

DAVID vs. GOLIATH?

by

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**This book is based on information presented to the Masonic College of
Washington, September 12, 1998.**

Eighth Printing

**A synopsis is also available in
*Transactions 2000, 2001 Volumes 7 & 8***

Transactions is the official annual publication of Walter F. Meier Lodge of Research #281
Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book is dedicated to Past Grand Master Dr. Sidney Kase, who gives me the support and encouragement to communicate my Masonry into the written and spoken word; to Past Grand Master George Jurgich, who taught me the true meaning of Brotherhood, and who gave me the courage to face Goliath head on; and to Past Masters George Wilkinson, Frank Viegas, Coe Tug Morgan, and Cleo McCord who taught me the true meaning of Masonry, using the example of their very lives.

A special thank-you is in order to my wonderful wife, Beverly, for teaching me patience, tolerance, and restraint (by showing it toward me); for enduring my long nights and short days during the writing and researching of this project; for encouraging my intense study of the Bible; for sharing her knowledge and her Christian faith; and especially for helping me to better see from the Fundamentalist perspective.

Thanks also to Brothers Ed King, Gary Leazer, Roger Ingersoll, Roger Firestone, Gary Dryfoos, and the late John J. Robinson for their monumental efforts at attempting to educate the public about the true nature of modern Freemasonry — and a special thanks to the millions of Masons throughout the world who let the light of brotherly love, relief, and truth shine through their lives.

VW David S. Julian

Past Grand Organist, Past Grand Bible Bearer, Past Deputy of the Grand Master in District #5,
of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Washington

CONVENTIONS

Since much of the following consists of Internet communications, some minor errors in spelling and punctuation have been corrected, and these Internet conventions are used:

Unless otherwise noted, all Bible quotations (NIV and KJV) are in **red** and from the *NIV Complete Bible Library*, published by the Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, MI.

All dictionary definitions are from *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, published by Simon & Schuster (Warner Books), New York, NY.

All quotes from the ritual of the degrees is from *The Washington Monitor and Freemason's Guide to the Symbolic Degrees*, published by the Grand Lodge of Washington, Tacoma, WA.

Text from the original posting is green and enclosed in double carets: << **Their words** >>

Text from a previous posting is gray and enclosed in single carets: < My previous words >

The text of my replies is black and not enclosed in any brackets.

<snip> means that part of the original text has been deleted.

Editor's notes are black and in brackets: [NOTE: *This is the editor's note*]

Long quotations from other sources are in Blue **This is a long quotation**

Supplemental Material (added since the original printing) is brown and in brackets:

[**SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: This is supplemental material.**]

Abbreviations WB, VWB, RWB, MWB (Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Right Worshipful and Most Worshipful Brother) are Masonic Titles of Respect carried over from the United Grand Lodge of England from past centuries and in no way denote or imply any kind of religious worship of the bearer of the title.

From the book of 1st Samuel in the Great Light of Freemasonry:

But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him. And Saul's servants said unto him, "Behold now, an evil spirit from God troubleth thee. Let our lord now command thy servants, which are before thee, to seek out a man, who is a cunning player on an harp: and it shall come to pass, when the evil spirit from God is upon thee, that he shall play with his hand, and thou shalt be well."

And Saul said unto his servants, "Provide me now a man that can play well, and bring him to me."

Then answered one of the servants, and said, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him."

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, "Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep."

And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight."

And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

Now the Philistines gathered together their armies to battle, and were gathered together at Shochoh, which belongeth to Judah, and pitched between Shochoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered together, and pitched by the valley of Elah, and set the battle in array against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on a mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side: and there was a valley between them. And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, "Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together."

When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid. And the Philistine drew near morning and evening, and presented himself forty days.

And Jesse said unto David his son, "Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge."

Now Saul, and they, and all the men of Israel, were in the valley of Elah, fighting with the Philistines. And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him; and he came to the trench, as the host was going forth to the fight, and shouted for the battle. For Israel and the Philistines had put the battle in array, army against army. And David left his carriage in the hand of the keeper of the carriage, and ran into the army, and came and saluted his brethren. And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

David said moreover, "The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine."

And Saul said unto David, "Go, and the LORD be with thee." And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it.

And David said unto Saul, "I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them." And David put them off him. And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance.

And the Philistine said unto David, "Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves?" And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. And the Philistine said to David, "Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field."

Then said David to the Philistine, "Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands."

And it came to pass, when the Philistine arose, and came and drew nigh to meet David, that David hasted, and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth.

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

— 1 SA 16:14-23; 17:1-7,14; 17:17-24; 17:37-50 Holy Bible, King James Version

WALKING INTO THE VALLEY OF ELAH

On February 14, 1998, St. Valentines Day, the Masonic College of Washington was able to hear the words of John Edward Decker, Jr., a vehement anti-Mason. Decker is the founder of Saints Alive In Jesus, a nonprofit corporation, with offices in an independent neofundamentalist church in Kirkland, Washington. Primarily anti-Mormon, Decker has diversified in recent years, expanding into the lucrative realm of anti-Masonry.

I was present at this meeting, as I had been at another of his appearances before the College two years earlier, when my recollection was that VWB Maurice Brooks, Deputy at Large of the Grand Master of Prince Hall Masons, very clearly put Decker in his place concerning his misperceptions of secrecy surrounding the Fraternity. In this second meeting, Brooks noted that Decker had toned down his rhetoric substantially, and several Mormon Masons expressed their dismay that Decker had spent nearly two thirds of his presentation attempting to link the symbols of Freemasonry with the symbols of the Mormon religion, and claiming that neither Masons nor members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints could really be Christians.

After the meeting, Decker promised to meet with me for an afternoon, gave me his business card, and told me to contact his office and he would set it up. In my naiveté I was sincerely anxious to understand how Decker's perception of the Masonic fraternity could be so completely different from my own, and I was willing to give him the benefit of the doubt when it came to his honesty and sincerity. He did, after all, claim to be both a Christian and a Jew during the Question and Answer Period that followed his talk. The following day I visited Decker's web site, sending him this communication:

Subj: Freemasonry
Date: 02/15/98
To: edecker@nwlink.com

Met you yesterday at the Masonic College.

I am going away for a few days, but when I return I am anxious to ask you some questions, and perhaps enLIGHTen you about some of the aspects of Freemasonry, and perhaps you can answer some questions for me about what appears to be a highly exclusionist philosophy now being espoused by some of the contemporary Christian churches, and about what I perceive to be the destructive behavior of some "ministries" that seem to be attacking, not only non-religious philanthropic fraternities like the Freemasons, but also what they describe as "apostate" Christian churches as well.

I'll be in touch soon, with a review of your article in this month's newsletter...

Thanks again for being willing to engage in an open dialogue about a highly emotional subject.

Enjoyed meeting your son, and I wish him much love and success in his missionary endeavors.

David Julian
Grand Bible Bearer
The Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Washington

I received no reply, so when I returned from my vacation trip, I sent this communication:

Subj: Heresies of Freemasonry

Date: 02/17/98

To: edecker@nwlink.com

Ed —

In your current newsletter on the web entitled *Simple Heresies of Freemasonry*, you listed a series of five points as to why you felt Bible-based churches should deny membership to Freemasons. Since your talk to the Masonic College, I thought you would have been anxious to clear up some of the misconceptions you may have inadvertently been propagating, including these five. Let me clarify them for you, if I may.

First, there is no prohibition in the Bible against the swearing serious oaths, or invoking the name of God for serious undertakings. If you will consult your *Zondervan Bible Dictionary*, you will find the following entry:

OATH (Heb. shevuah, alah, Gr. horkos). An appeal to God to witness the truth of a statement or of the binding character of a promise (Gen 21:23; 31:53; Gal 1:20; Heb 6:16). Two varieties of the oath are found in the OT — a simple one for common use and a more solemn one. Oaths played a very important part not only in legal and state affairs but in the dealings of everyday life. A number of formulas were used in taking an oath, such as "the LORD is witness between you and me forever" (1 Sam 20:23) and "as the LORD who rescues Israel lives" (14:39). Certain ceremonies were observed in taking an oath — in ordinary cases the raising of the hand toward heaven (Gen 14:22; Deut 32:40), in exceptional cases the putting of the hand under the thigh of the one to whom the oath was made (Gen 24:2; 47:29). Sometimes one taking an oath killed an animal, divided it into two parts, and passed between the pieces (15:8-18). Swearing was done by the life of the person addressed (1 Sam 1:26), by the life of the king (17:55), by one's own head (Matt 5:36), by the angels, by the temple (23:16), by Jerusalem (5:35), and by God. It was forbidden to swear by a false god (Josh 23:7). By the time of Christ the OT law regarding oaths (Exod 22:11) was much perverted by the scribes, and Jesus therefore condemned indiscriminate and light taking of oaths. The lawfulness of oaths is recognized by the apostles, who called on God to witness to the truth of what they said (2 Cor 11:31; Gal 1:20).

2CO 11:31 The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying.

GAL 1:20 I assure you before God that what I am writing you is no lie.

If Paul was divinely inspired, didn't he know that by swearing to God that the testimony contained in his epistles to the Corinthians and Galatians was true would condemn him to hell?

MT 5:33 "Again, you have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'Do not break your oath, but keep the oaths you have made to the Lord.' But I tell you, Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is his footstool; or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the Great King. And do not swear by your head, for you cannot make even one hair white or black. Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

The key to these verses is that they do not refer to "oaths you have made to the Lord."

This means you are not supposed to say things like, "I swear on my mother's grave it happened," or "May Seattle fall into the sea if I'm lying," or "May heaven strike me dead right here if I won't pledge my tithes by next Sunday." Apparently, at the time of Jesus' mission, people were making a lot of these kinds of frivolous oaths.

JAS 5:12 Above all, my brothers, do not swear — not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "Yes" be yes, and your "No," no, or you will be condemned. (NIV)

JAS 5:12 But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath: but let your yea be yea; and your nay, nay; lest ye fall into condemnation. (KJV)

In the verse above, the NIV has James saying "*not by heaven or by earth or by anything else,*" yet the KJV says "*neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath*".

That's the danger of translations. You always run the risk of changing (by adding or removing words) an interpretation that might seriously impact someone's belief system. When giving testimony in a court of law, traditionally the witness was asked, with one hand raised and the other on the Bible, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?" Was the witness asking for divine assistance for accuracy, or swearing a frivolous oath on a book? I see nothing frivolous about court testimony.

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *Since the original e-mail I have also discovered this Bible verse concerning the swearing of oaths:*

REV 10:5 Then the angel I had seen standing on the sea and on the land raised his right hand to heaven. And he swore by him who lives for ever and ever, who created the heavens and all that is in them, the earth and all that is in it, and the sea and all that is in it, and said, "There will be no more delay!"

Apparently, like Paul, this angel did not realize he would also be condemned to hell for swearing an oath.

Since the beginning of this great nation, every President, Senator, Congressman, Supreme Court Justice, member of every branch of our Military Services (including the Chaplaincy Corps.), and nearly every state and local public official and law enforcement officer has sworn a similar Oath of Office, ending with "...so help me God."]

In each of the three degrees, the candidate is required to promise and swear a solemn obligation to maintain a higher moral standard than in the previous degree. The obligation is preceded with the assurance that the obligation "contains nothing which conflicts with your duty to God, your country, your neighbor, or yourself." The penalties of the obligations, you erroneously referred to as "the most vile of blood oaths" refers to what the candidate will feel like if he violates those moral standards, not what Masons might do to him.

Second, there is no such thing as a Masonic Deity. Although religious (because Freemasonry requires a belief in God, there are opening and closing prayers in the meetings, Lodges derived from the United Grand Lodge of England may be dedicated to John the Evangelist or John the Baptist, and the Bible is considered to be the "rule and guide of our faith"), there is no requirement for the worship of, or belief in, any specific form of the Supreme Being.

Just as the Father God of the Christians, currently referred to as "Almighty God" or the Greek or Roman equivalents, was also known as YHVH (I am), El, El Olam, El Roi, Shaddai or El Shaddai, Eloahor, Eloi, Elohim, Yah, Yahweh, Adon, Adonay, Kurios Adon, Jehovah, Elyon, Hupistos, and dozens of descriptive terms in His previous versions, there are many different religions that recognize that there is one Father God, but use the names and symbols they choose. Significantly, Freemasonry designates God as the "Grand [or Great] Architect of the Universe," so that during the opening and closing prayers, each Mason, of whatever religious denomination, may visualize the Father God of his own conscience.

There are only three degrees of Freemasonry, Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, and Master Mason. There are appendant bodies of Freemasonry (which means you have to be a Mason to join them — in much the same way you cannot join the AMA until you are a Doctor), such as the Scottish Rite, York Rite, and others, some of which designate themselves as having higher degrees, but no Master Mason is required to participate in any of them.

Each division of Freemasonry and its appendant bodies have their own charitable causes. You don't hear about them much, because unlike many Christian philanthropies, no one has to sit through a sermon about a God they don't believe in to get fed. While you are searching the libraries for obsolete books about Freemasonry, you might want to look at a contemporary book, *Masonic Philanthropies*, by S. Brent Morris. In it you will find a partial list of Masonic charities, gifts, and grants to the tune of 1.4 to 3 million dollars a day — *mostly to non-masons*.

As the Past Grand Organist and current Grand Bible Bearer of the Grand Lodge of Washington, I can assure you, just as Past Grand Masters Dr. Sidney Kase and George Jurgich, and the Christian ministers present at the meeting assured you, no Mason is required to believe in, worship, or participate in any kind of religious doctrine whatsoever; no religion (especially Christian, which is the predominant religion of American Freemasons) is ever ridiculed, criticized, or in any way demeaned in any Masonic degree that I, or they, have ever attended. In addition, you must know that if there was such a three-headed monster God as you described, none of the many clergymen who are members of our noble craft would have ever joined, never mind remained as members. Certainly there have been Masons who have tried to fit their own notions of what Freemasonry meant to them into other molds, such as the Mormons and the Theosophical movements of the past, but their beliefs and practices in no way indicate or dictate any universal dogma of Freemasonry, any more than the teaching of the Branch Davidians, Jim Jones, or Heaven's Gate groups in any way indicate the universal teachings of Christianity.

Third, the Shrine, one of the aforementioned appendant bodies, is not a part of Freemasonry and again there is no requirement that a Mason join the Shrine, although many do because they want to contribute in a more substantial way to the fantastic work the Shriners do at their Burn Centers and Crippled Children's Hospitals, and the entertainment they provide for children through their Parade and Clown Units. In addition, many Shrines have Golf Courses, low-cost food and beverages, picnic and other recreational areas. The Masonic Bible (*The King James Version, with Masonic References*) that was presented to me by my Lodge at the time of completion of the Posting Lecture of my third degree makes no mention of the Shrine at all. The Shrine has no degrees, and its initiation ceremony is a tongue-in-cheek replica of old time fraternity hazing, which has been substantially toned-down in recent years. The "ritual" was written by a couple of theatrical people from New York, and there are no references to Moslems vs. Christians in the "Divan."

Once again, your reference to a "terrible and binding oath" to a God other than the candidate's own, is completely false.

Fourth, this is the text of the Apron Lecture in its entirety. I don't know where you got the idea that the Lambskin apron will be the "candidate's covering at the great white throne judgment of God," unless you are confusing Masonic with Mormon ritual. From the *Washington Monitor*:

At the initiation of every candidate, he should be presented, as his own property, with a white lambskin apron. [My brother, I now present you with this] lambskin or white leather apron. It is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason; more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; and, when worthily worn, more honorable than the Star and Garter, or any other order that could be conferred upon you, at this time, or at any future period, by King, Prince, Potentate, or any other person, except he be a Mason. It is hoped that you will wear this emblem with equal pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity.

