

# ***The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry***

**Dr. Robert Morey**

A book review  
With additional thoughts and quotes  
by

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For many conscientious Christians one great concern is whether or not to join the Masons. Dr. Robert A. Morey has written an excellent book to help formulate a decision. Dr. Morey is the executive director of the Research and Education Foundation, which is committed to examining issues influencing Western culture. A prolific writer and quality scholar Dr. Morey has used his considerable talents to examine the origins and teachings of Freemasonry with some non-traditional conclusions.

Between a brief introduction to the topic and selected bibliography at the end of the book Dr. Morey traces the origin of the Masons, the corruption of the secret society and two possible solutions as to what the future of this organization should be. Eight short but readable chapters cover this general historical survey. Every major point is fully documented for independent verification. Prior to reading *The Origins and Teachings of Freemasonry* it would be beneficial if the reader were familiar with some leading Masonic figures, specific concepts, and specialized words. The author assumes his readers will know many religious terms that are part of antiquity. Perhaps the following short definitions of people and places, religions and rituals will be of help.

- **Ancient Mysteries.** The mythologies associated with polytheism (belief in many gods) varied among the Greeks,

Romans, Egyptians, and Teutonic (German) peoples. There were gods for every aspect of nature and of human life.. From such mythologies developed the mystery religions of Greece and Rome. These secret cults had common meals and initiation rites that symbolically celebrated death and resurrection. "In the late 18th and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries many Europeans, Masons among them, found their way to the Middle East, where they discovered the relics of those cultures which had practiced the Ancient Mysteries. Masons with a philosophical turn of mind recognized the similarities between their Order and the ancient traditions. The similar symbolism, some of which, like the ladder from a Temple of [Mithras](#), is shared with Masonry, encouraged the idea of Freemasonry's direct connection with those ancient rites."(W. Kirk MacNulty, *Freemasonry - A Journey through Ritual and Symbol*)

- **Freemason.** "The term *freemason* appears as early as 1375 in the records of the city of London. It referred to working masons who were permitted to travel the country at a time when the feudal system shackled most peasants closely to the land. Unlike the members of other crafts of the time - smiths or tanners for example - the masons gathered in large groups to work on majestic, glorious projects, moving from one finished castle or cathedral to the planning and building of the next. For mutual protection, education, and training, the masons bound themselves together into a local lodge - the building, put up at a construction site, where workmen could eat and rest. Eventually, a lodge came to signify a group of masons based in a particular locality" ("Freemasons; Mortar and Mysticism", *Ancient Wisdom and Secret Sects*).

- **(Cabal) Kabal** refers to a small number of persons organized for the purpose of engaging in secret or private intrigue is a cabal. Cabal was originally a Hebrew word that meant "*a secret.*"

Today it is usually a term of reproach with a sinister connotation. In England the word was used throughout the 17th century to describe certain secret or extralegal councils of the king.

- **Deism** as a religious movement began about 1688-1790 by advocating a natural religion based on reason rather than revelation. Followers of deism included Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, Rousseau, and Voltaire. Deism argues that God is entirely apart from the world. He created it, established its laws, and set it to operating without interfering in its operation. Natural laws make the world self-sufficient in nature, and moral laws are all that are needed for human life. These laws are discoverable and usable by human reason.

**Druids** Celtic priests were called druids, and their religion, druidism. Little is known of the druids because their rites were never written down. Apparently their gods were similar to those of other early peoples. The druids of Gaul (France) were both judges and priests who sacrificed criminals to their gods. The druids of Britain were chiefly religious teachers. Only men of good family could become druids. Membership was highly prized because druids did not have to fight or pay taxes. The druids taught that the soul was immortal, passing after death from one person to another. They deemed the mistletoe sacred, especially if grown on an oak tree. The oak was also sacred, and druids often held their rites in an oak forest. Wise in the lore of plants, animals, and stars, the druids were also magicians and astrologers.

