

# The Religion Of The Bible And Of The Lodges

[1973]

by John Brug

There are thousands of organizations to which a Christian may belong. It is assumed that every organization has some purpose. A softball organization is formed to promote the sport of softball. Barbershop singers may belong to a society for furthering barbershop singing. Campers may join a camping organization. The vast majority of organizations are wholesome and beneficial. However, there are times when a Christian is going to have to judge whether his membership in an organization is going to force him into a position where he will have to accept practices, rituals, and statements which may go against his conscience and the Word of God. It is particularly true when organizations incorporate religious elements into its program. It is for this reason that we must examine the religious teachings of lodges and compare them to the truth of the Bible.

Some might argue that lodges are not religious organizations. However, it must be observed that there are many outward religious features incorporated into lodgery. Lodges have altars, chaplains, temples, high priests, sacred books, oaths, religious rituals, burial services, and religious teachings. Furthermore most lodges claim that they are religious organizations.

Masonry: "Masonry is a religious institution." Masonic Ritualist, p. 14

"Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion, and its teachings are instruction in religion." Scottish Rite Freemasonry by Albert Pike

Moose: "The Loyal Order of Moose is an aggregation which has essentially a religious nature." Loyal Order of Moose and Mooseheart

Odd Fellows: "Odd Fellowship was founded on great religious principles." Manual by A.B. Gosh, p. 348.

Elks: "The ultimate aim and purpose of our Order is the brother hood of man and the observance of the real obligations of that relationship. This is true religion by whatever name it's called." ELDS - Official organ of the Elks Lodge.

If lodges claim to be religious organizations and claim to teach religious ideas it is necessary that we examine them to see what they are. While many people may belong to lodges for purely social purposes and may not even be aware of the religious ideals, a person is still under oath that he accepts the teachings and principles of the lodge. Just what are those religious teachings?

## I. WHO IS GOD?

### LODGES

"So broad is the religion of Masonry, and so carefully are all sectarian tenets excluded from the system, that

### BIBLE

"Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God and Him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10

the Christian, the Dew, the Mohammedan, may combine with the Buddhist, the Paree, the Confucian and worship the Diety under every form.” Masonic Monitor, P. 285

“Freemasonry has taught that each man can by himself work out his own conception of God and thereby achieve salvation.” Freemasonry by Ward.

“Father of *All* in every age; in every clime adored, By saint, by *savage*, and by sage; Jehovah, *Jove*, or Lord.” From Eagles Service

“I have watched the weary pilgrims in Japan wander to the temples of Shinto; I have seen Chinese praying to Confucius; I have sat in Greek Catholic Churches; and in each of them I was impressed with the spirit of brotherly love, and I have reached the conclusion that *no one sect in this world has a patent on the road to heaven*, but that there are *many paths*, all trod by those who strive to serve and lead in the same direction.” From ELKS Memorial Service

“The descendants of Abraham (Jews) and the followers of the Crescent (Moslems) are commingled with those of the Cross as one happy family, knowing no diversity of faith or creed.” Odd Fellow Ritual, p. 236

CONCLUSION: A Christian cannot confess that the Triune God is the only True God and still confess in a lodge that all gods are the same and that it doesn't make any difference which god you serve.

## II. IS JESUS CHRIST THE ONLY SAVIOR?

### LODGES

“In the history of man the shining lights are those who taught exceedingly clearly. Among such can be found Jesus, Christna of India; Confucius of China; Orpheus, Plato, and Pythagorus of Greece, or our own Christian leader and teacher, *Each of these taught truth.*” The New Age (Masonic), p. 494.

“Then, my brother, if Christ and Buddha are one and the same, why condemn you those that follow Buddha? Know you not that they who follow Buddha follow the same Christ?” Anc. Mystic Orient. (Masons), p. 11

“Thou shalt have *no other* gods before Me.” Exodus 20:3 1<sup>st</sup> comm.

“Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19

“This is eternal life that they might know Thee the *only true God*, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.” John 17:3

“Jesus saith unto him, *I am the Way*, the Truth, and the Life: *no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.*” John 14:6

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.” Matthew 22:37

### BIBLE

“There is one God and one Mediator between God and man, the Man, Christ Jesus.” I Tim. 2:5

“He that denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father.” I John 2:23

“Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

“For among the leaders whose precepts and examples have furnished the basis for the greatest religious systems: Brahamism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Judaism, Mahammedanism, and Christianity, the impartial student of History must admit that *Jesus* of Nazareth stands preeminent *as a teacher of ethics*, an example of morals.” Eagles Magazine

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Look up this brother who comes with faith in Thee.” Masonic Hymnal

Glory be to God on high, as it was in the beginning, etc.” Masonic Hymnal

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Matt. 16:16

“*Jesus Christ*...declared to be the *Son of God* with power... by the resurrection from the dead.” Romans 1:3,4

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, God in Three Persons, *Blessed Trinity*.” Hymnal 246

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, etc. Hymn p. 6

CONCLUSION: Christ is not proclaimed as the only divine Savior within lodges for the simple reason that many in lodges are not Christians, yet all worship together. In many cases Christ’s name is intentionally removed from Scripture passages in order to avoid offending those who reject Christ. Hymns are altered to avoid the Triune God.