[Optional:] It is yours to wear throughout an honorable life and, at your death, to be placed upon the coffin that shall contain your mortal remains, and be with them laid in their final resting place. Let its pure and spotless surface be to you an ever-present reminder of a purity of life and rectitude of conduct, a never-ending inspiration for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for greater achievements; and when at last your weary feet shall have come to the end of life's toilsome journey, may the record of your life and actions be as pure and spotless as this fair emblem.

Fifth, there is no promise of Godhood, or salvation, through the usurping of any priesthood, real or imaginary. The first degree is emblematic of youth, the second manhood, and the third, wisdom of old age. Freemasonry is a system of morality, taught by degrees, through allegories, which are much like the passion plays of Christianity, except the Mason is free to worship the God of his choice. The working tools of Ancient stonemasons take on new meanings, as the Mason attempts to build his life to a point of goodness and purity where he hopes he will be accepted into the Celestial Lodge above (the heaven or dwelling place of the God of his own conscience).

[Supplemental Material: *Some anti-Masons are critical of the lectures of the Entered Apprentice and Master Mason degrees, where we are told in the former that:*

The covering of a Lodge is no less than the cloudy canopy or starry-decked Heaven, where all good Masons hope at last to arrive by the aid of that theological ladder which Jacob in his vision saw extending from earth to heaven, the three principle rounds of which are denominated Faith, Hope, and Charity, and admonish us to have Faith in God, Hope in immortality, and Charity for all mankind.

and in the latter:

...justice will sooner or later overtake us, and although our thoughts, words and actions may be hidden from the eyes of men, yet that All-Seeing Eye, whom the sun, moon and stars obey ... pervades the inmost recesses of the human heart, and will reward us according to our merits.

Ge 28:10-17 And Jacob went out from Beer-sheba, and went toward Haran. And he lighted upon a certain place, and tarried there all night, because the sun was set; and he took of the stones of that place, and put them for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep. And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the LORD stood above it, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of. And Jacob awaked out of his sleep, and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not. And he was afraid, and said, How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven. (KJV)

Of course, every Christian knows that Jacob's Ladder was actually a prophetic vision of Christ, as revealed by St. John the Evangelist, one of the two Patron Saints of Freemasonry.

JN 1:51 And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. (KJV)

Some anti-Masons, like Jack Harris, go so far as to say, "But Christians know it is the Person of Jesus Christ who will reward men according to their faith."

Is that what the Bible really says? From the Great Light of Freemasonry, KJV:

PR 24:12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

PS 33:13-22 The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works. There is no king saved by the multitude of an host: a mighty man is not delivered by much strength. An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy; To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name. Let thy mercy, O LORD, be upon us, according as we hope in thee.

MT 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

2 CO 5:9-10 9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

RV 20:11-15 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

RE 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

While the gift of salvation is provided through faith in God, the Bible clearly and repeatedly states that each man's heavenly reward is based solely on "his works", "his deeds", "what he has done." It's a subtle but important distinction: In Masonic ritual, Faith, Hope, and Charity are denoted as the "principle rounds," or most important steps of Jacob's ladder, but they are definitely not the only rounds. Freemasonry does not "provide" the "faith" (*PS 33:15 He fashions their hearts individually (NKJ)*); nor does Freemasonry "guarantee" immortality (it only instructs the Mason to have the "hope" of the same). What Freemasonry does provide is plenty of opportunities to provide "charity to all mankind."

From the King James Bible, the Great Light of Freemasonry:

1CO 13:1-13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

*We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
We are climbing Jacob's ladder,
Soldiers of the cross.*

*Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Every round goes higher, higher,
Soldiers of the cross.*

-- Negro Spiritual]

Personally I don't think many Freemasons would want to belong to churches that would deny them membership because of these ridiculous accusations. Somehow many of these neofundamentalist groups just seem to overlook the real teachings of the Christ, or "anointed one," they say they follow. They deny the universalistic concept of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God, even though the Gospel says:

1TI 6:3 If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain.

MT 12:50 "For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother."

On the fourth page of the preface to *Morals and Dogma*, Albert Pike makes this statement (emphasis mine):

The teachings of these readings are not sacramental, so far as they go beyond the realm of Morality into those other domains of Thought and Truth. The Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite uses the word 'Dogma' in its true sense, of doctrine, or teaching; and is not dogmatic in the odious sense of that term. *Everyone is entirely free to reject and dissent from whatever herein may seem to him to be untrue and unsound.* It is only required of him that he shall weigh what is taught, and give it fair hearing and unprejudiced judgment. *Of course the ancient theosophic and philosophic speculations are not embodied as part of the doctrines of the Rite;* but because it is of interest and profit to know what the Ancient Intellect thought about these subjects, and because nothing so conclusively proves the radical difference between our human and the animal nature, as the capacity of the human mind to entertain such speculations in regard to itself and the Deity.

Albert Pike was very clear that his book contains his own theosophical ideas and that his "*ancient theosophic and philosophic speculations are not embodied as part of the doctrines of the Rite.*" Pike was putting his own theosophical ideas into Freemasonry, in much the same way as modern ministers, like R. J. Rushdoony and Gary North, try to insert their Reconstructionist views into mainstream Christianity.

I've been studying the Bible intensely for the past year, and I can't find one place where Jesus enjoined his disciples or other followers to go out and attack other philanthropic groups, never mind their enemies. Or to put it into the words of a Native American minister I met while donating my services to a street ministry in Colorado several years ago, "You can't be *for* Christ and *against* anyone. *We are all brothers here.*"

Please, it's hard enough in this immoral day and age to get people to do things unselfishly for the less fortunate, without having to take time away from our good works to respond to this kind of thing. Don't be one of those that think that a "narrow way" and a "narrow mind" are somehow synonymous. Know these truths: many of the movers and shakers in churches (and other civic minded and philanthropic groups) are also Freemasons, because Freemasonry requires devotion to God and Country and encourages both religious and civic participation. And as you write your next newsletter, you might say a little prayer of thanks to the Freemasons, who, after seeing why their forefathers came to this continent to escape the widespread corruption and murderous intolerance of European Christianity, had the foresight to found this great secular country of ours on the Masonic concept of universal brotherhood of man under the common fatherhood of God, that allowed you to testify in court without violating your own religious principles and gives you the freedom to worship the God of your choice in the church of your choice.

Finally, I'd like to recommend a real eye-opening book by Frederick Clarkson, not a Freemason to my knowledge, called *Eternal Hostility — The Struggle Between Theocracy And Democracy*. Showing the connection between Pat Robertson's Christian Coalition, the Unification Church of Sun Myung Moon, and the Promise Keepers, Clarkson exposes what he calls the "wild card" of the "theology of vigilantism" which urges the enforcement of "God's law" and argues for a fundamentalist revolution against constitutional democracy and for the establishment of "God's kingdom on earth." Tim McVey is just the tip of the iceberg. Wait until you find out who is being groomed as the "king" until Christ gets here...

Until then, I'm looking forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
David S. Julian
Grand Bible Bearer

[Supplemental Material: *March 23, 2004, in an official ceremony at the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC, that was attended by a Senator and six Congressmen, Sung Myung Moon and his wife Hak Ja Han received "Crown of Peace" awards. Wearing flowing robes reminiscent of Middle Ages kingly attire they both had golden crowns placed on their heads, which was described on official Family Federation for World Peace and Unification websites like this: "The coronation of True Parents and King and Queen of the Peace Kingdom was no small event..." and "... the crowning means America is saying to Father, 'Please become my king.'" The event was sponsored by the Interreligious and International Peace Council and reported by United Press International and the Washington Times, all Moon front groups.*]

By this time I had become aware of some other anti-Masonic sites, and I had started to attempt to correct some of the obvious misperceptions about Freemasonry being bandied about. I began an e-mail listing of these groups, and sent the responses to all of the anti-Masonic sites simultaneously, whereby I hoped I would not have to repeat myself concerning these allegations.

Meanwhile, in order to flush Decker out, I set up a dummy newsletter using a fake letterhead as the Liars For Jesus Hotline:

Subj: LIES, LIES, LIES...
Date: 03/10/98
To: LFJ-Hotline@hotmail.com

My True Christian Masonic Brothers —

One of the first lies the Liars for Jesus crowd starts with is a request that you send them comments. Once they discover that your comments will challenge their assertions, distortions, and outright lies, they don't want to hear anything more from you.

Some will politely ask you to remove their names from the Liars for Jesus list, yet when you ask them politely to remove their venomous hate pages from what purport to be "Christian" web sites, they will just ignore you.

The other "good news" is that these sites are not connected to any of the mainstream Christian churches, but are mostly maintained by people in independent "ministries" that are loosely connected only by web threads. What they describe as "Bible-based Christianity" turns out to be just another moneymaking scheme like Manna Tech.

We had Ed Decker of Saints Alive at the Masonic College here in Washington. His presentation, which was supposed to be about his perceptions of Freemasonry, turned out to be an hour-and-a-half tirade against Mormons, with occasional references to the influences of Masonic symbols in Mormonism. The meeting got pretty lively when Mormon Masons present at the meeting took him to task! One of the Prince Hall participants noted that Decker had toned down his rhetoric since his last appearance two years ago.

Decker promised to meet with me for a day of his choosing, but as of this date he has not responded to any of my e-mail's. I don't know why I expected that a man (who says he is a Christian and a Jew) who would lie about Freemasonry in his web site wouldn't also lie to my face...

WB David S. Julian
Grand Bible Bearer
MWGL of F&AM of Washington (USA)
Past Master & Senior Deacon
Daylight Lodge #232
Seattle WA (USA)
<http://www.eskimo.com/~daylight>

The ruse worked. Shortly thereafter I received a curt note from Decker. This is my reply, including his comments:

Subj: TRUTH

Date: 03/11/98

To: edecker@nwlink.com

In a message dated 98-03-11 12:27:32 EST, you wrote:

<< You know, you are a real crackup.... I get 60-75 e-mails a day, most of which are normal people discussing things in a normal way. They will always take 1st place over a hostile spammer like yourself. >>

Yours is not the only site I send information to, but I am hardly a spammer. Spammers are people who send unsolicited commercial e-mail's to individuals who do not request them.

The information I send is generally positive in nature, and contains biblical responses to anti-Masonic web sites, like Saints Alive, that says it welcomes comments and lists a specific e-mail address to send them. The truth is that neither you, nor any of the other LFJ sites, really wants to hear any comments that might correct your misconceptions about our benevolent fraternity. If you don't want to get my pro-Masonic e-mail, take down your anti-Masonic web page — and your requests for feedback.

<< Your rhetoric about the purity of FMY and the foulness of anyone who has an issue with it is foolish at best. >>

You may consider it foolish rhetoric, but I believe it is my duty to defend the character of Christian Freemasons, especially when the recipients of Masonic charities may be endangered when this disinformation goes unchallenged.

<< If the masons are so noble, why was it that I had 5 books and 2 videos stolen from me in your lodge of good men becoming better? >>

We were keeping tabs on the table, and it was noted right after the meeting that not one book or tape was sold after Past Grand Master George Jurgich had his say. You and your people were in constant view of the table, with the exception of a few minutes during lunch. Since there were no posted prices for any of your materials, and there was no repository for payment, it is remotely possible that someone could have picked up some of the materials thinking they were free (since the Masonic College provides its materials free of charge), but no mention of any missing books or tapes was made after the lunch break, or at the conclusion of your presentation. Have you shared this information with Past Grand Master Dr. Sidney Kase?

<< I have had a major computer crash and been down for most of a month and then serious oral surgery that has laid me up for another 2 weeks. >>

I am sincerely sorry to hear about your computer crash and I wish you a speedy recovery from your oral surgery.

PS 34:17 The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.

<< Now, call 425-822-1198 and set a date for next week with my secretary. Please do it with some degree of respect or forget the whole thing . >>

I am always respectful of people who make an attempt at honest communication, especially if they are ideologically miles apart from me. One of the things Freemasonry teaches us is to respect people of other religions, races, and creeds, because we believe in the universalistic principle of the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God.

I have to tell you, Ed, that I am always amazed when people who maintain web sites that misrepresent our noble fraternity as a religion; or try to attach Freemasonry to some kind of occult mysticism or theosophists of the 19th century; who mercilessly attack goodhearted, compassionate men and women, most of whom are Christians, trying to do their best for the less fortunate — by trying to attach them to some kind of Satanic hogwash — then have the nerve to ask for respect or courtesy for themselves.

<< Select one or two topics to discuss and I will be happy to meet with you at my offices for a few hours ... not a whole day at a time. I just don't have that much open time to spend. >>

Here are the topics:

(1) Since your religion is in conflict with the Masonic concepts of the founders of this great secular and pluralistic, constitutional democracy, can a man be a Christian (by your definition) and an American?

(2) How can you repeatedly claim that Freemasonry is a religion, when you know that (a) there is no Masonic Worship Service; (b) the religion of each Mason is his own, because Freemasonry is a secular fraternity, and (c) Masonic Lodges are not entitled to the nonprofit status of religious institutions?

<< Let me hear from you.
J. Edward Decker>>

You are hearing from me now, Ed. Like you, I am also very busy, between the church, the Grand Lodge, and a full-time job, my time is extremely valuable. I will be happy to meet with you if you could provide me with some possible dates and times in the future. I will have to take some time off work to meet you in the daytime, perhaps you would let me buy you lunch. Early evenings are ok, as long as I get enough lead time. Early Saturday afternoons, or Sundays (after church)...

<< Gal 6:14>>

[GAL 6:14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.]

Thank you for sharing that with me. Let me share this verse from the Bible, which it is my great honor to bear before the Brothers at each Grand Lodge ceremony:

GAL 5:14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

WB David S. Julian
<snip>

[NOTE: In the interest in saving space, the remainder of the signature lines will be snipped from my signoffs.]

To which Decker responded, and I rebutted:

Subj: Re: Heresies of Freemasonry

To: edecker@nwlinc.com

In a message dated 98-03-11 12:30:19 EST, you write:

<< Just wondering where the Bible OK's swearing to have your throat slit from ear to ear, belly ripped open, et al in the wondrous *oaths* of FMY? >>

Actually, no Freemason ever swears to do any of those things. They are just the symbolic penalties, basically, what a Mason should feel like if he reveals the so-called secrets of Masonry. As you already know, Ed, every library (including yours) has a shelf of books "exposing" Freemasonry.

Name one of those authors, or any of the supposed former Masons quoted in the LFJ web sites, that had any of those penalties actually happen to them... so much for the "blood oaths" argument.

The real truth is that the candidates promise and swear to keep the contents of the degrees secret, not from the world, (which already knows them, just like you do), but so the character of the man can be tested. It's much the same thing as a Prisoner of War will only state his name, rank, and serial number to the enemy, even under torture — *even if the enemy already knows everything the prisoner knows*. We call that *character*, Ed...

A Christian Mason, just like a Christian non-Mason, can do his best witnessing for Jesus just by living the moral life his religion dictates. As for interpreting the Bible for you, Ed, I'll be happy to help you any way I can. In the words of Pope Gregory IV, "God often speaks to the youngest monk." I know you are anti-Mason and anti-Mormon. How are you with the Catholics?

God tells me that what you are doing on this web site is a long way from Christian charity and loving your neighbor as yourself. I wish He would hurry up and tell you that.

WB David S. Julian

<snip>

In the meantime I had started to receive e-mail from other anti-Masons. Their communications contained much of the same allegations, and I took the time to give each of them a careful response.

Here's where this issue gets sticky. On the one hand we are reminded to follow the biblical admonition to "turn the other cheek," and not engage in arguments with our enemies; yet at the same time, our Closing Charge enjoins us to defend the character of our brother. I, for one, became tired of listening to the morning and night unchallenged bellowing of Goliath.

I was now on-line with another anti-Mason: Duane Washum of *In Search of Light Ministries*. My first communication with him went like this:

Subj: Re: Truth about Freemasonry

To: 110302.1466@compuserve.com

In a message dated 98-03-15 23:50:04 EST, you write:

<< Hi, Dave.