- **Hinduism.** The major religion of the Indian subcontinent is Hinduism. The word derives from an ancient Sanskrit term meaning "*dwellers by the Indus River*," a reference to the location of India's earliest known civilization in what is now Pakistan. Apart from animism, from which it may have partly

derived, Hinduism is the oldest of the world's religions. It dates back more than 3,000 years, though its present forms are of more recent origin. Hinduism is unlike any other religion and is difficult to define with any precision. It has no founder. Its origins are lost in a very distant past. It does not have one holy book but several. There is no single body of doctrine. Instead there is a great diversity of belief and practice. Many doctrines would be at odds with each other in any other religion. Hinduism, however, has always tended to be inclusive rather than exclusive. There are many sects, cults, theologies, and schools of philosophy, and all of them find a home within Hinduism. It is a religion that worships many gods. Yet it also adheres to the view that there is only one God, called Brahman. All other divinities are aspects of the one absolute and unknowable Brahman.

- **Illuminati.** The Illuminati refers to a rationalistic type of religious society founded in Bavaria in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt (1748-1830). It claimed enlightened religious views, but was banned in Bavaria in 1785. The term "illuminati" was also used for other rationalistic-type and anticlerical religious sects from the 16th to 18th centuries.

- **Jacobites.** When used in a political context as a slur the word is equivalent to a pretender or someone who claims to be the legitimate sovereign, though another occupies the throne. In British history the name is applied especially to the son and grandson of the exiled James II (1633-1701). Many English and Scottish nobles remained faithful to this Roman Catholic branch of the House of Stuart. They were called Jacobites, from the Latin *Jacobus*, for "James."

- **Landmarks.** In ancient times, boundary stones were used as landmarks, before title deeds were known, the removal of which was strictly forbidden by law. With respect to the landmarks of Masonry, some restrict them to the sign,

tokens, and words. Others include the ceremonies of initiation. Some think that the Order has no landmarks beyond its peculiar secrets. (*Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry*)

- **Luciferian Conspiracy** refers to an anti-Masonic charge that Masons secretly pledged their allegiance to the devil himself who then empowered his devotees with super natural abilities. **This is an unworthy charge.**

- **Mackey, Albert** was a prolific writer and able champion of the Masonic order though not always accurate in his historical development of the movement. To his credit he did repudiate the Masonic writers who went before him and denounced their attempts to establish a historical link with so called antiquity manuscripts alleging to prove that the Masons existed prior to 1717. The truth of the matter is that Masonry began on June 24, 1717, when the Grand Lodge of London was organized at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern.

- **Masonry** may be divided into two general classes: Operative and Speculative. Operative Masonry refers to those men who were actually engaged in the craft of stone masonry. They built stone houses, churches, bridges, and government buildings. Speculative Masonry is just that, a philosophical mystical identity with true masons.

- **Mayans.** Dwelling in Central America the Mayan Indians lived within the Mesoamerican region enjoying an advanced culture. Mayan culture had begun to decline after AD 900, possibly due to overpopulation, stresses in the social structure, and deforestation. Nevertheless, as a people they were able to resist the Spanish conquests of the region longer than did the Aztec of Mexico or the Inca of Peru. In the end many Mayans did flee to northern Guatemala to establish the city of Tayasal as a place of refuge. They maintained autonomy until 1697. Then Indians were congregated into villages and towns where they were

converted to Roman Catholicism. Sheep, pigs, horses, and cows, unknown to the Indians, were introduced as were new grains, fruits, and vegetables. Indians were also shown how to use metal implements such as hoes, plows, and saws, and they were taught how to craft products of fiber, clay, wood, leather, and metal. The Spanish in building their new cities needed these products. A major contribution was the rise of the mestizo (often called the Ladino in Guatemala), a racial group made up of mixed white and Indian blood. Unfortunately, the arrival of the Spanish also ushered in a host of diseases--such as measles, smallpox, and malaria--against which the Indians had no immunity. Their numbers decreased dramatically so that by 1600 no more than 1 million Indians remained. The population stabilized near that level for the following two centuries. It was not until the early 1800s that the population began to increase again.

- **Newman, John Henry** (1801-1890) was the eldest of six children. He was born on Feb. 21, 1801, in London, England. His father was a banker. At Ealing Academy Newman mastered his lessons easily and spent much of his time editing the school paper. He was 16 when he entered Trinity College, Oxford. Newman won a fellowship to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1822. In 1824 he was ordained a priest in the Church of England. John Henry Newman attempted to reform the Church of England in the direction of early Catholicism—the church as it had existed in its first five centuries. Failing in this, he eventually joined the Roman Catholic Church in 1847 and rose in its ranks to become a cardinal. In 1847 Newman became a Roman Catholic priest in Rome. He founded congregations near Birmingham and London.

