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FOUR SERMONS ON FREEMASONRY

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ÜBER DIE FREIMAURERE)

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OF FREEMASONRY FROM A SERMON BY AN EVANGELIST

I have been requested to set before you the Christian Church as God's great institution in contrast to the societies which are of men and by men. By societies of men I do not mean the various sections of the Christian Church, for all these form the one Church of Christ — God's one great society, the greatest and highest He ever formed among the Sons of men. That is the only brotherhood or society against which the gates of hell can never prevail, for it will carry all its faithful members through the greatest storms of earth, and place them safely in the peaceful and eternal Kingdom of God.

Antichrist or the Man of Sin will have power over the brotherhoods of men, to make them as one for his diabolical purpose, but out of these all die righteous will flee for refuge to the refuge God will then provide.

Morality is the life and glory of the brotherhood of men. Christianity is the life and glory of the brotherhood of Christ. Morality is as old as mankind. It consists of right manners, good behaviour, and the moral duties of man to man, but Christianity, which includes morality, is vastly higher, and was never known till Jesus Christ came: for He obtained it for

us through His holy life, atoning death, and resurrection from the dead, bringing life and immortality into manifestation.

Christianity is higher than morality, and is not to be found or obtained in any brotherhood except the Church, the brotherhood of Christ. Therefore that which grieves Almighty God our FATHER in these days, when the enemy is coming in like a flood, is that so many of His baptised children will not rise up into the height of their calling, but live as if they had never been grafted into Christ; forming themselves into confederacies and brotherhoods, which keep them down to the standing of merely natural man, brotherhoods which are only systems of morality with good intentions for good behaviour and for the manifestation of all their moral duties to each other in the power of the natural man. This is the morality which is taught and practised in the brotherhoods of men. But the morality wrapt up in Christianity, to which you are called in the brotherhood of Christ, is "Christ in you the Hope of Glory", Christ in all your thoughts and words and deeds, CHRIST manifesting through you His righteousness and holiness.

By the societies of men I mean secret societies and such benefit societies as are formed for some good purpose. Some have high and lofty aims; others

are for social enjoyments, and for mutual assistance, and some are to prevent certain evils. God has established on earth HIS one great Society for the practice and manifestation of every virtue, and for the destruction of every form of evil. It is the brotherhood of Christ and there is no need for any other brotherhood or Church of Christ; for GOD declares in His word that the brotherhood or Church of Christ embraces the whole company of the baptised, without distinction of age, or countrv — ONE BODY, the pillar and ground of the truth, the dwelling place of GOD, the temple of the HOLY GHOST whose mission is to declare GOD'S will unto all men, and to teach all men GOD'S perfect ways.

Now the Lord has taught us by His Apostles that those who belong to this His great and highest Society should not leave their high and holy standing as they do to a certain extent by joining an ancient secret society, which is supposed to date back to the time of Solomon, and which, according to their own definition, is "A peculiar system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated in symbols." It is not simply a beneflt society, which any Christian might join, but it is a system separate and quite apart from the Church of Christ, having its own sacred law, secret acts and hidden mysteries, which its members are pledged by solemn oath never to reveal. Its lodges are conse-

crated and its members are instructed in its mysteries, which are not the mysteries of GOD or of CHRIST or of the Christian faith.

In the name of the Creator, many strange ceremonies are gone through in its meetings, which to many of its members are only a mummery, and it offers its prayers to the Great Architect of the Universe. It has its own grand festivals, but as a system it does not acknowledge any of the Christian festivals. Many good people are members of this secret society, but they do not know the false position they stand in by belonging to such a system. For in this our Christian dispensation "No man cometh unto the FATHER but through the SON", as Christ declares in St. John, 14th Ch., 6th V., and yet they approach GOD the FATHER by prayers which are not offered in the name and for the merits of JESUS CHRIST.

Had there been no Christianity — had we not become new creatures in Christ Jesus and sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty — had we been still living in the unregenerate days of natural man when this society first began, then perhaps it would have been a very good society for us all to havejoined, for it demands strict morality from all its members, and good work of charity. But considering the true character of the system, this morality springs from

self-righteousness and not from the new life of CHRIST dwelling in men. And the good works cannot be wrought by the grace of CHRIST and in the power of the HOLY GHOST, because it is only a system of morality, which ignores the Person of the SON, and the Person of the HOLY GHOST, and it thereby ignores the Trinity, which is the mainspring and soul of Christianity. It has many signs and symbols, but they are not the symbols of the work of redemption, nor do they set forth the purpose of GOD as regards the Church and the world.

