end.

DVD format. 60 minutes. $12.

The stories of two great Christian artists whose works of art have touched and enriched the souls of millions.

Robin Mark is a musician from Northern Ireland. His album, “Revival in Belfast,” set off a worldwide revival in Christian music. His song, “Days of Elijah,” has become the theme song of the Davidic worship movement. Dr. Reagan introduces you to the man and his music and provides an in-depth biblical analysis of “Days of Elijah.”

DVD format. 50 minutes. $12.

Dr. Charles Love grew up in the Jehovah’s Witnesses and became a regional leader of the organization. In this in-depth interview with Dr. Reagan, he explains in detail why this religious group is a classic cult.

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