- **Oxford Movement.** Led by John Henry Newman who served as curate of an Oxford parish while a fellow of Oriel College the Oxford movement sought a renewal of "catholic," or Roman Catholic, thought and practice within the Anglican Communion. His zeal for a church with the

power and grandeur of medieval times led him to join the Roman Catholic Church in 1845. He was convinced that the Protestant element in the Church of England would never accept his traditionalist views. He was right.

- **Pantheism** is a view that says God is identical with the world.

- **Pike, Albert** (1809-1891), lawyer and soldier, was born on Dec. 29, 1809, in Boston, Mass. He moved to Arkansas and became a teacher in 1833. The *Arkansas Advocate* hired him and later became sole owner of the paper. Pike sold the paper in 1837 and began to practice law. He was a brigadier general in the American Civil War but was released from duty in 1862. He had meanwhile become a Freemason and was elected Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Grand Council in 1859. He was in that position for 32 years during which time he rewrote the rituals of the Freemason order and produced many poems. Pike was almost single-handedly responsible for the creation of the modern form of Scottish rite Freemasonry. Wealthy, well read and possessing an extensive library, he served as Grand Commander of the order from 1859 until his death and wrote a number of books on history, philosophy and travel, the most famous being *Morals and Dogma*.

- **Rosicrucianism and the Rosicrucian Manifestoes** are members of a worldwide brotherhood claiming to possess esoteric wisdom handed down from ancient times. The name derives from the order's symbol, a combination of a rose and a cross. The teachings of Rosicrucianism combine elements of occultism reminiscent of a variety of religious beliefs and practices. (*Encyclopedia Britannica*)

- **Scottish Rite.** All Masons are initiated in the "Blue Lodge" consisting of three degrees. Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. These steps are commonly called the 'Blue Degrees' because the color blue is symbolically

important to them." Upon completion of the third degree the candidate attains the rank of "Master Mason." At this point a Mason is eligible to progress by secret oaths and rituals and pursue further degrees through one of two paths: the "York Rite" or the more popular "Scottish Rite."

- **Theosophy** comes from the Greek *Theos*, meaning "god," and *Sophia*, meaning "wisdom." Loosely translated, it means "divine wisdom." Theosophy is a religious philosophy with strong overtones of mysticism. Mysticism is the belief that beyond the visible material world there is a spiritual reality--which may be called God--that people may experience through meditation, revelation, intuition, or some other state that takes the individual beyond a normal consciousness.

- **Vedas.** Sometime between 1500 and 1200 BC, the period of Aryan conquest and consolidation, the Rig Veda was composed. It is the oldest religious scripture in the world. The Rig Veda is a collection of 1,028 hymns to the gods. Three other collections—the Sam Veda, Yajurveda, and Atharvaveda--were added later. These were all composed over a period of several centuries and collected in their present form sometime during the 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC. Between 800 and 600 BC a body of prose writings called the Brahmanas as attached to the Vedas. These contain explanations of the ceremonies mentioned in the Vedas. Even later additions, called the Aranyakas and the Upanishads, presumably written between 600 and 300 BC, were added to this body of literature. All of these texts, along with some later books, became the sacred scripture of Hinduism as it evolved in the second half of the 1st millennium. Of them the Rig-Veda is the most revered, though its contents are not much known by most Hindus today.

- **York Rite.** The York Rite, like the Scottish Rite, is an appending body of Masonry, and offers degrees beyond the

Blue Lodge's three degrees. It consists of nine degrees additional degrees: Mark Master, Past Master, Most Excellent Master, and

**Royal Arch Mason;** the Cryptic Degrees of the Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master; and the Chivalric Orders of the Order of the Red Cross, Order of the Knights of Malta and the

### **Order of Knights Templar.**

## **Chapter One: Opening Principles**

Striving for historical accuracy and scholastic integrity Dr. Morey openly sets forth the foundation principles that guided his research.