The evil lies in **CHRISTIAN** men joining a sect or brotherhood which assumes the religious character of a past dispensation and ignores the whole purpose of GOD in this Christian dispensation. Many of its members, blind to its false religious character, claim that its objects are the same as a purely social club or benefit society. This they cannot claim; for they have worship and they have deacons and directors of ceremonies and chaplains to offer up prayers to GOD. These prayers are not offered to GOD as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, but as the great Architect of the universe. It speaks much of Solomon's temple, but ignores the greater than Solomon, with His greater temple not made with hands, the Church of Christ. It often refers to the building of that temple, but takes no notice of the Day of Pentecost, when God

sent down the HOLY GHOST and laid the foundations of the eternal temple, His Church, which will stand for ever. It sets up as models men who died for its secrets, but GOD'S model Man, CHRIST, as the incarnate Son of God, it ignores. True, many of its members are good and faithful Christians, who, contrary to the system, do believe that "no man can come to the Father but by Jesus Christ", that "he who honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father", and that Jesus Christ is the only way, the truth and the life. Hence their false position in belonging to an organisation which practically ignores all these precious truths. We have in Apostles' communion members and ministers who once, before coming into Apostles' communion, were members of this ancient secret society, some of whom held high positions there, but they ceased to attend its meetings when shown their false position, namely: that those who belong to Christ should not belong to a system which approaches GOD in prayer without Christ as the only Saviour of men, who give Him no place as the prophet of GOD and revealer of the Father, nor as the only Mediator between GOD and man, nor as the King GOD has prepared for this world, who will establish His Kingdom and fill Creation with His praise.

Therefore all Christians who are made Freemasons by going through strange ceremonies professedly

in the name of GOD take a lower standing than if they joined the Jewish Church. For GOD now dwells in HIS Church, the brotherhood of Christ, in every member and in flesh of man immortalised, even in the risen and glorified SON of GOD; and all who come to GOD now must seek Him there, where HE is to be found, even in Him who is the brightness of the Father's Glory and the express image of HIS Person. This is the glory of the brotherhood of Jesus Christ, infinitely greater than any brotherhood of man which is only bound together with oaths, signs and symbols, and which approaches GOD without the name and power of HIM who is the only way, and speaks of heaven as one "Grand Lodge where the Great Architect will reign over them for ever".

The Church of the living GOD is your brotherhood. Its Grand Master is Jesus, "the Shepherd and Bishop of your Souls", who is ready to supply your every need, reconciliation, forgiveness, cleansing, regeneration, the bread of life, the cup of salvation, and everlasting life in the world to come. Rise up, then, into the heights of your high and holy calling in this brotherhood of Christ, and then you will see clearly the great difference between the brotherhood of GOD and the brotherhoods of men, You will see that the brotherhoods of men can only teach a code of morality, while the Church of God both teaches and im-

parts that which is not merely a code of morals, a set of doctrines, or a certain belief, but a new life, the new and risen life of Christ imparted in baptism, nourished by all the means of grace, and manifested in a godly walk and conversation; a life beginning inwardly in our spirits and working outwardly till it bursts these narrow confines changing these mortal bodies into the image and likeness of our elder Brother, GOD'S Eternal Son.

Now, all the morality, charity and godly walk and conversation which should be seen in you God wants to be the outward expression of the new life within, all to be wrought by the grace of Christ and the power of the Holy Ghost dwelling in you. But the brotherhoods of men are teaching a system of morality to be wrought out in the power of the natural man and for man. Being only a system of morality, Freemasonry can only be great and strong in the power of the flesh, whereas the Church is the temple of the living GOD, against which the gates of hell shall never prevail.

NOTES BY AN EVANGELIST

Freemasonry is not a Christian institution, but is altogether apart from the Church. It acknowledges God, but not God in Jesus Christ, "God manifest in the flesh". It ignores the Trinity, which is the great cornerstone and backbone of Christianity, and without the acknowledgement of which the Creed affirms, "We cannot be saved" for this only is the true God. It acknowledges no redemption or salvation by Jesus Christ, and therefore there is no acknowledgment of sin, or the remedy for it, or deliverance from its guilt and consequences.

Freemasonry ignores the redemption price, the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Its rites, its vestments and ceremonials, etc., its lights and incense, etc., have no reference to Christianity and are of a purely heathen origin and not Christian. Men who join the "Craft" go astray from their baptismal and Christian standing, and Christian ministers who uphold and sanction it are little better than "prophets of Baal" and join in worship at the altar of the Athenians, "To the unknown God", but who has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ, whom they ignore, but fancy God is worshipped with "the work of men's hands". At the times of ignorance God winked, but now He commands all men to repent and believe on His Son Je-

sus Christ, by whom He will judge the world in righteousness, having given assurance to all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead— an article of faith ignored or despised or rejected by Freemasonry. Jesus said "He that is not with Me is against Me and he that gathered not with Me, scattereth", "No man cometh unto the Father but by ME". And yet these men in all their prayers and approaches to GOD presume to come to the Father without HIM. Their prayers are therefore void, and their incense is an abomination to God, seeing it is not gathered into Christ's censer, nor are His merits and intercessions as our Great High Priest and One Minister of the Sanctuary added thereto. Therefore these prayers cannot be acceptable to God for "He that honoureth not the Son, honoureth not the Father who hath sent Him" and appointed Him to be head over all things. But they acknowledge not His Headship. Their morality does not spring from Christ and His life in them. Thus they have fallen from their standing. "No man can serve two Masters", the Grand Master of Freemasonry and our Master, for he must "if he holds to the one despise the other".