I received your, what? - dissertation, or something or other, I suppose, but I am in need of clarification as to what it is I am looking at here. >>

Your name and e-mail address was listed on an anti-Masonic hate site as a resource. You have been scheduled to receive information that are responses to anti-Masonic tracts, web pages, and testimonials. Rather than go over the same ground with the different sites, all information is sent to all LFJ sites at the same time.

<< I see reference to someone I do not know, named "Ryan." I guess this is, at least in part, some sort of a letter that was sent to someone named Ryan, from someone else. >>

The letter sent to Ryan was in response to a tract of his on the Cutting Edge web site, entitled "Yes Virginia, Freemasonry is a Religion." Needless to say, in spite of requests for comments, Ryan has yet to respond to my answer to his disinformation.

<< Would appreciate some clarification as to the origin, your purpose in sending it to me, etc. These are things that are perhaps trivial in your own mind, but items which I would like to be in on, since there is obviously some sort of dialog you are wanting to establish. And I have no problem with that, but would you please be so kind as to "fill in the blanks" for me. Then we can talk, okay? >>

The purpose of sending you this information is twofold. The first, of course, is to clarify some of the disinformation being bandied about on the Internet about the noble secular fraternity known as either Free & Accepted Masons or Ancient Free & Accepted Masons.

The second is to let you know just how far this disinformation has gone. To see the kind of damage you and your new pseudo-Christian brothers have done, see: <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6810>

<< Thanks a bunch.
Sincerely,
Duane Washum
Ex-Mason For Jesus >>

Please accept my apology on behalf of the entire Masonic Fraternity. Either we failed to properly educate you about the symbolic nature of the teachings, or we should have investigated you more thoroughly from the beginning. Let me assure you, that even if you have revealed the secrets of Masonry, none of the penalties of your obligations will come to pass at the hands of Freemasons. Just remember, had you been dropping off your children to the Day Care Center in the Murrah Building in Oklahoma, you might have been blown to bits by one of your new brothers. (See Christian Reconstructionism)

WB David S. Julian
< snip >

By this time I had joined a Masonic forum on the Internet called the freemasonry-list@Masonic.org, and I had disclosed the nature of my contacts with the anti-Masons. There I learned two valuable things among many: (1) I was not the first to approach the anti-Masons, and (2) it was neither fair nor Masonic of me to refer to this group as the Liars For Jesus (a term I had unabashedly stolen from MWB Dr. Sidney Kase), as it was pointed out to me by one of the brethren that there were fundamentalist Christians who were Freemasons, and that these guys weren't doing it to "save" Freemasons. They were, as Decker's late father had earlier informed the Masonic College about his son, "only doing it for the money." So I changed the name to the Liars For Money, formerly the Liars For Jesus, abbreviated as LFM/LFJ.

Now Decker decided to respond to Washum's communication:

<< Ditto Dave... you are like a madman with your material and aggressive behavior... >>

Let's see, you're the one with the hate-Masons, hate-Mormons web site who is supposed to be a Christian, but I am supposed to be a madman with aggressive behavior? What do you call lying in Jesus' name about Freemasons, some kind of warped definition of sanity? I'm no madman, but I'm surely up in arms about this. *Somebody has to defend the character of all the Christian Freemasons from these vicious and unprovoked attacks by people claiming to be Christians.*

<< I will also delete every e-mail you send ... unless you put me in touch with your pastor first, so we can have some kind of mediator you will listen to and then we can perhaps have dialogue. >>

I fully expect you to delete every e-mail I send you. It is the most obvious lie you tell. You ask for responses to your hate site, and leave your e-mail address on your home page. Yet if I send you any information that points out your disinformation and lies, or anything positive about Freemasons, you consider that as aggressive behavior. Quite frankly, Ed, I'm tired of playing your little game of "jump through the hoops." First you said you would meet with me for a whole day. Then you said you were too busy, that you would only be willing meet with me for two hours. Then you insulted me by saying I had to be polite to your secretary, as if I had ever not been polite.

I asked you for dates and times, and you responded by claiming to need my Pastor present. What are you going to try for next, I'll have to have Pat Robertson present to verify my Pastor isn't an apostate? Why are afraid to meet with me, Ed? If you were telling the truth, you would have nothing to fear from me.

PR 2:7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

<< But right now, you are a classic example of an unregenerate and uncontrollable man. >>

Let's see, you call me names, try to defame me and the members of the secular fraternity I belong to, denigrate the reputation of Christians, especially Christian Freemasons, everywhere, put out a hate site against Mormons and Freemasons, and you defile your church by selling books and tapes that contain information you know to be lies, all in the name of Jesus — yet I'm the one supposedly unregenerate and uncontrollable? You don't mean uncontrollable, Ed. You mean I refuse to be intimidated.

GAL 5:19 The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<< The name and phone # of your pastor, then we can talk. >>

Since Jesus is not enough of a mediator for you, how about this: I'll meet with you in front of the congregation of the church that provides your office, and you can use your Pastor as the mediator.

If you want to meet my Pastor, our church meets at Horizon Elementary School, 27641 - 144th Ave. SE, in Kent. 10:00 am Sundays. It might do you some good to attend a church that will welcome you "just as you are" with open arms instead of a closed mind.

But I really think you need to learn to speak for yourself, and to be responsible for the results of your own actions. If you can't take the heat, take down your hate site, or at least be honest enough to admit you just don't want to hear the truth.

<< Ed Decker
cc: Duane Washum >>

[NOTE: *The following message from Decker to Washum was included in Decker's e-mail to me.*]

<< Dear Duane ... Sorry to have heaped this one on you.... I have 18 more of his tirades in my in basket. sheesh! This is not "fertile" ground. I probably have still 50 backlogged e-mails unanswered tonight from Masons who act like they want to dialogue and search things out. I can't take time from them for him while he is in such a state as this. I wonder if he has a job? Would appear that he does this on his boss' time unless he stays awake all night. >>

All the Masons (including me) want to search things out. If somebody came by your house and dumped a ton of sewage on your front yard without any provocation at all, wouldn't you want to find out why? You can't take time for me Ed, because you can't convince me your lies are true, no matter how many times you repeat them. I know my responses get monotonous to you, because most of the LFJ sites share the same misinformation from the same poor sources -- like yours.

I won't be provoked by your unkind descriptions of me, Ed. You know I have a full-time job, and you have my business card. You'll notice it has a street address, not just a P.O. Box and a web site.

You can call the company I work for any time during normal business hours and you can talk to me, not an answering machine or a "secretary". And you're right, sometimes I do stay up late at night. Some times I am so incensed by what you're doing to the public image of Freemasonry, Christian Freemasons, and the Body of Christ in general, I find it hard to sleep.

<< Is that it, Dave, or are you just running your own business into the ground instead of the folks who pay you? I guess I should use your business card you gave me and find out... Ed .. >>

Call any time, Ed. What you should be spending your time finding out is what part of the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) that cheap shot is.

MT 12:35 "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. But I tell you that men will have to give account on the day of judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

Everyone who made it this far into this e-mail, including you, now knows you for what you really are. It's obvious that you are responding this hurtful way, instead of sticking to the issues, because my e-mails force you to look in the mirror, and you don't see a very pretty picture. What's wrong, no one confronted your lies face to face before? The good news, Ed, is that there is still hope for you, and Duane.

1JN 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

Sorry, Duane. I just had to jump in there. Sometimes Decker just doesn't remember who he's talking to, and his unfounded assumptions about me reflect the same kind of twisted logic he uses against the Freemasons and the Mormons. I fully expect people like Decker, and you, to respond to me this way.

1CO 2:4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began.

WB David S. Julian
<snip>

That was the last I heard from Ed Decker, although my communication continued with Duane Washum:

Subj: Re: DIFFERENT DRUMMERS
Date: 03/23/98
To: 110302.1466@compuserve.com

<< You are absolutely correct about there being apostate ministers out there who have gone astray from the teachings of the Written Word of God, and some of them, unfortunately, are members of the Masonic Order. >>

There are no apostate ministers in Freemasonry. Freemasonry teaches that each man must eventually personally answer to his God for his actions here on earth. Since we are a secular fraternity, we do not bandy about words like "apostate." Ministers of all faiths are welcome in the Masonic Family, and all faiths are represented here.

<< Why are you asking me? With the exception of that matter of whether or not Freemasonry is a religion, I have never carried the standard for the matters of concern which you have stated, although I do readily state that any "god" which is totally acceptable to Hindus, Moslems, Buddhists, Luciferians, etc. is TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE to me, because such a "god" is a false god. >>

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *How many "gods" are there? The first line of the Apostles' Creed, recited in virtually every Christian denomination, defines God clearly: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth..." One God; one Heaven. This echoes the first words of the King James Bible, the Great Light of Freemasonry:*

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

"False god" is an oxymoron, defined by Webster as, "a combination of contradictory or incongruous words." If the object of your worship (defined by Webster as "reverence offered a divine being or supernatural power") is false, then it's not God. Significantly, if the object of your worship is God, then He's true, whether or not He, or the name He is called by, is "acceptable" to Hindus, Moslems, Buddhists, Jews, Christians, you, me -- or even to Duane Washum!]

Your testimony is being used with your permission in an anti-Masonic web site that is propagating the false idea that Freemasonry is a religion, even though you know firsthand that it is not. Freemasonry is not a religion for three reasons, regardless of anything you have read or heard. (1) There is no Masonic Worship Service, because Freemasons are encouraged to worship the God of their own choice in the church of their own choice, not at secular Lodge meetings; (2) there is no substitute God, deity, or other theology taught in Freemasonry, in fact, prior to all three degrees, the candidate is assured that there is nothing in the obligation that will conflict with his duties to his God, his family, his neighbor or himself. In addition, the candidate is asked more than 12 times if this is of his own free will and accord; (3) Not being a religion, members of Masonic Lodges are not entitled to the tax deductible contributions of churches.

<< You cannot find one single instance where I have been engaged in character assassination of anyone, whether the person is a Mason or not, so I don't know why you would ask this of me. >>

By erroneously claiming that Freemasonry is a religion, that there is some kind of worship of false gods going on there, you are bearing false witness and maligning the character of your Masonic neighbors. In addition, your "testimony" about "blood oaths" is an outright lie. The penalties of the obligations are merely symbolic: the fact you are still alive is the true testimony to this.

<snip>

[NOTE: *What I snipped here was the same paragraph about oaths from the Zondervan Bible Dictionary that I had sent to Ed Decker earlier, with the same question: "If Paul was divinely inspired, didn't he know that by swearing to God that the testimony contained in his epistles to the Corinthians and Galatians was true would condemn him to hell?"*]

<< I take that back. I do know why you would ask this of me. You paint all who are opposed to the teachings of Freemasonry with the same broad brush, which is an erroneous action on your part. Further, I resent any such insinuation. >>

I only paint you with the same brush I paint all people who make false claims against an organization of millions of good, philanthropic, people they do not even know; who do not realize the damage they are doing to themselves, the image of the Body of Christ, and to the character of Christian Freemasons everywhere.

I have no qualms with people who are opposed to the teachings of freemasonry. Freemasonry isn't for everyone. It is only for men of high caliber, strength of character, and especially people who can be trusted to keep their word. No one told you to join, no one told you to leave. But it's an entirely different thing to leave an institution you never really believed in to begin with, than to start attacking that institution just because a few people rubbed you the wrong way.

<< Some of the finest people I have ever met in my life were members of the Masonic Order, including my father, who I love dearly. When he died, I lost much more than my dad - I lost my very best friend.

I became a Mason because it was one of his death-bed wishes. So for you to bring out that venomous paint brush and paint me as being against men, just because they have been misled into believing they were joining a fraternity that is compatible with the Christian faith, only proves just how disingenuous you are capable of being. You should be ashamed of yourself. >>

Some of the finest people you are ever going to meet are still Masons. Before you were admitted into the Lodge as an Entered Apprentice Mason, you were asked for assurance that you were petitioning the Lodge because you had a favorable opinion of it, and that you had not been unduly influenced (that means asked, even on your father's deathbed) to join. In addition, if you really want to know the truth about whether Freemasonry and Christianity are compatible, you should contact Gary Leazer. He's the one the Southern Baptists hired to investigate Freemasonry.

After hundreds of thousands of dollars and two years of full-time research, Leazer's conclusion was that there is no compatibility problem, and no reason why a Freemason could not be a member of the Southern Baptists. After Holly's attempted resolution to try to kick Masons out — and after Holly's Neofundamentalist faction attempted to get Leazer's conclusions reworded — Leazer joined a Lodge and became a Freemason himself.

<< Regarding the matter of Freemasonry being a religion. It was probably Henry Wilson Coil's writings where I first saw that in print. He said it first, Dave. I just quote him. I assume you know who Henry Wilson Coil is? >>

Coil, Pike, Graves — and a myriad of other authors who claimed to be Masons have tried to mold all of Freemasonry into their own narrow ideas, much the same as some modern, renegade, fundamentalist Christians attempt to represent all of Christianity by attempting to foist their own radical dissenting definitions of Christianity as the only "real" Christianity.

The truth is that, other than the Bible, which it is my great honor to carry in the Grand Lodge processions, there are no "authoritative" books about Freemasonry. Had you been a true Mason, you would have known that Freemasonry (known to true Christian Masons as "Christian Charity") resides in the heart, not in any doctrine.

<< I'll take a look at the site, but you should first of all understand, before I even go there: I DIDN'T WRITE IT!!!! Can you conceive of that statement? Do you know what it means? As of this moment, I have no idea what I will find there, so I don't have any way of knowing if I agree or disagree with what it contains. All I know is, I DIDN'T WRITE IT!! IT ISN'T MY WEBSITE!! Is there some way I can make this any clearer to you? Probably not, or at least not until you put that broad paint brush away. You keep coming right back to the same old thing. Should I return to the de la Beckwith matter and say to you, "See what kind of fruit your Masonic tree has grown?" Is that fair to you, Dave? How long are you going to keep trying to play this silly little game? >>

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: this paragraph is about the web site <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/6810> referenced earlier. I found it quite extraordinary that Washum claimed he hadn't seen the site, which might have simply parroted Decker's disinformation or Washum's own false testimony, yet he was already vehemently distancing himself from it.]

I never said or even implied that this was your web site. I merely suggested you look at the kind of fruit your anti-Masonic lies have spawned. I already know you don't agree with all of what it contains, because you'd have to be a real looney-toons to believe Billy Graham is an apostate 33rd-degree Mason, Amway is a Masonic plot to take over the finances of the world, Bill Clinton is a 33rd Degree Mason, etc. You may consider your slanderous words attacking the character of good people, many of them Christians and senior citizens, as a "silly little game," but I don't.

LK 11:33 "No one lights a lamp and puts it in a place where it will be hidden, or under a bowl. Instead he puts it on its stand, so that those who come in may see the light. Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness."

<< Haven't checked this out to see whether or not you have accurately quoted the scriptures, but I will say this much: If it comes from the Written Word of God, I embrace it wholeheartedly, including "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me." >>

Do you realize in that statement, Almighty God acknowledges the existence of other gods, just not above Him?

1CH 16:25 For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods.

PS 95:3 For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.

DA 11:36 The king will do as he pleases. He will exalt and magnify himself above every god and will say unheard-of things against the God of gods. He will be successful until the time of wrath is completed, for what has been determined must take place. He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the one desired by women, nor will he regard any god, but will exalt himself above them all.

<< Most any Masonry forum or news site where the Freemasonry/Christianity is openly debated. Try looking in on some of them. Talk about "character assassination". >>

Christianity is not a valid topic, either in a Masonic Lodge or a Forum. One of the big disappointments for me is that I have to be constantly defending Christian Freemasons from people claiming that their assaults of the character of Masons is some kind of Christian Charity.