! The First Principle: Objectivity

! The Second Principle: A Commitment to the truth

! The Third Principle: Dismissal of anything but documented evidence ! The Fourth Principle: An attitude of skepticism toward Masonic writers **Note.** A healthy skepticism is essential for the Masonic writers have not always been careful with the truth. In fact, there has been fraudulent documentation in order to give credibility to the movement. Fraudulent Documentation has included the following.

- The Antiquity Manuscript
- The Leland/Locke Manuscript
- The John Moore 1715 Letter
- The Henry Bell 1754 Letter
- The Charter of Cologne

! The Fifth Principle: An attitude of skepticism toward anti-Masonic writers

**Note.** A healthy skepticism towards anti-Masonic writers is necessary for some unscrupulous critics have engaged in unworthy criticism and accusations.

- The Norton Affair
- The Luciferian Conspiracy

! The Sixth Principle: Rejection of the idea that Freemasonry can be traced back to a single origin With these six guiding principles Dr. Morey methodically began researching Freemasonry; by reading the vast body of material available in chronology order. The wisdom of this approach was duly rewarded as a thesis merged which I have taken the liberty to summarize in the following statement.

*While Freemasonry was established as a Christian organization Generally speaking, Freemasonry has become corrupted by so many philosophical elements it is now essentially a pagan organization which should be redeemed by concerned Christians or abandoned by the same.*

## **Chapter Two: Christian Origins**

Citing a surprising display of evidence Dr. Morey argues that "from the very beginning, Freemasonry was viewed as a Christian institution and its symbols, degrees and ceremonies were all interpreted according to fundamental Christian doctrines. The founders of Masonry did not view themselves as pagans, cultists, occultists, Mayans, Druids, witches, Hindus, or Buddhists. They never claimed that Masonry descended from ancient Mystery cults or the worship of Isis. They knew nothing of such ideas." If this is true, then on what basis is the Masonic order challenged? The answer in part is that Masonry has radically changed. Since its initial inception in June 1717 Masonry has officially been de-Christianized.

## **Initial Attempts to De-Christianize Freemasonry**

According to Albert G. Mackey, the first attempt to de-Christianize the Craft was by Hemming in 1813 (*History of Freemasonry, Masonic History, Co., NY, 1898, I: 136*). This early attempt to transform the Lodge was rejected but other men emerged. Starting in 1871 Albert Pike tried but failed to shake Masonry free from its Christian heritage. His pagan

views were ignored for the most part in his own day but weeds were sown that were to spring up to choke the Christian life of the Lodge in years to come. A critical time period was the 1920's when an avalanche of Masonic books were produced seeking to trace Masonry to pagan origins. Surprising enough, while the leader was moving in a pagan direction the majority of those led were conservative in nature—and Christian. There in is the problem, the Masonic Lodge is philosophically schizophrenic. For the vast majority, the Craft is a Fraternity and not a religion. In particular, it is not some kind of pagan religion, which would contradict their Christian convictions. This is why they feel insulted when a modern anti-Mason reveals the dark side of the movement. Nevertheless, the tough questions have to be asked. In particular is the question that deals with the roots of the organization. Is Masonry a modern religious political movement of the eighteenth century or is it rooted in antiquity?

### **Is Freemasonry Rooted in Antiquity?**

The simple answer is no. "The attempts to find the origins of Freemasonry in a pre-biblical religion or in the Bible itself; is an exercise in futility. There is absolutely nothing in the Bible about Freemasonry. That say that Adam's fig leaf was a Masonic apron stretches all credulity. Masons have traditionally been told that the Craft began with the building of Solomon's Temple. But there is nothing in the Biblical record that even remotely by any stretch of the imagination hints of this idea" (Robert Morey). The earliest historical records of the practice of Freemasonry date no further back than 1717 with the first minutes of a Masonic meeting being held in 1723. James Anderson, who lived at this time, is credited with writing his *Constitutions*, a revision of a 14th century stonemason's Christian guidebook.

