

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

February 27

2022

Editor's Note: I recently read an obituary in a local newspaper that informed about a man who was said to be a member of both the Lord's church and the Masonic Lodge. So, now the question that arises is, can one be both a member of the Masonic Lodge and the Lord's church? Have you ever thought about that question before? Well, to help us answer that question, I commend the following article to you. (BP)

The following article is one I wrote in 1993 after someone asked me if a Christian could be a member of the Masonic Lodge. Much more evidence could be presented from works such as *The Encyclopedia of Freemasonry* by Albert Mackey and *Morals and Dogmas* by Albert Pike but they set forth the same teachings as found in *The Kentucky Monitor*. The person who contends that Masonry does not contradict the Bible is either ignorant of what Masonry teaches or of what the Bible teaches. Through the years I have studied both and I believe the Bible to be the inspired word of God, not just a symbol of His will.

MASONRY VERSUS THE BIBLE

On Sunday night, April 11, I answered a question concerning The Masonic Lodge. I read from Masonic writings and contrasted the teaching of Masonry with what is taught in the Bible. One of the

books I read from was *The Kentucky Monitor*, the handbook on Masonry for Kentucky lodges. I do not have space in one article to refer to all the writings I mentioned in the lesson but I thought I would just use the *Kentucky Monitor* to show the impossibility of one being a member of the Masonic Lodge and still follow the Bible.

The Monitor states that Masonry is "*a way of common men to God*" (p. xxi). Jesus said, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me*" (John 14:6). Who will you believe?

The Monitor says a man is a Mason "*when he finds good in every faith that helps any man to lay hold of divine things and sees majestic meanings in life, whatever the name of that faith may be*" (p. x). The Bible teaches that there is "*one faith*" (Eph. 4:5). In speaking of a "Mediator or Redeemer" believed in by different people of the world the Monitor states that "*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; Masons, Hiram*" (p. xv). Note! Hiram is to Masons what Jesus is to Christians! In fact, the initiation into the third degree (Master Mason) is a reenactment of the death and resurrection of Hiram. The Bible affirms that there is "*one Lord*" and "*one Mediator*" and that one is Jesus (Eph. 4:5; 1 Tim. 2:5). Again, who will you believe?

The candidate for Masonry is told that his "*reception within the lodge*" is a "*symbol of the agonies of the first death and of the throes of a new birth.*" He is told, "*There you stood without our portals, on the threshold of this new Masonic life, in darkness, helplessness, and ignorance. Having been wandering amid the errors and covered over with the pollutions of the outer and profane world, you came inquiringly to our doors, seeking the new birth*" (p. 26). They go on to say in this same paragraph that "*initiation is, as it were, a death to the world and a resurrection to a new life.*" Can anyone be so deceived that he would believe these statements instead of what Jesus teaches in John 3:3-5.

Concerning the Bible the Monitor teaches *"that you consider it as a symbol of that eternal Book of the Will of God"* (p. 11). The Bible claims to be the mind of God revealed and not merely a *"symbol"* of God's will (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 1 Cor. 2:9ff). This would explain why the Bible account of the creation is rejected. On page xvii of the Monitor we read, *"Man, according to ancient tradition, was originally one of the inhabitants of the Kingdom of Light, and the home story of our first parents, notwithstanding the later Garden of Eden story, was among the stars."*

Also, in the Monitor there is reference to their looking forward to *"the erection of a spiritual temple," "A temple in which there shall be but one altar and but one worship; one common altar of Masonry, on which the Veda, Shastras, Sade, Zend-Avesta, Koran, and Holy Bible shall lie untouched by sacrilegious hands, and at whose shrine the Hindoo, the Persian, the Assyrian, the Chaldean, the Egyptian, the Chinese, the Mohammedan, the Jew, and the Christian may kneel and with one united voice celebrate the praises of the Supreme Architect of the Universe"* (p. 95). Who could be so blind as to think that one could condone such and still be a Christian?

A Christian cannot uphold Masonry in any way. One could just as easily be a member of any other religious organization and be right as to contend that he can be a Mason and be a member of the Lord's church at the same time. Masonry is a false religious institution. The Monitor says, *"Masonry is a religious institution, and we thereby show our dependence upon and trust in God"* (p. 28). I believe brother Elvis Bozarth stated it well in an article he wrote several years ago. He said, *"Since we would not allow into our fellowship a brother who tried to be a member of the Baptist Church or the Methodist denomination, why should we tolerate one being a Mason? It is wrong and inconsistent too!"*

I am sure there are many who have gotten into this false religious system without really knowing of the false doctrines and practices of Masonry. They see only the benevolent work and causes supported by Masonry. They have never investigated to see if it is right or

wrong. If you are among these, to you we say, *"come out from among them, and be ye separate"* (2 Cor. 6:17). If you have never been a member of Masonry I hope the things we have pointed out in the lesson and in this article will be of help to you and that you will not be deceived by this false religious system.

Yes, Masonry is in direct contrast to the teaching of God's word. One cannot believe both. Make your choice. I will continue to affirm that one must follow the teaching of God's word in order to please Him. Will you?

✍ James Hahn

Editor's Note: I hope this article on the topic of Masonry was helpful to you. Now, although this is a topic that we don't hear much about today, it is an issue that does occur within the Lord's church today. Therefore, this is a subject that is in need of giving some much needed thought and attention to in study of the light of God's all inspired word.

So, let's take the topic of Masonry versus the Bible seriously, and may we always remember, my beloved brethren, "have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5:11). (BP)

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Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	4:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

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