### III. IS THE RELIGION OF LODGES A TEACHING OF CHRIST AS THE ONLY SAVIOR?

#### LODGES

“Freemasonry in practice teaches that all good men, whatever their personal belief, have a right to hope for salvation. Each mason can for himself work out his own conception of God and *thereby achieve salvation*.” Freemasonry by Ward

“Why were you presented a lambskin, and why is that the badge of a Mason?”

“The lamb has in all ages been deemed an emblem of innocence. He, therefore, who wears the lambskin as the badge of a Mason is thereby constantly reminded of that *purity of life and conduct*, so essentially necessary to *his gaining admission into the celestial lodge above*, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides.” Ritual of Freemasonry. Many other lodges use the lambskin to teach that purity of life will bring salvation.

“Masonry inculcates the practice of virtue, but it supplies no scheme of *redemption of sin*. It points its disciples to the path of righteousness.” Encyclopedia of

#### BIBLE

“By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, *not of works*, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

“*All have sinned* and come short of the glory of God; being justified *freely by His Grace* through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Romans 3:23,24

“I am the Way, the Truth, and life, *no man* cometh unto the Father but *by Me*.” John 14:6

“Being justified by faith, we have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:1

“A man is justified by faith, without the deeds of the law.” Romans 3:28

Masonry, P. 619

“I wish to live here and now up to my highest and best, believing that this is the fittest preparation for the life to come.” Moose Credo

“To teach my brothers that when their earthly accounts are closed, *it will be their deeds on earth which will aid them in partaking* of the treasures of the better world.” from the Elks memorial service, p. 6.

“There are many men in this world, and no doubt many in this lodge of Elks, who cannot with a good conscience subscribe to the creed of any Church, but whose *lives are filled with noble deeds* of love and charity. *Such men will surely find a place in heaven.*” from Elks memorial service

“Knowing that he believed in the eternal principles of this Order, we are comforted. He valued liberty, loved Truth, was swayed by justice in his dealing with all men—*for him eternal rest remains.*” from Eagle Funeral Ritual

CONCLUSION: The teaching of the Bible that we are saved by faith in Christ and the teaching of the lodge that man is saved by his deeds cannot be harmonized. You simply cannot believe both teachings. Either you confess that Christ is your only hope of salvation or else you must deny Him. The teachings of the Bible and the teachings of lodges are in conflict about the way to heaven.

#### IV. WHAT KIND OF MORALITY IS TAUGHT AS THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN LODGES?

##### LODGES

“I will not cheat, wrong, nor defraud a Master Mason’s lodge nor a brother of this degree knowingly.” Masons

“I promise not to take unfair advantage of an Eagle in business matters.” Eagle’s Oath

“I will always protect a brother, his good name and his family.” Elk’s Oath

##### BIBLE

“By the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in His sight.” Romans 3:20

“Do not frustrate the Grace of God; for if righteousness come by the Law, then Christ is dead in vain.” Galatians 2:21

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but *he that believeth not shall be damned.*” Mark 16:16

“Thou shalt not steal.” 7<sup>th</sup> commandment. Includes all people.

“I will at all times aid and assist a loyal Moose”

“I will not have illicit carnal intercourse with a Master Mason’s wife, his mother, sister or daughter, *knowing them to be such.*” Master Mason’s Oath

“I will never *knowingly* violate the chastity of any *pure* woman.” Elk’s Oath

“Thou shalt not commit adultery” 6<sup>th</sup> commandment. The Bible does not limit it to certain men or women.

“I will not have unchaste relations with his mother, sister, or daughter.” Eagle’s Oath

“I will never knowingly violate the chastity of the wife, mother, sister, or daughter of a loyal Moose. “

CONCLUSIONS: To take an oath to a limited morality is hardly God-pleasing. The Bible teaches that all men are our neighbors and that we must treat them all in accordance with God’s law.

## V. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In order to become a member of a lodge a person must take an oath which binds him to accept the teachings and principles of the lodge *before* he even knows what they are! The Bible forbids us to take such a kind of oath. John the Baptist was put to death because Herod made such an uncertain oath. An example of such an oath is this: “Binding myself with no less penalty than having my throat cut across, my tongue torn out by the roots, etc.” Either the oaths are taken seriously and then they are blasphemy; or else they are not taken seriously and become a matter of lying or deceiving in God’s Name. The horrible oaths force a person to break either the First or Second Commandment.

Prayers are also offered in many lodges. But since Christ cannot be proclaimed, prayers cannot be offered in His Name. But Jesus said, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you” John 15:16. To pray in any name other than Christ’s makes a prayer worthless. And idolatrous.

Just about every major church body at one time or another has publicly condemned the lodges. In many cases today, nothing is done about it. However, it is still a matter that is regarded seriously by the majority of Christian Churches. This is true among Catholics, Eastern and Russian Orthodox, Lutherans, Christian Reformed Churches, Baptists, and others. Even the lodges sometimes admit that there is a conflict between the religious teachings of the lodge and Christianity.

To take a position against an organization is not meant to imply that there are not any good and honest men among the members. Nor does it mean that there are no Christians who belong to lodges. The real point is that a person cannot be a Christian and a lodge member *consistently*. Either he will be a hypocrite about his faith or else a hypocrite about the teachings of his lodge. Neither one is acceptable to God. Jesus said: “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven.” Matthew

10:32,33.