### **Chapter Three: The Legacy of Albert Pike**

"Much of the writings of Albert Pike are extracted from the books of the French magician, Eliphas Levi, one of the

greatest transcendentalists of modern times. Levi was an occultist, a metaphysician, a Platonic philosopher, who by the rituals of magic invoked even the spirit of [Apollonius of Tyana](#), and yet Pike has inserted in his *Morals and Dogma* whole pages, and even chapters, practically verbatim." Rather than renounce Pike he is exalted to an extraordinary degree within Masonic history. "To Pike the following remarkable tribute was paid by Stirling Kerr, Jr., 33<sup>rd</sup> Deputy for the Inspector General for the District of Columbia, upon crowning with laurel the bust of Pike in the House of the Temple: '*Pike was an oracle greater than that of Delphi. He was Truth's minister and priest. His victories were those of peace. Long may his memory live in the hearts of the Brethren.*' Affectionately termed 'Albertus Magnus' by his admirers, Pike wrote of Hermeticism and alchemy and hinted at the Mysteries of the Temple. Through his zeal and unflagging energy, American Freemasonry was raised from comparative obscurity to become the most powerful organization in the land." (Manly P. Hall, *Rosicrucian and Masonic Origins* pp 413-414)

#### **Chapter Four: Pagan Origins**

Trying to defend the principle of antiquity for their order Masonic writers appeal to ancient mystery cults for validation. Trying to discredit Masonry anti-Masonic writers do the same and yet both groups are wrong to do this. Simply enough, the Masonic order began along Christian lines but was deliberately transformed by men such as Albert Pike into a pagan temple complete with its own religious ceremonies such as Hindu baptism (*Masonic Baptism: Reception of a Louveteau: Adoption*, 1871). The Masonic baptism used water, oil, salt, and incense. After the Master Mason sprinkled the water on the head of the child, he was to use the oil to make the sign of a triangle on the forehead of the child. The triangle was used instead of the cross because the triangle referred to the Hindu trinity of Siva, Krishna and Brahma. During his lifetime the majority of Masons were Christian and they simply refused to be

converted to a heathen religion. Pike's Masonic baptismal ritual was seldom used and was eventually discarded. Most Masons are not even aware of its existence. However, the larger point is that Pike was successful in sowing the seeds of Hinduism into the lodge. His book *Moral and Dogma* published in 1871 is nothing more than a presentation of the doctrines of classical

Hinduism with a mixture of astrology, magic, and reincarnation. Albert Pike has never been renounced by present day Masons. Indeed, a large statue of him stands in Washington DC on the corner of 3rd and Indiana Ave., N. W. The continuing influence of Albert Pike in de-Christianizing the Masonic order is reflected in the fact that The Temple Publishers now produce books that use non-Christian principles to interpret its rituals. In addition, it is because of the influence of Pike and others that Masonic writers can argue for the antiquity of the order and anti-Masonic writers can follow suite. However, on this latter point, the reality is that a new order has super imposed ancient pagan rituals and concepts into its flow of consciousness in order to give historical validity.

Confirmation that Freemasonry is not an ancient religion from the dawn of time is that the Masonic writers contradict each other as to time, identity, nature, teachings and location of this religion. Because this is true anti-Masonic writers need not labor to find a historical connection as to the origin of Masonry with Stonehenge, the occult arts, mother India, China's Buddhism, Egypt, Assyria, Palestine, Greece Italy, France, Sweden, nor South or North American Indians. That these elements were found within the writing and thinking of its leaders. And is due to a recent embracing of eastern mysticism (1832 to present), not an ancient one.

## **Chapter Five: Historical Origins**

One immediate problem that Masonic writers face when appealing to antiquity for the origin of Masonry is that they must embrace paganism with zeal. Surprisingly enough

many Masonic writers do not hesitate. One author boldly notes that "According to a very old Masonic tradition, the Egyptian god **Thoth** "had played a major part in preserving knowledge of the mason craft and transmitting it to mankind after the **flood**...." (*The Origins of Freemasonry*, David Stevenson). Another writer, Malcolm C. Duncan (*Duncan's Ritual of Freemasonry*, page 266), in the attempt to find historical confirmation for masonry is bold enough to declare that Achilles was a Freemason! The evidence that is set forth for this preposterous position is when Homer has Achilles giving Priam THE HAND, when the latter is supplicating for the body of his slain son:

*"Thus having spoken, the old man's right hand oar the wrist  
He grasped, that he might not in any respect be alarmed in  
mind."*

## **Chapter Six: Conspiracy Theories**

Unfortunately, in an attempt to discredit the Masons anti-Masons have claimed that Freemasonry was and is part of a secret political or religious conspiracy. Most of the conspiracy theories can be dismissed—except those proposed by the Masons themselves—these need to be challenged. Consider some of these Masonic Myths.