<< I have no argument about Freemasonry being religious. I have never said its doctrines were anti-religious. It is religious through and through. Strange that you should bring this up after such an implication of indignance re: Freemasonry being a religion. Coil pretty well covered that, too. Something about substituting an adjective for a noun, when they both mean the same thing. I have never said its doctrines were not religious.

My position is that the religious doctrines of the lodge are incompatible with the Christian faith. Obviously, you have not read enough of the bible you carry around as Grand Bible Bearer to understand that Christianity is not a religion - it is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. >>

According to my Webster's Dictionary, the definition of a religion is: *the belief in and worship of a god or gods*. The definition of religious is: *devout; pious*. So a person can be religious, which means he worships the god of his choice, of the religion of his choice, in the church of his choice, and still be a Mason — in fact he is encouraged to do so. Discussion of specific religious dogma or doctrine is specifically forbidden within the confines of the Lodge in order to promote unity of purpose: secular fraternity and philanthropic functions.

The same dictionary defines Christianity as: *1. Christians collectively. 2. The Christian religion*. It never refers to any kind of personal relationship. That's your own definition of Christianity, just like you have your own definition of Freemasonry. It's pretty hard to communicate with someone who makes up the definitions of the words as he goes along.

<< *Au contraire*, Dave. If you're looking for a religious service in the lodge, you don't have to go any further than the second section of the MM degree (Hiramic Legend). Death, burial and resurrection all in one neat little package that is "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." The candidate symbolically experiences death when "Hiram" is hit in the head with a setting maul; he symbolically experiences burial when "Hiram" is buried at the brow of a hill; and after the chaplain offers up a prayer in which he prays for his eternal salvation, the candidate is resurrected by the Worshipful Master. >>

First of all, no one asked you to engage in any activity that you found offensive or inconsistent with your duties to God, your country, your neighbor, or yourself. You have to reach pretty far to make raising of the body of Hiram Abif some kind of raising from the dead. As it was explained to you, Hiram Abif was buried, not once, not twice (at Mt. Moriah), but three times. The third time was right after the raising of the body (not the mind, spirit, or soul), after it was carried back to the Temple and "buried as close to the Holy of Holies as Jewish law would permit." I guess you missed that part of the lecture, while you were so busy trying to find excuses to get out of a Lodge you admitted that you really didn't want to join in the first place.

The Legend of Hiram Abif was to teach you the importance of having the courage and character to face danger or even death, before you would reveal the secrets of Masonry. Basically this represents the same scenario as a Prisoner of War who states his name, rank, and serial number only, even under torture or threat of death — even if he knows the enemy already knows everything he knows. *You failed.*

<< Yeah, Dave, I'd say baptism qualifies as a religious service of some sort, wouldn't you? >>

Webster once again: baptism: *The rite of admitting a person into a Christian church by dipping him in water or sprinkling water on him.*

Although I can't speak for the ritual in the Grand Lodge in which you say you were raised, but in the Grand Lodge of Washington, no one is "sprinkled" or submersion baptized in any of the three degrees I have ever witnessed. In addition no one is forced to attend any kind of religious observance — or any meeting, degree, or any other Masonic activity for that matter.

If Masons were baptized or forced to attend worship services in anything other than the church of their choice, I'd be on your side! It is the simple fact that they don't, that makes your "testimonial" an outright lie.

< And where in the Bible does Jesus tell his followers to go out and convert Christians into Christians? >

<< Boy, you've got me on that one, Dave. Don't remember seeing the term "Christians" ever used by my Lord and Savior. Please inform me. >>

What the Bible teaches you is your duty is to go out to all nations and preach the Gospel, so that the Body of Christ can be united at the end. You're supposed to preach to people who have not heard and accepted Christ as their personal savior yet, not try to convert them [other Christians] to your own version of Christianity. You need to read the quote below again, and then ask yourself why you think bearing false witness against your Masonic neighbors is a "Christian" thing to do.

LK 11:17 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them: "Any kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and a house divided against itself will fall."

< When are you guys going to realize that continuing to divide people up by denying that all men are brothers under the universal fatherhood of God, is just playing into the hands of the forces that are trying to destroy this great country of ours? >

<< Well now, I thought you would never ask. You know, of all the hypocrisy I have seen, or perhaps even erroneously been guilty of being a part of because of my prior membership in the lodge, I don't think there is anything that quite compares to the brotherhood of man phony baloney spewed out by the lodge. How come there is such a thing as Prince Hall lodges, Dave? In the 5 1/2 years that I sat in lodge in Nevada, Arizona, and California, how come I never sat next to a black man, Dave? >>

This may come as a big surprise to you, but Prince Hall Lodges all received their dispensations from the United Grand Lodge of England, but chose to remain separate from the other Lodges. PH Lodges are now fully recognized by half of the Grand Lodges in the U.S. and that number is rapidly climbing. The first attempt at combining in the Grand Lodge of Washington was in the early 1900's by Grand Master MWB William Upton, who has the unusual distinction of having both a PH and a GLW Lodge named after him. As you know slavery, and separation of the races, was justified by the Anglican Christians with this Bible Verse:

EPH 6:5 Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

<< Please do tell me all about Freemasonry's "brotherhood of man." Also, since you are obviously in the mood for quoting scripture, how about: "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28) >>

GAL 3:25 Now that faith has come, we are no longer under the supervision of the law. You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

EPH 6:5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

So Jesus told his followers who were slaves that in the physical realm, they were to act as if their masters were Christ himself, and *vice versa*. But Galatians 3:25-29 is referring to the spiritual plane, where all Christians will be considered equal. Since Freemasonry is a secular fraternity, it deals with the physical plane. Unfortunately, I have always believed that racism and slavery were an ugly spot on our history, whether or not Christ approved of it.

<< Now, tell me all about this fatherhood of God thing you guys talk about. Would love to hear more about it. >>

As a secular fraternity, we recognize the existence of a Supreme Being and we believe in a life after this one. The [name of the] Supreme Being and the [perception of the] afterlife are at the discretion of the individual Mason.

<< Would certainly enjoy you telling me all about a person having to confess faith in Jesus Christ to become a Mason. Because you see, Dave, according to the Written Word of God, we are sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ. >>

You don't have to confess faith in Jesus Christ to become a Mason, although you may if you choose. This may come as a shock to you, but there are other faiths in this world that believe in God and an afterlife. We, as Masons, are taught to respect men of all faiths by their *actions*, not just because they say they are one faith or another.

<< That doesn't mean by being initiated into Freemasonry, there no mention of His name as Lord and Savior is permitted. What it means is, the way we become a son of God, is by confessing Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, and MEANING IT!!! not just SAYING IT!!! - MEANING IT!!! >>

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *Who were the sons of God? Washum claims (in the editorial "we") to be a son of God "through faith in Jesus Christ."*

GAL 3:26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Does the Bible offer any other way to become a "son of God?"

MT 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

RO 8:13 For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Can you be a peacemaker without faith in Jesus Christ? Can you be led by the Spirit of God without faith in Jesus Christ? What "faith in Jesus Christ" did these "sons of God" have?

GE 6:1 When men began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.

GE 6:4 The Nephilim were on the earth in those days -- and also afterward -- when the sons of God went to the daughters of men and had children by them. They were the heroes of old, men of renown.

The Bible clearly indicates that God can, has, and will do whatever He wants whenever He wants with whomever he wants -- including with unbelievers, animals, rocks, and plants.

What Washum fails to explain is this: if all that is needed to be a son of God is to profess "faith in Jesus Christ" then why does the Bible just as clearly say the sons of God have not yet been revealed?

RO 8:19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.]

Jesus, Joshua, Yeshua, Yeheshua, or whatever name your particular faith refers to him is not mentioned in Masonic Lodges in most jurisdictions, just as Chrishna, Krishna, Gautama, Buddha, Siddhartha, Alla, Allah, Mohamed, Mohammed, Muhamed, Mohomet, YHVH (I am), El, El Olam, El Roi, Shaddai or El Shaddai, Eloahor, Elohim, Yah, Yahweh, Adon, Adonay, Kurios Adon, Jehovah, Elyon, Hupistos, and dozens of other descriptive terms for God in His many versions in the many different religions that recognize that there is one Father God, are not mentioned.

I say in most jurisdictions, because *in some countries you have to be a Christian to be a Freemason* (such as the Scandinavian countries). There are also appendant Masonic bodies that require a belief in Christ. But as with all Masonic bodies, *no one is required to participate in any of them.*

<< And isn't that an amazing little dab of phraseology used there in the 28th verse: "...there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female;..." Oops!!! I'm almost certain that I remember something about "being a man, free-born, of lawful age, and well recommended." Perhaps you could help me on this one. Where have I heard that before? >>

The candidate for the Entered Apprentice degree has to have been certified to have been a man (this is a fraternity not a sorority after all), freeborn (that means he has to be legally able to answer for himself), of lawful age (to have sufficient maturity), of good report (that means his friends and neighbors think he is a good guy), and well recommended (that means he was investigated and found worthy of membership). Once again, verse 28 is referring to the spiritual world. You'll notice that Jesus never told the masters to free their slaves.

MT 12:29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven."

Our prayers, for opening and closing the Lodge, are generic so that each man can pray to the God of his choice for guidance. That means Christians substitute the name of their deity for The Grand Architect of the Universe, just as men of all other faiths do. As a courtesy, prayers are not typically ended with "in Jesus' name", or "in Allah's name", or in the name of any of the other names for God listed above. There is no rule I am aware of that actually forbids it.

<< Are those who do not allow prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, WITH Him, or AGAINST Him? >>

If you are a Christian, then all your prayers are offered in the name of Jesus Christ, so you would be with him. You just don't discourteously try to force nonbelievers into your particular form of worship by putting the opening or closing prayer in the name of a deity they don't believe in.

< Doesn't "every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men" mean that all men will come around eventually, as long as they share the Spirit? >

<< Please see above. Is it the Holy Spirit you share with one another in lodge? Tell me, Dave, is the "god" of Freemasonry the Father, Son and Holy Spirit? This generic "god" that Buddhists, Hindus, Moslems, Luciferians, etc. have no problem at all in praying to? >>

I have seen above. And what I have seen is a distorted view by someone who thinks Christian charity is some kind of narrow-minded view of the world. Hindus, Buddhists, and Moslems pray to their own God, I guess, because in all my travels in Masonry, I have yet to meet one. Nearly all Masons in the US are Jews, most of the Christian sect. Since there is no "god" of Freemasonry, no one prays to any God other than his own. So for Trinitarian Christians, the God of Freemasonry would be the three-persons-in-one Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost). It is my personal belief — I repeat, my personal belief — that we do share some form of Holy Spirit: that special quality that fills us with the desire to help and assist the less fortunate in this world.

< *MT 5:15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.* Doesn't that mean you are supposed to share the light with everyone, not just the believers of your own sect? >

<< Interesting choice of words there - "sect". What we are supposed to share with everyone is the gospel ("good news") of Jesus Christ. Is that what the lodge does, Dave? >>

Not being a religion, but being a secular fraternity, we let the churches handle that. All we do is support a myriad of charities to the tune of up to \$3 million a day — mostly to non-Masons. Outside the Lodge, Masons are encouraged to follow the direction of their churches — in fact, many Freemasons *are* the movers and shakers of their churches. Some are even pastors, ministers, priests, etc., and in that capacity, they share both the "good news" of the Gospel and the Light of Freemasonry.

< *MT 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.* When are you going to realize that the spirit of division is not the Spirit of God or Christ? >

<< Hello. Anybody home? Is there a Bible Bearer in he house? If so, please turn to Matthew 10:35-38.>>

MT 10:34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law — a man's enemies will be the members of his own household. Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."

I have read this passage more than a dozen times, and I have yet to read the word "brother" anywhere in it. I guess you could stretch "members of his own household" to include it. Strange though, don't you think, that all the other family members are specified.

<< Is that what you are teaching in the lodge room, Dave? Are you teaching the "brethren" to pick up their crosses and follow Jesus, or are you teaching them to imitate the Grand Master Hiram Abif? >>

We are teaching them to imitate Grand Master Hiram Abif, because he had secular qualities we admire — *devotion to deity, creativity, piety, organizational skills*, but most of all — *character*. Picking up your cross and following Jesus is something you learn to do in your church, not in a secular fraternity.

< And the verbal abuse and character assassination of good, honest, philanthropic people in the brotherhood of Freemasonry, are not acts of Christian charity? >

<< We've already covered this.
Hopefully,
Duane Washum, Ex-Mason For Jesus >>

We have?

HEB 4:9 There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

It should be noted here that Duane Washum, and a handful of other former Masons, have been an effective tool of the anti-masons because of their claims to previous Masonic membership. Here is Washum's testimony as it appears in several anti-Masonic web sites:

TESTIMONY OF DUANE WASHUM, PAST WORSHIPFUL MASTER

I submitted a petition to the Lodge and was initiated in the Entered Apprentice Degree, passed to the degree of Fellowcraft, and was soon raised to the degree of Master Mason. I felt that I had attained to the finest fraternity in the world. I was selected by the Worshipful Master of the Lodge to serve as Junior Steward and later honored by serving as Chaplain. My studies in ritual and degree work continued as Junior Warden and then Senior Warden. I finally became Worshipful Master of the largest Lodge in the state of Nevada.

I believed myself to be a member of a fraternity that stood for God, country, and family. But, after five years of total dedication, I withdrew from the Order. It didn't happen overnight. My first questioning of Freemasonry was in regard to the obligation I took when I was initiated. One is made to swear secrecy to the point that bloody penalties of death are involved. It was explained that this was symbolic and only emphasized that what I had gleaned was not public information.

My next moment of confusion came when I was Junior Steward. A member was in the habit of talking during lodge meetings. This was disruptive but not a big problem. What was a problem, I thought, was his use of God's name in vain. One evening this terminology was used four or five times in a short period. I later told him that if he used those words in the Lodge room again, I was going to file Masonic charges against him. The reaction of the members who overheard was very confusing. Some approached me and mildly chastised me for the way I had approached him. But it was the reaction of the majority of the members that caught me off guard. They reminded me that he is a Past Master, and a Grand Lodge Officer. He was not wrong in using God's name in vain. Rather, I had affronted a Past Master and a Grand Lodge Officer.

All ritual work in Masonry is committed to memory and repeated verbatim, including prayers. At first I did not notice that none of the prayers are in the name of Jesus Christ. "Great Architect of the Universe," "Almighty Father of the Universe," "Judge Supreme," "God," and "Lord," yes, but never in the name of "Jesus Christ."

Being Chaplain, saying grace for a meal was my duty. Since there is no specified prayer, the prayer was my own, and I prayed in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I was soon told that we never pray in the name of Jesus Christ for it would be offensive to our Jewish members. I then became aware that there is no mention of Jesus Christ in any of the prayers or in the ritual book.

One evening, I asked about the inconsistency involved for the Jewish member in having the Bible resting on our altar. I was informed that it did not necessarily have to be the Bible. It could be the Koran, the Rig Veda, or even the Book of Mormon. What sacred writing was on the altar would depend upon the religious persuasion of the lodge. So, it really didn't matter if the Lodge had any Jewish member or not. The important thing was not to pray in the name of Jesus Christ!

A proposed major undertaking that would involve a great deal of money was made into a motion and defeated, much to the dissatisfaction of the Master. Without notice, it was brought up again, this time in a stacked meeting. The motion passed. I made an objection to the Master and told him that what he was doing prostituted the dignity of his office. I found myself "wrong", because the Worshipful Master is always right. Both of my confrontations began to consume my thoughts. I was morally right, but I was made to feel that I was wrong. By opposing the Worshipful Master I was, in the eyes of some, committing blasphemy! Despite this, I was able to be elected as the next Worshipful Master. I soon found myself questioning things, including my title. Was I really a Worshipful Master? By whose authority? I never considered myself to be master over anybody, and I certainly wasn't worshipful.

