

The material and resources provided by Choosing Truth Ministries have been made available from a number of authors and ministries. Many of the authors are ex-Masons sharing information along with their love and concern in Jesus for others. There are some however who would use this material out of self-motivation without that love and compassion in Jesus towards others. When used in that context it has the opposite effect of its intended purpose. The following email correspondence demonstrates how Christians with mis-guided intentions lacking the love of Jesus can actually do more harm than good for His Kingdom. I have asked John Smith (not his real name) for permission to make this correspondence available so that Christians can see how hurtful they can be when operating without His love. Please use the ministry material with love as He directs. Prayer is a good place to see where we are and where He wants us. "... but have not love, I am nothing." 1 Cor. 13:1-13.

Dear spreaders of mistruths:

July 3, 2004

Let us not mince words for you and I both know you that you were never a mason, your statements betray you. May you always remember you will be judged for what you do and most important for these passages pertain so pertinently to you and those like you that spout this fecal matter in the aim for securing personal gain. In the process you have violated the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms by spreading hate literature. I believe it is time to expose you and yours for what you are, hateful, jealous, and bitter liars. Exodus 20:15-16

Regards,
John Smith

John;

July 3, 2004

Thank you for your comments as I believe they are sincere from the passion of your personal beliefs. I also am passionate in my beliefs and from those beliefs share both my own personal experience and others' who I believe to have a greater expertise.

As to the ministry there is no profit, there are donations and some book sales with costs far greater than funds coming in. The ministry is mostly supported by my personal income from full time employment. I do this out of the passion of my beliefs founded as a believer in Jesus Christ as my Saviour and the Saviour of this world. I confess Jesus Christ to be my Saviour, the Light of my life, and the Light of this world. As an ex-Mason I have renounced the light of the lodge having read books by Manly Hall, Albert Pike, etc., and I have come to see that the light they recognize is not the Light of this world. If you are a Mason that is by your personal choice. I respect your choice. However, unless you are familiar with the inner doctrines of Freemasonry I believe your choice is based on deception. If you are familiar with the inner doctrines of Freemasonry and choose to be a Mason I can agree that we have chosen different paths and I respect your choice.

I don't have a great deal of time due to my employment, ministry, etc., but I would dialogue any specific concerns and of course share my faith in Jesus in whatever way you might indicate. Briefly though, I was a Mason from 1983 – 1985. Since then I have studied and collected Masonic literature by Masons, ex-Masons, etc. Through my personal experience, my studies, and fellowship with several ex 32nd degree Masons who have been set free in Jesus, I am confident that the materials presented are accurate. My testimony will be on the web site in about two

weeks. I also expect that some of my ex 32nd degree Mason friends will be sharing on the web site in the near future, giving their testimonies having found the true Light of this world. Possibly after listening to my testimony, if you choose, you might have a better idea of where to direct concerns. In the meantime, thank you again for sharing your thoughts.

Evans Nicholson

Evans;

July 4, 2004

I am afraid we must agree to disagree. I must first apologize for my tone which was far too strong and very unchristian of me, but of late I have been inundated with what I consider "Hate Email" from various zealous persons who mined my name and email address from a Masonic web site I posted on, calling me everything from fool to a disciple of Satan so my skin was getting a little thin.

I gave my heart to the Lord 23 years ago have been a Mason for 15 years now and I can emphatically state that in that time I have never seen anything that is anti-Christian in my travels and studies on the subject. In fact Masonry has bolstered my belief in the Lord if anything. The same can not be said for "The Church" which has failed me time and again. Back in the 90's I fell on hard times and had no work for 18 months. During this time I depleted my bank account and drove my credit to it's limits trying to stay above water. Members of my lodge dipped into their own pockets and helped me through but what did my church do but send the minister to my door complaining that I was not pulling my weight financially in the church by paying my tithes. It's difficult to pay tithes when you can not even pay your bills. I'm afraid I have seen too many hypocrites using the name of the Lord for personal gain over time and never again claim a denomination as my own. In my opinion man has perverted the teachings of Christ for their own purposes of personal gain, both for money and control.

As for inner doctrines of the "Higher Degrees" there are none other than moral lessons taught by allegory and symbolism which if not properly understood are easily misconstrued into what they are not. I am afraid Christianity does not have a monopoly on morality, nor does any other faith, and neither does Masonry. I highly suggest you read John J. Robinson's "A Pilgrims Path" which addresses many of the issues which trouble you.

As for me the Lord answered my questions on the subject. I was in turmoil after being shown the interpretation of what various Masonic writers from the 19th century had written, mainly Pike. I pondered this conundrum for some time and finally I asked for guidance, opened my bible to a random page, as we all do from time to time. I opened to James chapter 2 and found my answer.

When John completed Revelation on Patmos he never spoke again other than to say "Love each other little children". Love is the greatest gift of all and can be manifest in many ways. I beg that you turn from this path you are on and go out to the poor, the downtrodden, the drunkard, the addict, the misguided youth and share you love with the Lord with all mankind that they too may see his light.

Regards,

John Smith

John;

July 8, 2004

Received your email, thank you, much appreciated. I can see where you're coming from and can understand the need to defend your position. I've often said that Christianity would be great if it wasn't for the Christians. Unfortunately, while I've often said that out of frustration there is truth to the statement. Tried to figure out why.