- It is a myth that all the signers of the Declaration of Independence were Masons. Out of the fifty-five signers, only five or six were Mason according to any concrete evidence.
- It is a myth that the Boston Tea Party was a Masonic act of a Boston Lodge.
- It is a myth that all of Washington's general were Masons.
- It is a myth that George Washington forced General Lafayette to become a Mason in order to fight in the Revolution. Lafayette claimed that he had become a Mason in France when a young man.
- It is a myth that Washington was a loyal Mason, who faithfully attended his lodge,

dressed in fully regalia, or laid a single cornerstone in the nation's capitol as a Mason.

**Note.** The simple fact is that while Washington was elected to various Masonic honors and even had his portrait painted in full regalia without his knowledge approval or presence he always withdrew from the honors conferred. After being informed that he had been elected Grand Master over all the Lodges in America, Washington refused to accept the office. In a letter dated September 25, 1798, Washington stated *"And which allows me to add little more now, than thanks for your kind wishes and favorable sentiments, except to correct an error you have run into, of my Presidency over the English lodges in this Country. The fact is, I preside over none, nor have I been in one more than once or twice, within the last thirty years"* (*The Writings of Washington*, Vol 36 p. 453).

### **Chapter Seven: Anti-masonry Movements**

Many motives make people into anti-Masons.

- **First**, there are those who have personal reasons as to why they are against Freemasonry. Perhaps the language of calling another man Worshipful Master offended them. Perhaps they detected racial prejudice or maybe they simple did not get their way in a particular matter.
- **Second**, there are those who have political reasons for attacking the Lodge. In France Masonry gained a unique political character due largely to the intense hatred of the French people against the Jesuits who dominated and exploited them for so long.
- **Third**, there are those who have sincere religious objections to the secret oaths, symbolism, degrees and teachings of modern Freemasonry. The motivation to oppose Masons is expressed in three ways.
- **First**, some anti-Masons have taken it upon themselves to publish all the secrets of the Lodge. Samuel Prichard did this in 1730 in his book *Masonry Dissected, Being an Universal and Genuine Description of all its Branches From the Original to the Present Time*. Since 1730 books, pamphlets, and

videotapes have revealed all the secrets in the ritual of the Crafts.

- **Second**, some anti-Mason attack Freemasonry for being a secret society. In all fairness it is safe to say that it is and is not a secret society. The group does not try to keep its existence a secret. Indeed, there is an active campaign to recruit new members. The temples of the Masons dot the land and a special ring displays who may be a Mason. On the other hand, like every business and organization the Masons do have certain secrets that they try to keep among members.

- **Third**, some anti-Masons focus on certain objectionable elements found in the rituals, symbols and teachings of modern Freemasonry. There is room for concern. The conservative Missouri Synod Lutheran Church issued its ban on Masonic membership in 1964 for valid reasons.

1. Freemasonry is a religion—as many Masonic writers declare.

“For every Masonic writer who says that Freemasonry is not a religion, there are five Masonic writers who claim that it is a pagan religion.” (Robert Morey) The terminology of the Masonic Lodge also testifies to its religious nature.

2. Freemasonry claims to have come from ancient pagan mystery religions, which deny Christian doctrines.

**Note.** “The ancient Mysteries did not cease to exist when Christianity became the world's most powerful religion. Great Pan did not die! Freemasonry is the proof of his survival. The pre-Christian Mysteries simply assumed the symbolism of the new faith, perpetuating through its emblems and allegories the same truths, which had been the property of the wise since the beginning of the world. There is no true explanation, therefore, for Christian symbols save that which is concealed within pagan philosophy. Without the mysterious keys carried by the hierophants of the Egyptian, Brahmin, and Persian cults the gates of Wisdom cannot be opened.” (Manly P. Hall, *Masonic, Hermetic, Quabbalistic & Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy*)

3. Freemasonry officially teaches the doctrine of universalism or the salvation of all men.

4. Freemasonry is officially anti-Christian.

"That this is true can be seen if we ask when was the last time that a Christian interpretation of the Craft was published, supported and recommended by high officials, state lodges and supreme councils? We have seen hundreds of Hindu, Buddhist, Gnostic, Druid, occultic, New Age, Hermetic, etc. interpretations! If we have missed such a book, please let us know." (Robert Morey)