I was in a local Christian bookstore and found a book I was interested in, The Kingdom of the Cults, by Walter Martin. This was of interest to me because of stories regarding Mormonism and Joseph Smith. He was reported to have been a Mason and to have pirated signs, grips, and Masonic ritual work and incorporated them into the Mormon Temple rituals. But, when I turned to the table of contents, it was like someone hit me with a baseball bat. Listed was the Rosicrucian Fellowship, a group my brother had been studying. He told me how there had been an organization known as The Great White Brotherhood of Man, and out of this came the Rosicrucians, and out of the Rosicrucians came the Masonic Order.

For the first time I was seeing Rosicrucian Fellowship in print and it was in a book about cults. I remember how, after becoming a Mason, I had mentioned it to a man in my church. He said, "So you joined the Masonic cult." I said to myself, "He doesn't understand." And now it looked like I was to find out who understood and who didn't.

Now there were three words racing through my mind: "Rosicrucianism," "Masonry," and "cult." I turned to the section about Rosicrucians and the reference to Masonry. "It (Rosicrucians) was by admission a secret society. It flourished in a day when secret societies were in vogue, and a century after its origin, Rosicrucianism underwent a recrudescence in connection with Freemasonry, which not only deemed Rosicrucianism genuine, but even borrowed usages and customs from the writings of those who had satirized the fraternity."

Every question that had previously troubled me about Masonry came back to me. A cold shiver went through me. I began praying to God for wisdom to know the truth. I placed a phone call to Christian Research Institute, and I told of my concern about Freemasonry. They said they would send me a booklet which might be helpful, Freemasonry and Christianity by Alva J. McClain. That night, I shared my concerns with a Christian friend. He taught me about blood oaths, secular humanism, and other things.

The next two weeks found me in extreme turmoil. I would think about the discussions with my Christian friend but then I would read from my Masonic Bible. Everything I would read seemed beautiful and I could see no wrong in it. My family's Masonic background, the relationships I had with other Masons, and the beauty and dignity of Masonic ritual were all going through my mind. I was beginning to think that maybe my friend, like the man before, just didn't understand.

Finally, I went to my knees and once again asked the Lord to show me the truth. It roared across my mind. "Blood Oath." I recalled my uneasiness with the oath of secrecy, and Jesus' admonition to "make no oath at all" (Mat. 5:34). That week the secretary of Vegas Lodge No. 32 received my letter of withdrawal. I received a call from a Past Master who asked me why I was withdrawing. I told him I was a Christian, and shared my thoughts with him, including Scriptures from the Bible. He explained to me that I shouldn't believe everything I read in the Bible and that Christianity was a religion that the men in power at the time came up with to keep the common people in line. Then he said, "After all, Duane, our dad, uncle, grand dad, and great-grand-dad were all Masons." The Past Master extolling the virtues of Freemasonry and attacking my faith in Jesus Christ was my own brother.

My letter of withdrawal was held for over a month, but now there is a paper in my home titled, "Certificate for a Brother Dropped from the Rolls at His Own Request." After Christ endured indescribable pain and suffering for my sins, I could not rationalize staying in the lodge because of the difficulties I would have encountered had I not resigned. Besides, to stay in Masonry would mean to deny Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior in my prayers.

I have prayed for forgiveness and know that God has answered my prayers; not because I am worthy, but because of His grace and love, and because Jesus Christ IS my Lord and Savior.

I know that every Mason is as incensed as I was to read those words for the first time. What kinds of experiences could have led this man to believe his religious beliefs would be in conflict with the generous principles of the Fraternity -- to abandon his Masonic family and even his own immediate family? Let's take a closer look at some of his statements and omissions.

Duane Washum says he was a former Worshipful Master. He was. So was his brother and late father and his grandfather. What isn't readily apparent in the title of his testimony, especially to non-Masons is that *we don't normally refer to ourselves as "Worshipful."* In fact, I don't ever recall any Mason ever referring to himself as Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Right Worshipful, or Most Worshipful. Those titles of respect are typically spoken when you are introduced by someone else. Masters of Lodges typically refer to themselves like this: "Hello, I'm David Julian, District Deputy in District 5" or "Hi, I'm Cleo McCord, Past Master of Daylight Lodge #232". So why did Duane title his testimony as "Past *Worshipful* Master?" Because he knew "worshipful" is a buzzword with his target market.

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: Webster defines "worshipful" as: 1. notable, distinguished 2. giving or expressing worship. Significantly the dictionary does not indicate "worshipful" as one to whom religious worship is directed.]

What Washum doesn't say in his testimonial, but what he told me in one of his e-mail messages, is that even though he had at least four generations of Freemasonry in his family, *he only joined the Lodge because it was his father's deathbed wish.* Duane lied about his intentions for joining the Fraternity from the first question put to him as a candidate for the degrees:

"1. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry?"

Had he answered anything other than in the affirmative, he would have been given an immediate refund of his initiation fees, and sent home. If his reason for joining was because of "his father's deathbed wish," that hardly fits the category of "freely and voluntarily," and is definitely an "improper solicitation." During the degrees, how many times was he asked, "Is this of your own free will and accord?" If Nevada ritual is anything like Washington ritual, he answered "Yes" at least a dozen times. *I count 13 lies before he even got to the second section of the 3rd Degree.*

Washum says he was upset because a Grand Lodge Officer was using his Lord's name in vain. The Masters charge, that occurs at the end of every meeting, includes these words: *"You have been enjoined to remind a Brother in the most friendly manner of his fault; to endeavor to aid in his reformation, and to defend his character."* Does publicly threatening to bring up a Grand Lodge officer on Masonic Charges fall under the definition of "in the most friendly manner?"

Washum claims it came as a surprise to him that as Lodge Chaplain, he would be criticized for selfishly offering up what were supposed to be generic, multidenominational prayers in the name of his own deity. He had been a Mason how long by then? One year, two? At an average of 12 - 18 meetings per year, he had heard at least 24 to 36 official prayers, and *then it dawned on him that none of them ended with "in Jesus' name?"* Washum fails to mention that they don't end with "in Allah's name" or "in Chrishna's name" or in any other deity's name either. That is because one of the rules of the Fraternity is that for the sake of harmony, all references to sectarian religious beliefs (and partisan politics, for that matter) are not appropriate topics for this *secular* Fraternity, and must be left outside the Lodge Room. As a courtesy, that rule is usually extended to include fellowship time immediately before or after the meeting. It's not an attempt to slight anybody's religious beliefs, it's just common sense to do it that way.

Washum goes on to say that he was told that the Volume of the Sacred Law on the altar "would depend upon the religious persuasion of the lodge." It is the candidate who chooses on which Holy Book he will take his obligations, and when he becomes a Master Mason after completing the 3rd Degree, he has every right to request that his Holy Scripture remain there. In my Lodge, the *King James Bible*, *Vedas*, and *Koran* are all present. Although the *Book of Mormon* can be placed there because it is one of the four Holy Books of the LDS church — so is the *King James Bible!* So why does Washum emphasize the *Book of Mormon*? Once again, Washum knows that "Mormon" is a neofundamentalist buzzword.

He uses the same technique, when he defines being criticized for insubordination when questioning the order of a superior officer as "blasphemy," knowing full well his target market will respond to the term as an implication that the man being "blasphemed" thinks he's a god.

Washum says he was disturbed by something he read about the Rosicrucians in Walter Martin's book *The Kingdom of the Cults*, yet the current version (1996 edition) only mentions the word Rosicrucian once, hidden deep inside an article about the Theosophical Society, not at all in the Table of Contents. Interestingly, it also holds this (only) reference to Freemasonry in Chapter 4, page 62:

The cult mind control/exit counseling model is more congruent with an anti-religious stance than with a Christian one. As Anthony and Robbins note, "In a sense the project of modern social science, particularly in its Enlightenment origins, has been to liberate man from the domination of retrogressive forces, particularly religion, which has often been seen as a source of involuntariness and a threat to personal autonomy, from which an individual would be liberated by 'the science of freedom' (Gay, 1969).

“This view of religion had been present in the cruder early models of brainwashing such as Sargant (1957), who saw evangelical revivalism as a mode of brainwashing, and who commenced his studies after noting similarities between conversions to Methodism and Pavlovian experiments with dogs, and was also present in the nineteenth-century ‘counter-subversive’ campaigns against Mormons, Catholics, and Freemasons.”

In other words, the idea that mind control is the effective weapon of the cults seems to come more from a generally anti-religious bias that sees all religion, including Christianity, as opposed to personal autonomy and freedom of mind. Anthony and Robbins' reference to Sargant is crucial, because William Sargant is not only one of the pioneers of mind control research, referred to by many cult mind control model advocates, but also he made strong controversial statements arguing that Christian evangelistic preaching techniques are similar to Communist brainwashing methods:

“Anyone who wishes to investigate the technique of brainwashing and eliciting confessions as practiced behind the Iron Curtain (and on this side of it, too, in certain police stations where the spirit of the law is flouted) would do well to start with a study of eighteenth-century American revivalism from the 1730's onward. The physiological mechanics seem the same, and the beliefs and behavior patterns implanted, especially among the Puritans of New England, have not been surpassed for rigidity and intolerance even in Stalin's times in the U.S.S.R.”

In his only reference to Freemasonry, Martin cautions Christians investigating cults not to use the "mind control model" (*i.e.* defining cult members as brainwashed) because the leading mind-control researchers came to the conclusion that "evangelistic preaching techniques" were similar to "Communist brainwashing methods," and that it "was also present in the nineteenth-century 'counter-subversive' campaigns against Mormons, Catholics, and Freemasons." I guess Duane didn't read that chapter.

But Washum's *pièce de résistance* is when he accuses his own brother of "attacking my faith in Jesus Christ," because his brother apparently challenged Duane's belief in the "inerrancy" of the Bible as a literal rather than a symbolic representation of the Word of God.

Washum goes on to use several techniques and tactics common to the anti-masons such as trying to link the Fraternity to occult groups, secular humanism, the Rosicrucians — whoever will make his target market send in those contributions. Although most of them involve simple deceit, what's important here is to not lose sight that *Washum is not just a disgruntled Freemason who had problems resolving perceived conflicts between his religion and Freemasonry — Washum (like his sponsor Larry Kunk) operates a tax-exempt business masquerading as a ministry.*

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *Although Washum claimed he had not read David vs. Goliath?, shortly after its first publication, he changed his testimony. Several web sites that had originally used the testimony as a showpiece have subsequently dropped it or have only indirect links to it. Ironically, you can compare both versions of Washum's testimonies at <http://www.ephesians5-11.com> . Just add /washum.htm for the original version or add /ex_masons_for_jesus/washum.htm for the post-David-vs.-Goliath? version.]*

OTHER COMMON TACTICS OF ANTI-MASONS

[NOTE: Much of the following is shamelessly plagiarized from Brother Ed King's masonicinfo.com web site (with his permission, of course).]

Change the Subject: In our daily lives, we generally experience a fairly straight path when we discuss things with others. We're not very experienced with those who would deliberately mislead or misdirect, so when this tactic is used, Masons are caught off-guard. Assuming that the person with whom they're dealing has the same degree of honesty and integrity as themselves, it's a surprise to find that they're being led around in circles. I learned this one from Ed Decker and Duane Washum. Decker had no intention of ever meeting with me, and my communication with Washum has come full circle —to the point that his last e-mail to me contains the almost exact wording as the first.

Guilt by Association: Those against Masons and Masonry will point out human foibles or errors an individual Mason may have made, as if somehow once a man becomes a Mason, he loses all of the weaknesses of the flesh. Because one person does a wrong, the argument goes, Masons are all guilty of it. What those against Masonry fail to acknowledge is that there were also those with whom they have been associated in the past engaged in similar wrongs. I learned this one from Acacia Press, The John Ankerberg Show, Chick Publications, and Biblebelievers. Acacia knows more about American patriots and traitors than anyone I've ever come in contact with; the John Ankerberg Show is at least honest enough to call itself a "show" instead of a ministry; Anthony Grigor-Scott features sermons and dissertations about the connection between Freemasonry and a Jewish Banking Conspiracy plotting to take over the world (Where have we heard that before?); and Jack Chick publishes anti-Masonic *hate cartoons*, if you can imagine that.

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *One of Jack Chick's cartoons features some panels about an alleged connection between Freemasonry and witchcraft based on information provided by William Schnoebelen, of With One Accord, and formerly connected with Ed Decker's Free The Masons Ministries. Schnoebelen claimed to be a former Alexandrian Wiccan Priest before he became a Freemason, ostensibly because of a similarity between the symbols of witchcraft and the symbols of Masonry, before he "found Jesus." Yet a Wiccan pastor informed me that when confronted on a radio program in Seattle, while on the air, Schnoebelen was forced to admit he had never actually been an Alexandrian Witch at all.*

The irony of this, of course, is that the Wiccan pastor was distancing himself from Freemasonry, which he described as "thinly veiled Christianity." Another irony is that Schnoebelen claimed to be a Palladium Mason, which was part of the famous Leo Taxil hoax against the Roman Catholic Church, and therefore a type of Masonry that never actually existed at all.

Chick tries to make the five-pointed star (pointing down to Bethlehem) emblem of the Eastern Star (the Women's Auxiliary to the Masons) into some kind of Satanic symbol called Baphomet or the Goat of Menzies, yet both the previous panel of the Chick tract and the cover of Schnoebelen's book clearly show the Satanic pentagram (star) symbol on the forehead of the goat pointing up!

Using Different Standards: Anti-Masons will use any convenient argument to support their position. Despite the passage of decades (or even centuries), they'll readily apply 1990's standards to those in the 1850's or 1770's and *vice versa*. Did George Washington own slaves? Then obviously — so the argument goes — he wasn't a very good Mason. It's convenient to use the political correctness of today to condemn the Masonry of yesterday. I learned this one from Larry Kunk at Ephesians 5:11, Inc.; Acacia Press (still hung up on the phony Morgan Affair); and Jubilee Ministries (New Zealand).

Using Different Definitions: Anti-Masons don't use the same definitions of common words as the rest of us. Duane Washum referred to "resurrection" and "baptism" in Masonic Degrees. Washum sees the raising of the body of Hiram Abif in the 3rd Degree as a "resurrection", completely ignoring the part where the body is carried to the Temple and buried again "as close to the Holy of Holies as Jewish law would permit."

I still haven't figured out what he means by "baptism" in Freemasonry. Does anyone know if they use baptismal fonts or sprinkle holy water on you in any of the three degrees of the Nevada ritual? Let's look up some common terms in *Webster's New World Dictionary*:

baptism: the sacrament of admitting a person into a Christian church by immersing the individual in water or sprinkling water on the individual

cult: a system of religious worship

Lucifer: used as a name for the devil

religion: belief in and worship of God or gods

religious: devout; pious

resurrection: raising from the dead or coming back into notice, use, etc., revival

satanic: like Satan or wicked

sect: a religious denomination

Refuse To Answer: In an attempt to understand the motive of hatred, the Masonic supporter will often ask, "Why do you feel this way?" or "What church do you belong to?" ever hoping that the answers will somehow provide enlightenment into the rationale for the position the anti-Mason is taking. As might be expected, those who want to tear down the walls of secrecy they see in Masonry are often the most secretive themselves. I've asked every one of the LFM/LFJ list that has answered one of my postings to show me where in the Bible Jesus tells his disciples to go and attack secular philanthropies, or even their perceived enemies. I'm still waiting...

Outright Lies: In their great book, *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry*, S. Brent Morris and Art deHoyos identify and expose several hoaxes and outright lies perpetrated by anti-Masons who either claim to have been former Masons, or who claim to have thoroughly researched the subject. These carefully documented refutations, however, do not stop these so-called "exposers" from continuing to spread this disinformation anyway. The only possible conclusion you can draw from this is that *they are doing it on purpose*, even though they really know the truth.