I think part of it is because there are hurting people in the church that need love and compassion but as you said there are those with their own agendas and those who fleece the flock rather than be shepherds. Those operating in the flesh rather than walking in the Spirit. The only thing I've been able to do is make a conscious effort of choosing to forgive, even when I don't want to but in obedience to God's Word. Difficult at times but the only way to remove the hook. And of course we don't stay where we're being abused, Jesus did not advocate such.

Tithing, I don't believe it's a N.T. commandment. Giving, yes as the Holy Spirit leads. Tithing was an O.T. command to the Levitical priesthood, who had their hands in the till. It's part of O.T. law, not N.T. grace. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, called for love and compassion not for condemnation and control. I try to listen to Him in ministry effort.

Even though you and I have agreed to disagree I firmly believe and agree that Christian Masons will be in heaven and that you and I have eternity ahead of us through Jesus, His Blood, His sacrifice for the remission of our sins by our confession to make Him Lord and Saviour in our lives. There generally is a difference between Christians and ex-Masonic Christians. Ex-Masons know that the lodge is composed of decent upright people from all walks of life. However, the lodge teaches salvation by good works and not through Jesus.

The Christian Mason confessed Jesus and by doing so has received His free gift of eternal life. The Bible teaches no other way therefore I believe according to God's Word, the lodge teaches a false plan of salvation. It hurts to imagine that Masons I've known and those I currently know might be in jeopardy because of false teachings contrary to God's plan of salvation. I know the lodge teaches that all Masons will appear before the great white throne of judgment to receive their just reward. But isn't the great white throne of judgment a judgment of those who have already been condemned? Rev. 20:11-15. I will not be appearing before that judgment and neither will you as we have already been received into Jesus. It's a done deal. The only thing I see in scripture is that Jesus will wipe away our tears when we enter into His Presence. In that context I think of Masonic brethren who might not be there because of false teaching and that as a Christian I had failed to witness Jesus to them. In that regard there will be tears. And in that context I could no longer be a Mason even though I treasure the members, fraternal friendships, and the good fellowship of the lodge.

It's very unfortunate that some Christians have chosen to harass you rather than to reflect the love and compassion of Jesus. Although I'm sure with misguided intentions it's obvious that they haven't matured into an expression of His love and compassion. And that is where we need to apply forgiveness to remove the sting. Often the church is filled with wounded people being led by wounded people. Sometimes wolves have entered in. I know that there are a few ex-Masons who have ended up being like ex-smokers but generally I have found ex-Masons to have matured into a greater grasp of His provision of grace with His love and compassion than the average Christian.

I have been fortunate to have many such as these around me being like-minded in our personal relationship with Jesus. Once you've met with Jesus and have felt His love and compassion you just want to share His grace with others along with His desire for all to enter into His Kingdom.

It's my desire that every Mason would receive Jesus to enter into His Kingdom. The Great Architect Of The Universe does not acknowledge Jesus to be his only begotten son nor give place in the lodge for salvation through Him. Yet God's Word teaches no other way by which men can be saved. Receiving salvation in Jesus is the greatest possible gift given by God. There is no greater truth and the lodge seeking light has denied the Light of this world. As time goes on I find I become more passionate for Masons and their salvation in Jesus, the true Light Masons are seeking but not found in the lodge. You and I have received this gift but what of the other brethren we hold dear to our hearts.

I am also non-denominational. Years ago I asked our Lord if I could make the church I was attending my church home. I was quite surprised to hear His voice saying "No". Since then as the years have gone by I have come to understand why He said that to me. As you have been grieved by the church I'm sure He has also been greatly grieved and probably even more so.

Blessings in Jesus' name.

Evans

Note:

In the area of tithing I expressed a personal belief of giving as led by the Holy Spirit versus the O.T. law of tithing. There are others who have the opposite belief that it's a N.T. commandment. I think Derek Prince has navigated these opposing beliefs with love when he said, "Although I don't believe that tithing is a N.T. commandment, I practice it and I'm blessed by it". I remember those words from one of his teaching tapes. In his book, *Blessing or Curse You Can Choose*, on page 103, he says, "In the New Testament, God never establishes a specific law, like that of the Old Testament, requiring Christians to set aside for Him a tenth of their total income. The covenant of grace does not operate through laws enforced from without, but through laws written by the Holy Spirit in the hearts of believers. In 2 Corinthians 9:7 Paul instructs Christians, "So let each one give as *he purposes in his heart*, not grudgingly or of necessity". On this same page he says, "In Hebrews 8:6 the writer contrasts the Old and the New Covenants, and reminds Christians that they have entered into a "better covenant, which was established on better promises". It is inconceivable that people who enjoy this better covenant should be less generous in giving to God than those who were under an inferior covenant. If God's people under the Law gave Him their tithes – and much more – how could Christian under grace possibly justify doing less? The standards of grace are higher, not lower, than those of law." I also while not believing that tithing is a N.T. commandment have practiced it and have been blessed by doing so. On other occasions I have not practiced it, giving as led by the Holy Spirit and have been blessed by doing so. My firm belief is that obedience is better than sacrifice, that we should obey in whichever way He leads.