5. Freemasonry teaches that salvation comes through good works or worse yet that man is god!

**Note.** "One who would walk in the Way of the Craftsman must do one thing more. He must remember, always, that he is building a temple to God. He is building an edifice in consciousness in which he, himself, is an individual stone. In time, each human being will square his stone and place it in that temple, and when that temple is complete, God will behold God in the Mirror of Existence

and there will be then, as there was at the beginning, only God." - W. Kirk MacNulty, *The Way of the Craftsman*

6. Freemasonry downgrades the name of Christ."...During the years between 1723 and 1813 the invocation of the name of Christ in the endings of prayers gradually died out. In Masonic quotations of scripture the name of Christ came very pointedly to be deleted from the text. "It is perhaps because the Freemasonic God, as revealed to Royal Arch Masons, is so far from being 'that Religion to which all men agree' that it was determined that Holy Royal Arch workings should not be conducted in Lodges but separately in 'Chapters' under the control of a Grand Chapter and not of Grand Lodge." (*The Brotherhood*, Stephen Knight)

7. Freemasonry has a false view of God.

**Note.** The God of Masonry was at the beginning the Christian Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But then as the British Empire spread itself over the world and the rich and power of the earth wanted to be in the Lodge room had to be made for rich Muslims and Hindus whose views of God

did not come from the Bible. So the rituals of Masonry were changed to accommodate Muslims and Hindus.

8. Freemasonry denies the supremacy of the Bible by using other books such as the Hindu Vedas or the Muslim Koran.

9. Freemasonry officially forbids people to pray in the name of Jesus.

10. Freemasonry does not reflect Christian values with its own bloody oaths and secrets.

**Note.** Most Masons today do not take these oaths seriously. If they did they would be on the same level as Jim Jones or Charles Manson for the oaths are to commit murder by slitting someone's throat and then disemboweling him. It is interesting that these oaths were not part of early Freemasonry but are the remnants of the political conspiracies of the Illuminati and Jacobites.

### **Chapter Eight: Concluding Thoughts**

The challenge many Christians face is how to respond to the Masonic order. Dr. Morey suggests that practicing Masons either reform the organization thoroughly or withdraw completely. While Dr. Morey's book does not dwell on this next point at length it can be noted that a voice of protest should arise from within the organization concerning many of the Masonic rituals and teachings for outside the lodges the Christian community has not been officially silent. Many Christian churches forbid members to belong to or be involved in Masonic Lodges.

Among the Protestant denominations the Lutheran Church of Austria has stated that *"all organizations, whether secret and oath-bound or open, which are either avowedly religious, or practice the forms of religion, without confessing as a matter of principle the Triune God and Jesus Christ as the Son of God comes in the flesh and our Savior from sin...are anti-Christian."*

*(Doctrine Statements and Theological Opinions, 1956).*

The Baptist Union of Scotland concluded that *"total obedience to Christ precludes joining any organization such as the Masonic movement which seems to demand a whole*

*hearted allegiance to itself, and at the same time refuses to divulge all that is involved in that allegiance prior to joining. The initiate is required to commit himself to Masonry in a way that a Christian should only commit himself to Christ."*

The Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland concluded its investigation into Freemasonry by declaring that *"there is an inherent incompatibility between Freemasonry and the Christian faith. Also that commitment within the movement is inconsistent with a Christian's commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord."* Similar statements have been articulated by the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in 1942, the Christian Reformed Church in 1974, the Wesleyan Methodist Church of Australia, the Salvation Army, and the Anglican Diocese of Sydney. In short there is worldwide concern in the highest echelons of Christendom that the Masonic Lodge is not the place where God's people ought to congregate.

Nevertheless, the Masonic Lodge continues to attract Christians because of an unclear message illustrated by the position the Southern Baptist took in May 1993. In March 1993 the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention published a report on Freemasonry.

The report recommended Freemasonry

- For its works of charity and education and
- For upholding values such as honesty, integrity, industry, and moral character.