Repeated Falsehoods: Sometimes when a charge is made, it's difficult to determine whether it's true or not. "All of the police who are 'on the take' in London are Masons." is an example seen recently. This presumes the accuser knows both the Masonic membership status of every London police officer and every one that engages in illegal practices. It should be clear to even the most casual observer how foolish this is, but to those who use this tactic it seems to make perfect sense. Perpetuation of such foolishness shows up later as "I think I heard Pat Robertson say on the 700 Club that all the police in London who have been arrested for corruption were Freemasons." [SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *A similar story was precipitated by a group of alleged IRA terrorists who claimed they were falsely accused and mistreated by the British Police because they were Catholics and the "Bobbies" were all Freemasons (and therefore all Protestants). That allegation must have come as a real surprise to the Grand Lodge of Ireland, where Grand Master MWB Eric Waller presides over all 13 Provincial Grand Lodges 11 of which are in the Roman Catholic south.*]

Quibbling Over Semantics: What is a true Christian? What is Christianity? What is a Freemason? What is Freemasonry? You'll notice the anti-Masons never use standard dictionary definitions. One of my favorites is: "*I'm not against Masons, I'm just against Masonry.*" When you demand a definition of terms before you begin the dialogue, they just don't answer. That's because they already know their definitions are made-up. "I'm not a hate-mongering bigot, I'm just following Christ's calling." "Christianity isn't a religion, its a personal relationship with Christ." This is a favorite of Duane Washum, Ed Decker, Ryan Drinkwalter, and especially Anthony Grigor-Scott.

Faulty Logic: We see it often in the arguments which start with the wrong premise to begin with. "Since Freemasonry is an apostate religion, it's no wonder the cult has its own god." My favorite form of this is the "enhancement." Mason A knows Mason B, and Mason B wrote a book saying he likes the wisdom of Mason C, whose bookstore sells books about occult subjects, therefore be it resolved: all Masons are students of the occult, *Q.E.D.*

Another example: while in Lodge, Mason A refers to his God as the Grand Architect of the Universe. Mason B is of a different religion, but while in Lodge, he also refers to his God as the Grand Architect of the Universe. Mason C is of still another religion, and while in Lodge, he refers to his God as The Grand Architect of the Universe. Therefore, because (apparently) no two religions can worship the same God, Mason A cannot be a Christian because The Grand Architect of the Universe is a euphemism for some manifestation of Satan. The idea that the same God might be worshipped under different names (for example Allah and Eloi) is completely foreign to them, as is the fact that "referring" to God and "worshipping" God are two entirely different and mutually exclusive actions.

Assumptive Positions: One of the most common tactics used against Masons and Masonry is designed to provoke a response which ignores the false premise. "Since Freemasonry is a false religion, and because they worship the Worshipful Master instead of Jesus, the only real Worshipful Master, Masons can't be Christians." The idea is to use as many derogatory words as possible in one sentence, hopefully to get the Mason to lose his temper — when the encounter turns into *Behave More Like a Mason* (see below). This argument often backfires, however, because it's only the most naive observer that won't see right through it. David and "Mac" at Cutting Edge Ministries are good at this.

Behave More Like a Mason: I have always found it ironic that those who believe Masonry to be so very wrong would use this argument. It seems, though, that whenever a Mason has been goaded enough and lashes out at his tormentor, they will retort, "That's not very Masonic behavior, is it?" Strange that in one breath they want us to abandon Masonry but in the next, *they remind us of the high standards of morality and civility we set for ourselves and encourage us to act in accordance with them.* My favorite version of this is when they ask me to have the courtesy to stop sending them the comments their own sites request, yet they call my courteous requests that they take down their unchristian, anti-Masonic hate sites in exchange as "holding them hostage."

"Prove It!": This is the technique that traps most Masons into the foray. *Yes Virginia, Freemasonry Is A Religion* is an article at Cutting Edge. Go ahead, Mason, prove Freemasonry is not a religion! They know that negatives can rarely be disproved, and even when they can, it will take more valuable time and resources than most Masons have to give. "Post all of the degree work right here and we'll see what it says..." goes a common challenge. Of course, regardless of what was posted, the anti-Mason will find some fault. My favorite here was Duane Washum's "What about Byron de la Beckwith?" Was de la Beckwith (the murderer of Medgar Evers) a Shriner? Was he kicked out of the Masons? How should I know? I can hardly keep track of my own Lodge brothers.

Straw Man: One very common tactic used by anti-Masons is to put forth a "Straw Man," or shill, one who claims to have "seen the light" and now can explain to the world from the "insider's perspective" the many supposed problems with Masons and Masonry. Most of these are readily seen as a total fraud ("A 66th Degree Mason talks about his experiences in the Lodge." "A Past Lord High Executioner of the Rosy Crotch degree said, ..." My favorite is the supposed former Mason who's now a "minister" but is apparently too embarrassed to reveal his denominational affiliation or his e-mail address — but he's not too embarrassed to reveal the high rank he supposedly attained. According to Art deHoyos, The John Ankerberg Show and its publications are rampant with this kind of thing.

I have learned a lot from the anti-Masons, but anti-Masons aren't the only ones with questions about the wisdom of engaging them. Consider this communication I had with Brother Dick James, an administrator of one of the largest Masonic forums (discussion groups) on the Internet:

Subj: Re: Anti-Masonry

In a message dated 8/28/98 12:14:41 PM Pacific Daylight Time, rtj@MASONIC.ORG

writes:

<< Why do some folks spend time searching the net looking for anti-Masonic web sites? >>

Because last year, in my jurisdiction alone, four candidates told Worshipful Masters of lodges that after consulting the ministers of their churches (and a rabbi in one instance), that they were told they could not remain church members if they joined the Masons.

Because this has become such a significant factor in our jurisdiction that a Religious Awareness Committee had to be set up by the Grand Master that publishes monthly articles about attacks on Freemasonry by "religious organizations..."

Because PGM [Past Grand Master] MWB Dr. Sidney Kase, the Dean of the Masonic College of Washington (and one of the kindest, gentlest, most loving men I know), told me his own daughter, because of her church's policy, believes Freemasonry is evil and she won't have anything to do with his Masonic activities...

Because when a group of Job's Daughters in Vancouver, BC, attempted to organize an annual "Church Parade," they were brought to tears when told that Christian churches don't participate with devil worshippers ...

And mostly because, when I searched for "Freemasonry" in the search engines four years ago looking for Masons on the Internet, over half the entries were anti-Masonic sites (Fortunately that's changed in the last year, thanks to the monumental efforts of people like Roger Ingersoll, Gary Dryfoos, Roger Firestone, Ed King, and others)...

<< Why do some folks write post after post about anti-Masons? >>

Some of us believe this is a serious issue that needs to be addressed, not swept under the rug.

<< Why are some folks upset because of anti-Masons? An even more interesting question ... why do masons spend so much time promoting anti-Masons? Why do we give them such credibility? We give them a platform. >>

We are upset because our friends and neighbors are being told, by what they believe to be credible sources, that we are *a secret, Satanist organization attempting to dominate the world politically, economically, and spiritually, while hiding behind some phony good works*. It was easy to ignore this in the past, when all the prominent clergymen and politicians in our communities were Masons. But today, where Freemasonry is regarded by some as a racist, sexist, relic of the past at best; and a dangerous, secret, Satanist sect at worst, it's hard to find men of authority who will publicly participate as Masons — it's much easier for them to just stay away from "questionable" organizations.

<< I believe it was Goebbels who said ... roughly ... repeat the lie often enough and it becomes truth. We are convincing so many on this list who are not masons that anti-masonry is a big deal. It ain't unless we continue to make it one. >>

Then you should realize that it is this precise tactic the anti-Masons use to slander us. And they are not using this tactic on the Freemasonry-List, they're using it when they send anti-Masonic tapes, books, tracts, and seminarists to the leadership of the mainstream churches. When Holly's Neo-fundamentalist faction almost got all the Masons kicked out of the Southern Baptist Church, one of the largest Protestant denominations in the USA, that made it a big deal.

<< And we become as angered and venomous over anti masons as we claim they are against us and in the same breath we "preach" tolerance and respect for the views of others. >>

I don't remember anything in my Masonic instruction that said I had to have tolerance or respect for the views of atheists, madmen, or fools. My obligation was very specific about my duties in that regard. In addition, when I was made a Master Mason, the Master of my Lodge gave me his personal assurance that nothing in that obligation would conflict with my duties to my God, my country, my neighbor, or myself.

My duty to God includes being sure His Holy Word is not perverted by frauds and charlatans for the devil's own ends.

My duty to my country includes defending her from the onslaught of enemies from within and without that are attempting to erode the rights and protections granted to her citizens by the Constitution.

My duty to my neighbor includes seeing that he has the same rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as I have. But having tolerance and respect for his rights is not the same thing as having tolerance and respect for his views.

My duty to myself includes the provision for and protection of my family and its assets, one of the greatest being its name and reputation. I will defend my family (including my Masonic Family) against all slander, libel, and other defamation of my character to the best of my ability, whether it be by Mason, non-Mason, whomever. In the Master's Charge in our jurisdiction, all are enjoined to defend the character of our brother Masons. I cannot adequately defend my brother's character by ignoring slanderous remarks made against him.

<< But, like reporters/journalists it's okay for us to crap on others, but we get a little self-righteous when others take us to task. In the next breath we talk about fundamentalist religions in a negative fashion when they decry freemasonry. Hell, they have every right to their beliefs. >>

I particularly resent your characterization of the defense of the character of Freemasons as "crap[ping] on others." Taking Freemasonry to task for the things we do (or don't do) is not the same as lying about who we are (or aren't). Pointing out that a handful of neofundamentalists are making a lot of noise in mainstream churches, engaging in illegal political activities, and do not represent the Christian religious community at large is a far cry from criticizing their theology — which they do have a Constitutional right to.

<< We make martyrs out of these folks. >>

You need to realize that these guys are intentionally nailing themselves to their own crosses. Ankerberg and Decker don't need us to make them martyrs — they already claim that Masons have tried to kill them (literally) ...

<< Take the time we bitch about anti-Masons to go visit with some old brother who is stuck at home. Practice your masonry ... stop being angry about it ... Where does a person leading a full and positive life have time to worry about anti-Masons? Surely, they are sitting around dwelling on negatives and looking for bogey-men. Time to get a life. >>

You're absolutely right. Following up on anti-Masons (like the great work of Brothers Art deHoyos, Brent Morris, Ed King, Gary Leazer and others) takes a great deal of productive time.

For myself, you'll notice that I advocate the only system of combating anti-masonry that works: Masonic community involvement. *I never advise other Masons to waste time trying to communicate with, search the web for, engage in futile debates with, or try to "convert" anti-Masons.*

<< I have never met an anti-mason. But I have only been a mason for 22 years. I don't go looking for them. Could care less if they exist ... if I meet one ... I will respect their views and wish them a nice day ... but I'm sure as hell not going to get all wound up like them and be angry. I'm not even going to suggest that they are fruitcakes. We are the fruitcakes for letting them get under our skin. We help them to win the battle. >>

You're damned lucky. I have met one. I didn't go looking for him. I went looking for other Masons on the Internet, when I stumbled over some anti-Masonic sites. One that intrigued me was located right here in Washington, called Free The Masons Ministries, which turned out to be a pseudonym for Ed Decker's Saints Alive In Jesus (a primarily anti-Mormon "ministry"). Decker (whose father had been an active Mason) had been invited to speak at the Masonic College, (along with several others), about Perceptions of Freemasonry by non-Masons.

Decker was invited to speak two years later on the same subject, but the second time he had toned down his presentation substantially — in fact Mormon Masons in attendance became quite incensed because Decker's first hour was spent on his (equally preposterous) perceptions of Mormonism. It was only after Decker lied to me to my face at that second meeting that I became actively involved in the defense of Freemasonry from what I have discovered to be the *cottage industry of anti-Masonry*.

These anti-Masons aren't "fruitcakes" by any means. They are serious, dedicated businessmen, promoting the sales of books, tapes, tracts, and seminars to a willing market that is anxious to blame anyone and anything except themselves for their own current political, economical, and spiritual condition.

There is a more-than-just-religious side to this issue. There are factions, both within the USA (The Christian Reconstructionist Movement, for example) and without, (the Unification Church of Sung Myung Moon, and others) that believe Constitutional Democracy is the antithesis of the Kingdom of God. They believe the USA was provided to the New Chosen People as the New Jerusalem, and their job is to prepare the way for the imminent Second Coming by removing this ungodly political, social, and economic system that they believe was foisted upon what was supposed to be a Christian country, when it was hijacked by Secular Humanists, Satanist Freemasons, and their modern day equivalents, godless Communists and homosexuals. They believe that after the End-Time, true believers will be given *mansions to live in, supernatural powers, and whole areas of the universe, maybe even whole planets to rule over*.

Sound far-fetched? This last sentence was the theme of Presbyterian Minister D. James Kennedy's nationally televised sermon last week.

When was the last time you were in a church with an arsenal? David Koresh and Timothy McVey are just the tip of the iceberg...

I can assure you that my contact with the anti-Masons has only helped me, as it has helped so many, to increase my faith in God, to gain a greater understanding of Freemasonry and its Great Lights (especially the Bible), to appreciate the good that Freemasonry is doing throughout the world, to better appreciate the special bond I have with my Masonic brothers, and to strengthen my support of Constitutional Democracy. *If that's not getting a life, then I don't know what is...*

Here are some memorable quotes from some of my other correspondence with anti-Masons. The point here was not to try to convert them to appreciating Freemasonry. What I was trying to do, and I think I succeeded in doing, was giving them enough rope to hang themselves:

<< Subj: Re: Was he a Christian?
Date: 98-03-13 04:10:14 EST
From: acacia@rmc1.crocker.com (Acacia Press, Inc.)

You are once again misleading people by omitting facts. Lafayette was NOT a Mason at the time of the Revolutionary War. The Masons heaped Lafayette with honors after he achieved great fame. The Masons are in no way a "Revolutionary Brotherhood" or a source of enlightenment. They have always be a reactionary group trying to preserve privilege for a minority. >>

This time I'll let another Mason answer for me.

In a message dated 98-03-17 11:32:40 EST,
jacques@huyghebaert.org writes:

< snip >

Lafayette was only 18, but this was not exceptional in those days, particularly in view that his father was the Master of the Lodge in his home town. Important personal Masonic archives having belonged to Lafayette have recently been discovered by accident in a walled room in a family castle near Paris, during reconstruction works, by one of his direct descendants, the Count de Chambrun. Unfortunately I know of no-one who has seen these archives or even has an inventory of the collection. My personal efforts to contact the very elderly Count have failed so far. I learned about this discovery in 1995 from Jackson Polk:

From: JACKSON H. POLK, [Compuserve 76371,3073]
Topic: Lafayette's Secret Room
Date: Mon, Sep 11, 1995, 17:00:02

FYI: Today's Washington Post Style Section (Sept. 11, 1995) has a story about the discovery of a secret room in the chateau of the Marquis de Lafayette outside of Paris that contains Masonic certificates, plaques, and regalia belonging to the Marquis. The Post article says that the Library of Congress is microfilming the contents of that room and other rooms that were concealed behind false walls and cabinets in the tower of Lafayette's home. Also found was correspondence with George Washington in code, and other letters from "freedom fighters" elsewhere. The Post says that the discovery of the Masonic material may add to the theory that revolutions of Lafayette's time were part of an international Masonic conspiracy.

Fraternal greetings from Prague
Jacques >>

Isn't the Internet wonderful? In less than 24 hours a Brother Mason in Prague, Czechoslovakia, e-mails me a communication he kept in his archives about a 1995 Washington Post article, clearly indicating Lafayette was in fact a Mason at the time of the Revolutionary War.

What was the "international Masonic conspiracy?" *If Lafayette helped in the American Revolution, would Americans help him in the French Revolution?* Acacia Press, Inc. specializes in conspiracy theories: Freemasons, the Kennedy assassination, M. L. King, etc.