At the same time the report noted several incompatibilities between the Christian faith and Masonry such as

- The use of offensive titles such as 'Worshipful Master'
- The taking of bloody oaths and obligations
- The pagan and occult nature of many of the writings of past Mason leaders
- The Bible's shared role among other items in Masonic temples
- The doctrine of salvation by works
- The doctrine of universalism
- The historical absence of African Americans to membership.

It is somewhat disconcerting to many Christians to hear a major denomination officially charge—with documentation—the horrendous beliefs of Freemasonry and then leave the final decision to stay in the movement to the individual's conscience without a pastoral note of exhortation to come out and be separate. 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 *"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."* What some will not do, I will. I will exhort God's people to disassociate themselves from Freemasonry. Let the Church be the Church— and let the people rejoice.

### ***Appendix***

#### **Questions for Masons**

1. **Question.** Would you be surprised to learn that many of the Masonic symbolism are Identified with ancient mysteries as well as occult rituals and practices?

The twelve star signs on the roof of a Masonic Lodge

The serpent eating its tail

Circumambulation (lit. to walk around)

The inverted five pointed star

The equilateral triangle

The point within a circle

The speaking of mantras and of sacred words not mentioned in the Bible

The east-west alignment of Masonic Lodges

The three basic degrees of initiation

The practice of striking a blindfolded initiate on the head before giving him new light "The ancient Mysteries did not cease to exist when Christianity became the world's most powerful religion. Great Pan did not die! Freemasonry is the proof of his survival. The pre- Christian Mysteries simply assumed the symbolism of the new faith, perpetuating through its emblems and allegories the same truths, which had been the property of the wise since the beginning of the world. There is no true explanation, therefore, for Christian

symbols save that which is concealed within pagan philosophy. Without the mysterious keys carried by the hierophants of the Egyptian, Brahmin, and Persian cults the gates of Wisdom cannot be opened." (Manly P. Hall, *Masonic, Hermetic, Quabbalistic & Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy*)

**A Biblical Response.** The Bible forbids believers to be involved in any form of witchcraft or occultism.

Deuteronomy 18: 10-11 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.*

Leviticus 19: 31 *Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.* (cf Exodus 7-8; 1 Samuel 28)

2. **Question.** Would it surprise you to learn that George Washington was never a practicing Mason as President neither of the United States nor for two decades before that?

3. **Question.** Is the sacred name for God "Jahbulon"? Did you know that this name really unites two pagan gods with the special name of Jehovah?

In the ritual of exaltation, the name of the great Architect of the Universe is revealed as **JAHBUL-**

**ON**.... Each syllable of the 'ineffable name' represents one personality of this Trinity:

**JAH** = [Yahweh](#), the God of the Hebrews

**BUL** = Baal, the ancient Canaanite fertility god associated with 'licentious rites of imitative magic

**ON** = Osiris, the Ancient Egyptian god of the underworld

**Note.** Using clever words some Masonic writers sensitive to the Christian community try to

distance themselves from the reality of uniting these two well-known pagan gods to the sacred name of the Lord. But it cannot be done. The indictment stands.

4. **Question.** How can the Masonic Lodge's advocacy of a religious order that rivals Christian be justified? How can the *Koran* of the Muslim faith and the *Vedas* of Hinduism be placed on the same altar and be held with the same esteem as the Word of God?

5. **Question.** Why won't the Masons just remove the offensive bloody and violent oaths from their ceremonies? How can such language even be utter in light of Colossians 3:8 which says *"But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."* Then there is Philippians 4:8 *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, Whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."*

6. **Question.** Does the Masonic triangle still represent the Christian Trinity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as the founders of Freemasonry believed or does it now represent the Hindu trinity of Krishna, Shiva, and Brahma as claimed by modern pagan writers?

**Note.** Words do have meaning and so do symbols. The Masonic triangle cannot be meaningful to both the Hindu's and Christians at the same time. There is a principle of logic that says that if something means everything it means nothing.

7. **Question.** How can there be a Revival of Masonry in 1717 when there is no evidence that it existed prior to June of that year?

**Note.** As partisan as Albert Mackey was for the Masons he was honest enough to confess that "prior to the year 1717, there never were Grand Masters or a Grand Lodge except such as were mythically constructed by the romantic genius of Dr. Anderson...We cannot, therefore, in these points call the organization which took place in that year a Revival"  
(*History of Freemasonry*, IV: 890-891).