<< Subj: Re: Truth about Freemasonry
Date: 98-03-20 12:58:52 EST
From: 104665.2435@Compuserve.com (Darlene Ankerberg)

Dear Dave,

We've received several notes from you. To my knowledge, we have not been sending out tracts on anti-Masonic materials to anyone. If you look at our resource catalog you will see that we have had several programs in which we have documented rituals of Masonry. You will also notice that we have written several books.

On the basis of our research, we have found that Masonry and Christianity are not compatible.

Louise >>

Below are some quotes from a great book, *Is It True What They Say About Freemasonry*, by Art deHoyos and S. Brent Morris, in response to some of the misrepresentations, distortions, and outright lies contained in Ankerberg publications. The entire chapter, exposing John Ankerberg's questionable motives and poor scholarship, are available to you, for free, at <http://members.aol.com/adehoyos/chap3.htm>. After reading that chapter, it should become clear to you, and any other anti-Mason, that the Ankerberg definition of Christianity is as questionable as your definition of research.

<snip>

Why does Darlene Ankerberg sign her e-mails "Louise?" And why can't John answer for himself? That was the last I heard from "The John Ankerberg Show."

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: *In the first editions of David vs. Goliath?, the following quote from Chapter 3 of deHoyos' and Morris' book was snipped from the original e-mail above:*

At the end of their book Rev. Ankerberg and Dr. Weldon provide a brief summation of their work which they call "Masonry at a Glance." Putting the shoe on the other foot and using Rev. Ankerberg and Dr. Weldon's techniques, the reader can draw the following conclusions:

GENERAL INFORMATION

Names: John Ankerberg and John Weldon.

Goals: Injure Freemasonry while attempting to maintain an appearance of piety; sell as many copies of their books as possible.

Theology: Uncertain, but they have been embraced as "brothers in Christ" by David Duke, the Christian White Supremacist.

Practices: Modeled on the techniques effectively used during the Inquisition and Witch-hunts: accuse the enemy of Satanism by using dubious witnesses. Innuendo and subterfuge acceptable.

Historic Antecedents: Hitler, Mussolini, Franco, Kohmeni and other ardent anti-Masons.

Spheres of Influence: Church, radio, television, books and pamphlets.

Ethics: Subjective, relative, amoral. Use of false witnesses, misinformation and exaggerated "authorities" justifiable ("the end justifies the means").

Worldview: Uncertain. Possibly conspiratorial and paranoid.

Source of Authority: Themselves, but they try to make their followers believe they are acting as Christ's servants ("wolves in sheep's clothing").

Key Themes: Intolerance. Authors present themselves as a sure guide to truth.

Attitude to other religions: Condescending. The authors publish several books condemning the religious beliefs of others.

Key literature: Chiefly anti-Masonic and historically inaccurate works. "Proof-texting" of authentic information is common.

False Claims:

* Jonathan Blanchard was a 33d Degree Mason and a Sovereign Grand Commander (removed after 1993 edition).

* Jim Shaw was a 33d Degree Mason and Past Master of all Scottish Rite bodies.

* Manly P. Hall was a 33d Degree Mason at the time he wrote the books cited by Ankerberg and Weldon.

* "Djwhal Khul" was a Mason.

* The "Masonic" writings of Isabel Cooper-Oakley and Corrine Helene are "authoritative" (if not, why are they cited?).

* The Scottish Rite uses "penalties."

* "Jabulon" is the name of a "Masonic god."

* Masonry is a religion.

* Masonry is occultic.

* Masonry offers a "system of salvation."

* Masonry is the "one true religion."

* Masonry is intolerant of religion.

* Masonry dishonors the Bible and other religious literature.

* Masonry interferes with politics.

If Rev. Ankerberg and Dr. Weldon somehow "accidentally" made their false allegations or uttered their half-truths and lies unwittingly, they are unsafe guides. If they did this intentionally we are reminded of the judgment in Proverbs 14:5, "A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies."

Ironically, Ankerberg and Weldon may soon have to answer for their lies in a court of law. A Christian denomination called the Local Church, its affiliated congregations, and Living Stream Ministries, its publishing arm, are jointly suing John Ankerberg, coauthor John Weldon, and Harvest House Publishers for libel, seeking \$136 million in damages. Their Encyclopedia of Cults and New Religions, published in 1999, includes an article critical of the Local Church.

In 2001, Harvest House Publishers attempted an end run by filing a lawsuit that asked an Oregon court to declare that the Ankerberg/Weldon book "has not defamed" the group. On March 15, 2002, a Lane County, Oregon, circuit court judge dismissed the suit "with prejudice," meaning it cannot be re-filed. You can read the whole sordid story in Christianity Today on line at this web URL: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2003/002/13.24.html>.

This isn't the first time God has intervened against the Liars for Money. Shortly after Jimmy Swaggart delivered a scathing sermon denouncing the Masonic degrees on television, he was arrested twice on morals charges. In 1977 The Local Church sued Thomas Nelson Publishers over The Mind Benders which former Campus Crusade for Christ worker Jack Sparks wrote. It also sued the Spiritual Counterfeits Project (SCP) over Neil Duddy's book The God-Men. Thomas Nelson settled out of court for an undisclosed amount and published a retraction in 1983. Duddy skipped the country because of legal pressures related to the suit. The SCP declared bankruptcy after paying only \$34,000 of the \$11.9 million awarded by a judge after the book was declared to be libelous. Legally, that means that the book not only contained false information, but it also did serious damage to the Local Church's reputation and fundraising abilities.]

<< Subj: Re: (no subject)

Date: 8/25/98 7:06:06 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: ags@biblebelievers.org.au (Anthony Grigor-Scott)

Dear Dave,

Christian greetings in the precious Name of our Lord JesusChrist. >>
< snip >

[NOTE: This was a very long e-mail containing Grigor-Scott's rants on several topics. I have taken the editorial liberty of snipping out the parts that do not pertain to Freemasonry.]

< In my jurisdiction, the Grand Lodge of the State of Washington, USA, the typical profile of a Freemason is a man, between the ages of 25 and 75 (with a substantial number of senior citizens), mostly Protestant Christians (many highly active in their churches, some Pastors and Ministers), and nearly all veterans of military service from W.W.II to the "Gulf" War. >

<< This is true because they are ignorant of the fact that they are being used. However not a single one of them is a Christian, including the pastors and ministers. They are for the most part Trinitarians, and the Trinity is of the Devil (As in the Pentecostal Oneness idea). >>

Let me get this straight — the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — God in three persons — is a Satanic concept? Isn't that going to come as quite a shock to about 99.9% of the people who consider themselves the Bride of Christ and the Body of Believers?

< snip >

< No one knows the true origins of Freemasonry before the organization of the United Grand Lodge of England, which is the generally accepted origin of what we call Modern Freemasonry, right around 1717, with the founding of the United Grand Lodge of England. >

<< It is a self-styled Jewish organization and up to no good. I believe you will find it was set up by the Priere de Sion. >>

Do I denote a note of anti-Semitism here? Are you not aware that Jesus was not a Christian, but a Jew, as were all the Disciples? Since Christianity is an offshoot of Judaism and many Christian denominations consider themselves "true Jews," it will come as a great surprise to American Freemasons to learn that.

< This is what I do know: no one I know or have ever met in Freemasonry knows anything about any world political conspiracies, economic conspiracies, or anything remotely resembling the same... >

<< I believe you, nevertheless, it is so. I would probably be safe in saying that no-one you have met could say those things of Clinton, Kissinger, FDR, Wilson, Bush, Carter, etc., Nevertheless, it is so. It would seem incredible to you that perhaps all Presidents from Wilson have been Communist in their philosophy and objectives and that America has always been a colony of the self-styled Jews of the City of London, and not "the Land of the Free." Nonetheless, it is so. >>

Really? Reagan a communist? A lot of Republican Masons (most of them are) are going to have a hard time with that one. Eisenhower, was that a Jewish name? Kennedy? Ford?

< ... and I number Pastors, Ministers, Bishops, and Priests from many different Christian "faiths" among my Masonic friends and brothers >

<< Dave, there is but one "faith" and that is the mind of God. Not one of the above possess It. I don't know if you are aware of it but God sent us a prophet in this day. The ministry of the prophet William Branham which RESTORED the Apostolic faith, FINISHED the mystery of God, INTRODUCED Christ's "parousia" and is calling both the wise and foolish virgin OUR from Rome and her Protestant image with the wise coming into the UNITY of the faith for the MANIFESTATION of the Sons of God and the TRANSLATION. For the past twenty-years I have been ministering the Gospel full-time and no Christian can be a Free-Mason. >>

Have you always preached as a disciple of Branham's Latter Rain cult?

[NOTE: *There is a discussion about Branham and the Latter Rain movement at Bible Discernment Ministries, claiming Branham is a false prophet. I don't know how much faith you can put into their evaluation, however, because they also incorrectly listed the secular fraternity of Freemasonry as a religion or cult.*]

< I'm sorry to contradict you, but nearly all Freemasons in the USA are Christians. I think the difficulty lies in the definition of "Christian." For me, anyone who believes in the Apostles Creed or Nicene Creed is a Christian. How does your definition compare with that? >

[NOTE: *The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the God from whence he will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*]

<< The Nicene or Apostle's Creed (so-called) was written hundreds of years after the death of the first apostles and is anti-Word and therefore anti-Christ, and contrary to the Bible. Anyone who believes this tripe in this day is NOT a Christian. >>

Boy, that too is going to come as a shock to a lot of American Christian denominations!

< snip >

< So how did it cost you? >

<< I believe it caused me to be shunned or excluded from opportunities. >>

Could it be that you were "shunned or excluded from opportunities" because your theology, concept of reality, and perceptions of Freemasonry, might be described by some as approaching what the Australians refer to as "beyond the black stump?"

Anthony Grigor-Scott of Biblebelievers (in Australia) is still in contact with me.

Subj: Re: LFM/LFJ Listing
Date: 9/1/98 1:00:41 AM Pacific Daylight Time
From: DaveJulian@aol.com
To: contramundum@wavefront.com

<< Subj: Re: (no subject)

In a message dated 8/25/98 3:57:12 PM Pacific Daylight Time, contramundum@wavefront.com writes:

< snip >

For some reason an e-mail communication of yours containing the above statement was forwarded to me somehow.

T.E. Wilder

Contra Mundum Online >>

Your name has been added to the Liars For Money, (formerly known as the Liars For Jesus) information list because your name appeared on an Internet web site that included anti-Masonic hate literature either promoted or endorsed by you. You will continue to receive information refuting false claims, innuendoes and outright lies about the secular fraternity of Freemasonry, until you discontinue this unchristian, immoral, unjust, and destructive activity.

For information concerning the true nature of the Fraternity, please contact these sites. Most of the disinformation being spread by the cottage industry of anti-Masonic businesses masquerading as ministries is covered there.

<http://www.masonicinfo.com>

<http://members.aol.com/adehoyos/chap1.htm>

In addition, *Masonic Philanthropies —A Tradition of Caring* a 100-page full color booklet, is available for \$5 postpaid from the Masonic Service Association of North America, <http://www.msana.com>. In it you will find examples of Masonic charities, where Freemasons donate \$2 million to \$3 million dollars every day, mostly to non-Masonic recipients (especially children)...

VWB David S. Julian

Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 5

< snip >

No further reply from Contra Mundum (that means "Against the World.") Finally, an anti-Masonic site with a name that reflects what they really are!

Subj: Re: The Truth about anti-Masons

From: dinky@aasp.net (Ryan Drinkwalter) [The Cutting Edge]

In a message dated 98-03-05 11:41:09 EST, you write:

< snip >

<< Propaganda! If the Masons wanted to clear their names, they should open the books and quit this silly secret society stuff. If there's nothing to hide, why are the doors closed? >>

You are probably right about the secrecy stuff. We're so poor at the secrecy that virtually every public library has a whole shelf dedicated to "exposing" Masonic secrets. In fact Jimmy Swaggart put all three degrees on TV. Strange, don't you think, that the "secret" degrees were readily available to him for broadcast? I suppose you think that his subsequently being discovered as a pervert was some kind of Masonic plot to discredit him...

VWB David S. Julian
Deputy of the Grand Master in District No. 5
< snip >

[SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL: Is there anything ungodly about keeping secrets? What secret things are the Lodges doing behind closed doors? It can't be the ritual because there have been so many exposés written about the degrees that in some jurisdictions the Masons actually learn the work from them. It can't be that they are planning a murder or an insurrection or any other criminal activity that might get them brought up on charges of unethical conduct by visiting Masons. Some anti-Masons like "Dinky" Drinkwalter and Larry Kunk would have you believe that Freemasons fall into this category:

Ephesians 5:11-12 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret.

But we learn from Jeremiah that there are no secrets from God; and from Jesus, *via the Gospel of St. Matthew*, that certain things -- specifically charitable deeds and prayers -- are actually *supposed* to be done in secret:

Jeremiah 23:24 Can anyone hide himself in secret places, So I shall not see him?" says the LORD; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the LORD.

Matthew 6:3-4 But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.

Matthew 6:6 But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Here is a quick peek into the Secrets of Freemasonry: of the almost \$3,000,000 a day that Masons in the US donate to charitable causes, some of it goes to scholarships for students in pursuit of religious studies and to sponsor trips to the Holy Land for pastors and ministers. There's no way these are "unfruitful works of darkness" by any stretch of the imagination.]

Speaking of the Cutting Edge, this e-mail newsletter was sent on to me 29-Jul-98 at 10:18 AM by Cutting Edge Ministries:

TITLE: WE HAVE CONFIRMED, FROM SEVERAL SOURCES, THAT RUSSIAN AND AMERICAN SCIENTISTS CONTROL THE WEATHER NOW AND ARE USING IT AS A WEAPON — AGAINST US!

We have just posted several articles on anew subject, the control of the weather by scientists. We have further confirmed that these scientists are using weather as a weapon, against us, as well as against other parts of the world. You will be shocked!

In these Last Days, God has allowed Satan to get control of the basic weather functions of planet Earth! Satan has been allowed to reveal to scientists the secret of how to control the weather and how to use it as a weapon.

Was this from a Christian newsletter or *The Weekly World News* tabloid?

Subj: Repeating yourself...

Date: 8/31/98 7:09:45 AM Pacific Daylight Time

To: evangout@hhs.net [Evangelical Outreach Ministries]

In a message dated 8/30/98 11:43:54 AM Pacific Daylight Time, evangout@hhs.net writes:

< snip > [NOTE: *The snipped text was an exact copy of the posting I had sent to them. There was no reply.*]

You may think this is a joke, but Christian Freemasons who are being falsely accused don't. You may think that repeating a lie often enough will make it the truth, but it doesn't. You may think that all "professed Christians" may speak the truth, but they don't. You may think that the body of believers doesn't contain any professional liars, but it does. Christian Freemasons have nothing to fear from your propaganda because, among other things, Masons:

PS 112:1 Praise the LORD. Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands. His children will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever. Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man.

Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. He has scattered abroad his gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor. The wicked man will see and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked will come to nothing.

Some Evangelical Outreach. All they do is quote and send back all my postings. Apparently Evangelical Outreach is nothing more than an outreach for money, too ashamed of what they are doing to even put a name behind their ministry, or to comment about the lies perpetrated there.

Subj: Re: Famous Freemasons

Date: 98-02-19 22:50:40 EST

From: rambdm@tima.com (Rick Miesel)

[NOTE: *I had sent him a list of over 300 of the most prominent politicians, clergymen, entertainers, doctors, scientists, industrialists, astronauts, inventors, etc. who were all Freemasons, but not all Christians.*]

> How many of these great men were Christians? <

<< None. >>

What arrogance! What was the name of your ministry again, Rick? Bible *Discernment* Ministries?

Date: 7/4/98 3:36:08 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: patrick@netwalk.com (Richard Mitchell)

<< Mr. Julian,

You are fond of quoting how much money Masons contribute to charity every day. 3,000,000 dollars I think it is. That's about a billion, ninety-five million a year. That's nice. That just shows who controls the wealth. >>

Ironically \$3 billion dollars won't even buy you a wing of an airport these days. If you want to know who really controls the wealth of this world, take a look at who owns or controls 1 out of every 5 Radio and TV stations in the US, including three national networks: Pat Robertson. And it's way below the net worth of the Catholic Church, the Unification Church, or the Mormon Church — not even counting their tax-exempt real estate...

<< THIS IS THE ALLURE OF FREEMASONRY. WEALTH AND POWER. >>

Prior to becoming a Mason in my jurisdiction (Washington State), the prospective candidate must answer four questions. The first is worded thus:

"I. Do you seriously declare, upon your honor, that unbiased by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary motives, you freely and voluntarily offer yourself a candidate for the mysteries of Freemasonry?"

The key phrase is "uninfluenced by mercenary motives." Freemasons do not expect nor do they receive any compensation (with the exception of certain professional expenses of operating the Lodge, and token payments to some Lodge secretaries, musicians, and the like).

Dues and other contributions to Lodges are not tax-deductible. Masters of Lodges are not paid one cent, nor are they given food, housing, or other allowances.

Who is Richard Mitchell? And why does he call himself "Patrick?"

Subj: Re: A Sheltered Life REMOVE!!!! NOW!!!! STOP SPAMMING MY MAILBOX!

Date: 6/27/98 8:31:44 AM Pacific Daylight Time

To: snowbluebird@juno.com

In a message dated 6/25/98 3:18:18 AM Pacific Daylight Time, snowbluebird@juno.com writes:

<< REMOVE MY NAME/E-MAIL FROM THIS LIST! THIS IS SPAM AND I DO NOT WANT IT SENT TO ME FURTHER! >>

Spam refers to unwanted or unsolicited commercial e-mail, not responses to opinions or disinformation perpetrated about Freemasonry. With your assurance that you will no longer participate in the unchristian activity of spreading lies about Freemasonry (especially Christian Freemasons), I will be happy to remove you from the Liars for Money (formerly Liars for Jesus) mailing list. Otherwise,

JOB 4:8 As I have observed, those who plow evil and those who sow trouble reap it.

VWB David S. Julian

<snip>

Tammy Ritchie has a newsletter called *The Perilous Times*. In one posting she referred to Freemasonry as an "evil cancer on our country." No further contact with Tammy, but I still send her the LFM/LFJ postings...

The following is from "Good Ol' Boy" Texas Preacher Texe Marrs' web site:

Are Amway Corporation and its founders tied in with the Masonic Order? Many people have written me expressing their concerns about Amway. Evidently, whether deliberate or not, there does appear to be some type of connection between the organization and Freemasonry. The first Amway building had a Masonic square and compass symbol on the front facade. The luxurious Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan — where Amway has its international conventions for its distributors — was built right onto a huge Masonic temple. The architecture of this hotel is integrated so that many Masonic symbols carved in stone are visible at the river side of the structure.

In 1988 I was the keynote speaker at a national Sunday School leaders conference held at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel. Strangely, when I checked in, the desk clerk inexplicably assigned me to room 666! Was this just coincidental, or did someone at the hotel know that the topic of my talk was to be "The Coming New Age Antichrist, 666?" It felt odd and eerie entering a hotel room on the sixth floor with the number 666 prominently displayed on the door. But I had Jesus with me in my heart, and prayer as my weapon. I figured the devil had a lot more to worry about than me, and I certainly wasn't going to let him intimidate me.

Protected by the Holy Spirit from intimidation, I slept like a baby. So did Wanda, my precious wife. The next morning, we arose early, and Wanda and I went for a brief and invigorating walk outside along the river front of this mammoth and impressive hotel. There, I observed the pagan Masonic symbols, architecture, and Egyptian statues.

Back inside the hotel, in the grand lobby, I saw a shiny, brass metal plaque on a pillar. It had inscribed on it the names of dignitaries who had previously stayed at the hotel. I studied the names carefully and noticed that among them were England's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip; the Netherlands' Queen Julianna and Prince Bernard; and former U.S. President Gerald Ford.

Then, a surprise: Amidst all these well-known VIP names was the name of another, lesser-known personage. Right there on the list was a "Chief Holy Eagle." I immediately recognized the potential New Age and Masonic meaning of the name of this so-called dignitary, Chief Holy Eagle. Regardless of its Masonic connections, certainly the promotional emphasis within Amway is ungodly. There is nothing wrong with making money, but to combine the things of God with an all-out hunger and campaign for mammon is unbecoming.

Who is Chief Holy Eagle? What possible connection would the name of a Native American Indian Chief have with Freemasonry? You don't suppose Texe was assigned that room number because God already knew Texe would be right at home there?

In subjective issues the real truth tends to be found somewhere between the extremes, and that gray area needs to be explored. For objective issues, the truth lies at one extreme or the other, with little or no margin or error. For some reason, Freemasonry seems to be treated as one of the latter. I am constantly at a loss to understand how the perceptions of our Noble Fraternity by our detractors can be so completely different from my own. So far the best they can come up with is:

- ❖ *The Masonic Family, even though donating upwards of \$3,000,000 a day toward charitable causes (mostly to children and non-Masons), are working for Lucifer (Satan), only they just don't know it.*
- ❖ *Freemasonry is a religion that secretly leads Christian men away from Christ to worship Baal (the God of the Golden Calf in the Bible), Lucifer, or some other god, but the Masons don't discover this until they are initiated into the "upper" degrees (some say as high as 99 degrees).*
- ❖ *The children of Masons become suicidal and their relatives become inflicted with life-threatening illnesses that will be miraculously and immediately cured if the Mason leaves the Fraternity, and destroys his apron and other regalia.*
- ❖ *Freemasonry is a worldwide (Jewish) conspiracy to gain control of the world, politically, economically, and spiritually.*
- ❖ *Masons believe they are symbolically raised from the dead and baptized in the 3rd Degree, and can get to heaven by good works alone — so it is a false religion, in direct contrast to Christianity.*
- ❖ *Freemasonry considers all religions equal — including the worship of Satan.*

- ❖ *Masons have to swear to do horrible, violent, and torturous acts, including murder, to Masons who no longer believe their religious values are compatible with Masonic values and try to leave the Lodge.*
- ❖ *Masons promise not to divulge the location of other Masons to the authorities — even if those Masons are charged with serious crimes, including molesting children.*
- ❖ *The above statements are supported by the writings of today's top Masonic authorities.*

No one I know or have ever met in Freemasonry (and I've met a lot of them) believes any of those things to be true -- so how can they think we do?

Apparently no amount of Brent Morris, or Art deHoyos, or John Robinson facts will dissuade them from their beliefs — so what chance would you and I have of changing their minds? *Absolutely none!* In my communications I have used quote after quote from the Bible, that which they call "the inerrant word of God," and it too falls on deaf ears.

NOW THE GOOD NEWS!

Significantly, there has been little or no growth in this cottage industry of anti-Masonry. In the last few years there has been no substantial increase in the number from the roughly two dozen active specifically anti-Masonic businesses masquerading as ministries. In addition, as of the date of publication, Larry Kunk's sub-site located on the ephesians5-11.org domain, called *Ex-Masons For Jesus*, still lists only a handful of "testimonies" from former Masons. In fact, in my investigation, I have found less than a dozen such accounts, one of which is from a former Rainbow Girl.

We Masons are our own worst enemies when it comes to our public image. Consider this recent posting to the Internet by a young Mason trying to express his frustration:

Subj: Relevance of Masonry

Date: 9/8/98 11:26:58 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: ratliff@lily.org (Christian A. Ratliff)

The letter I composed earlier today led to a long discussion with a coworker I think quite well of as both a person and coworker. He was more in agreement with the tone of the letter forwarded to us by Bro. Firestone, than my own comments. He had something very telling to say, and I would like to paraphrase it for you all:

First, let me give you my general impression of Masonry: a bunch of old guys in suits griping about the sorry state of the world. Other than that Masonry seemed to be very important to my wife's grandfather, and no one is sure why. I am not sure why this is my general impression, knowing you. Regardless, I cannot dismiss this picture in my head and replace it with what you describe.

Then I explained to him S. Brent Morris' paper on the current membership situation:

Second, based on what you have told me about that idea what makes you guys think you really have a place in the world of today? Every need you fill is already being filled by other groups. My country club offers private fellowship and outside activity (golf). My Church offers spiritual guidance, moral fellowship, and a path to salvation. Every charity on Earth is calling me at dinner time, so no need to give more to charity than I do. In light of all these highly directed offerings, what does Masonry really offer?

<snip>

christian ratliff

a rough ashlar

In recent years, we in Freemasonry have recognized that we were doing some things that were contributing to the criticism. The first was using buzzwords. We called the buildings where we met "Temples," we call one of the Great Lights "the Holy Bible," and use titles of respect that include words like Worshipful, Very Worshipful, Right Worshipful, Most Worshipful. Appendant bodies use titles like Grand High Priest — *is it any wonder they think we are a religion?*

Some jurisdictions, including mine, addressed this issue by changing the names of our meeting places from "Masonic Temples" to "Masonic Centers," both to more correctly represent their true function, and to make their use more palatable by non-Masonic civic groups.

My personal view is that we do not need to change our titles of respect. What we need is to *not use these Masonic titles outside the confines of the Lodge.*

Since the candidates can take their obligations on the Holy Writings of the religion of their choice, the term "Holy Bible" should be replaced throughout our ritual as the "The Volume of the Sacred Law." Lodges should not be dedicated to "Holy Saints," and other religious terms should be changed accordingly.

In reality, taking these steps won't change the position of the anti-Masons one bit. When I told Duane Washum that the Kentucky Monitor, like all Monitors, is routinely revised to more clearly reflect the current beliefs of the jurisdiction, (e.g., since 1976 the *Washington Monitor and Freemason's Guide* has already been through 17 revisions), his response was: "After all, in past editions of the Kentucky Monitor it has been printed that 'Hiram is to a Mason what Jesus is to a Christian.' It doesn't show up there anymore, obviously *because it has proven to be too much of an embarrassment for the 'secular fraternity' you write so much about.*"

Our detractors could be making valid criticisms about us. Does our exclusion of women limit our growth in a gender-neutral 21st Century? Do we demand too much time away from our wives and families? Do we exclude them from too many functions? Do we have too many "traditions" in our rituals and lectures that are no longer relevant to today's candidate? Are we too rigid in terms of "recognition" of other types of Freemasonry? Are we as visible as we should be in our communities? Do we really advocate for the less fortunate in our society as much as we could?

But these are not the areas the anti-Masons choose to attack. *Why?* Obviously there is just no money in attacking shortcomings that we might overcome and thereby strengthen our Lodges. Still, the question remains: *How do we deal with this thorn in our side in some kind of rational way?* Basically, we only have three choices:

(1) Ignore them. Until recently this has been the policy of most jurisdictions. The main advantage of this is that it keeps Masons from catching Foot-In-Mouth disease. That's because, as I indicated earlier, the anti-Masons often know more about Freemasonry, especially Masonic History, than Masons do. The main disadvantage of this policy is that these inaccurate and unfair characterizations of Freemasonry and Freemasons go unanswered. Even with the recent headway gained by neofundamentalist factions of some mainstream churches, many nationally prominent Masons still advocate this policy, because they claim that most Masons don't have the time, education, or other resources to do an effective job of responding to them. I tend to agree with that.

(2) Engage them. Expose the lies, deception, and commercial nature of these businesses masquerading as ministries. Confront the issues head-on, whenever this hate activity raises its ugly head. Advantages to this include a feeling of pride about ourselves and our Fraternity, and the fulfillment of our charge to defend the character of our Brethren. The main disadvantage is that it will require a massive retraining program to prepare us to use restraint, develop effective self defense weaponry and tactics, and to commit valuable resources, energy, and manpower to Masonic self-defense. I can tell you, my Brothers, from my firsthand experience, that this is an exercise in futility and a big waste of time. Sending pro-Masonic materials to them is like sending a flyer extolling the virtues of DOS/Windows computers to a list of Macintosh Dealers.

(3) There is a third way. It just happens to be Grand Master Carl Smith's motto for this Masonic Year: "**Let Our Light Shine.**" What that means is simply this: We have to emphasize Masonic education, to the general public as well as the Masons themselves; and we need to have clear, concise, standard answers to the questions: "What is a Mason?" "What is Freemasonry?" "What can I get out of Freemasonry that I can't get anywhere else?" "What do Masons do?" *and especially,* "How do I join?"

Those of us that are in the foray against the anti-Masons know that the enemy can only make headway if Freemason church members cannot respond to these accusations, either directly, by immediate and accurate answers to these questions above; and indirectly, by the examples of their own lives, which is the most important.

People who know me know I have no connections to world political or economic conspiracies. Anyone who tries to convince my friends that I am a Satan worshipper will be laughed at to his face, and will show himself to be a ridiculous charlatan. *That statement should be true of each Mason individually and the Fraternity in general.*

The anti-Masons only seem strong because they are noisy. The real truth is that if you go and look at their web sites, you will find the same rehashing of the same garbage by the same handful of supposedly former Masons, Theosophic writings, and outright frauds. There is a lot of talk about "ministering to Masons and their families," but there sure aren't many conversions. I am currently reading a book by the famous theologian Peter Marshall, who indicates that one of the things the Puritans looked forward to when coming to the New World was that they could have the chance to convert the natives "whose hearts are not yet hardened against unwanted evangelism." I guess they had a problem with that in the "Old Country" too.

There is a famous allegory about perception: Two men are in a room in an insane asylum. One is firmly convinced he's Napoleon. The other is firmly convinced he's a psychiatrist. Which man is sane?

The assumption is, of course, that the psychiatrist is sane because (a) we can relate easier to a psychiatrist and (b) because we believe Napoleon is dead. Even though by simply changing the date of the confrontation, Napoleon might be looking at a raving lunatic, but still our first instinct is to side with the man we can best relate to. That's why mainstream churches have a hard time accepting that there are professional liars and deceivers in the "body of believers." So if you call your book, tape, and seminar business "Free the Masons Ministries" and your office is in a church building, it's much easier to convince mainstream churches that you are the psychiatrist, and the Masons are the crazy men.

Our primary purpose is to "best work and best agree" that Freemasonry is the best answer for much of the divisiveness, polarization, and isolation that plagues many of the peoples of this earth, and that the Great Masonic Conspiracy is to bring all people, especially those of us in greatest need, back into the Family of Man. We do this through intelligent discourse — which is impossible unless the opinions of all men, even those "beyond the black stump," are given the dignity of a fair and equal hearing.

It is important to note that musically, much of what we consider modern harmony was called dissonance to the natural modalists of the past. And the harmony of the past (before the tempered scale) sounds very dissonant to our ears today. It is through the freedom of expression that change for the better occurs. After all, every "tradition" started out as somebody's crazy idea.

Strength and support for Freemasonry arrive when we, as a Fraternity — because of our firsthand knowledge of what Freemasonry really is — do not fear legitimate criticism, from within or without the Fraternity. That can only enhance the Fraternity, and several recent postings on Masonic forums on the Internet have indicated *that it was precisely the openness and honesty of Masons that finally leaned some of our newest Brothers toward joining us.*

From the Great Light of Masonry, Gospel of St. Matthew:

MT 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven."

We need to go on the offensive. We need a massive national (or even international) public relations campaign showing the positive effects of Freemasonry in our communities, in our nation, in our families, and in ourselves. It is the general public, not the handful of anti-Masons, that need to see us for who and what we really are. We need to get out of our own "Dark Ages," abandon false modesty, and start letting our neighbors know where the light really comes from.