Their good works are not done by the grace of Christ, or in the power of the Holy Ghost, for Him they ignore as one of the PERSONS of the Blessed Trinity.

To deny the Trinity either by word or act or system is to deny the Christian faith, and thus to supplant Christianity by Freemasonry, which in many instances becomes their religion.

Freemasonry is sectarian in Character and end, and not Catholic like the goodness and love of God. Its worship therefore becomes idolatry, and not the worship of the True God as He has been pleased to reveal Himself.

God as the Creator and upholder of all things they acknowledge in word but deny in fact, as they refuse to render Him their tithes and offerings, and especially do they ignore the Melchisedec Priesthood of Jesus Christ by withholding their tithes and giving their offerings to uphold an Antichristian System.

They refuse to acknowledge the Church as God's supreme and Divine order, and thus refuse His guidance thereby, notwithstanding all their boasted morality and good works.

For these and sundry reasons no man who is a Mason can be a good candidate for Apostles' communion, unless he repents and gives up the System and forsakes it body, soul and spirit, and refuses to hold any communication with the unclean thing, "Be

ye holy (separate or separated to God) that bear the vessels of the Lord" for the law of His House on the top of Mount Zion is "Holiness to the Lord, this is the law of the House" where the Apostles are stewards.

The lights and incense and paraphernalia and book of laws carried on a velvet cushion in place of God's word in masonic ritual His soul hateth, they are an abomination to Him, and their solemn assemblies are a weariness to God and He says, "Away with them". Their house or system is "built upon the sands" and not upon the Rock; for men can be saved alone by the blood of the Lamb if saved at all, which Freemasonry ignores.

If there were no such thing as Christianity, Freemasonry might be a good thing as a system of religion and good morals, but with our glorious Christianity, with its divine truths and ordinances, all who value them should ignore Freemasonry and give themselves entirely to the Church, which contains all the good Freemasons have and a thousand times more, as it meets all man's requirements for time and for eternity. "Remission of sins and Eternal life", these man needs and these Christianity alone offers.

FROM A SERMON BY AN ELDER

There are agencies of a philanthropic nature. Many schemes for the betterment of the human race have become necessary through the failure of the Church to discharge her proper duties, especially in relation to the poor. There are, however, organisations - confederacies - for personal help and benefit which are open to question. It is one thing to take advantage of such things as insurance, benefit societies and so on, which the Lord places within our reach, and it is another to adopt methods by which we can make ourselves secure against God's dealings with us, or, so to speak, to have another string to our bow. The ups and downs of life are our discipline and preparation for the life to come. True prudence, therefore, consists in acknowledging the Lord by seeking the counsel of the Deacon in all temporal matters, being assured that He will direct our path. For this will not only bring to our help the wisdom but the grace of God; and whether He sees good to send us prosperity or reverses, the grace ministered through the Deacon will prove a great sustainer both in times of prosperity and of adversity.

There is one world-wide organisation, which some have been tempted to regard as almost indispensable, especially to young men. It is a brotherhood

whose members are pledged to help one another wherever they may be or whenever it may be necessary. It has its ramifications throughout all classes of society and in every Country. By means of secret signs its members can make themselves known to one another. It claims to be a great charitable agency, and, while taking a religious form, is so constituted as to open the door to all creeds. In its meetings a certain ritual is observed, in which a travesty of worship is rendered to the Great Architect of the Universe. Many will recognise in this brief statement the aims and purpose of Freemasonry. And I am moved thus publicly to allude to it because several instances have come to my knowledge lately of men being induced to become Freemasons in order to secure business or social advantages, being unaware that Apostles have advised to the contrary - nay, have condemned in the strongest terms.

The first and greatest objection lies in Freemasonry's claim to a brotherhood which is not the brotherhood of Christ. This is clear, in the first place, from the fact that God is honoured, not as the Father who has been revealed to us by the incarnation of His Son, Jesus Christ, but merely as the Great Architect. And, secondly, that it is possible to embrace in its fellowship those who deny that Christ has come in the flesh; aye, even those who deny His existence alto-

gether. On this ground alone it ought to be impossible for any baptised man to associate himself with such a confederacy, to say nothing of the honour paid to God - if, indeed, the Great Architect is admitted to be God - without the mediation of His Son. "No man" said Jesus, "cometh unto the Father but by me." (John xiv, 6.)

Further, we are enjoined to help one another as members of the household of faith. What a sad thing it is that in our land, let alone in a strange country, the brotherhood of faith should not be recognised! But so it is in effect. Even so, we must not turn away from following the Lord, and seek other means, as if the Lord's way had failed. It has not failed. The time will come when all the baptised shall recognise each other as brothers without regard to race or any other human division. In the meantime, it is for us to wait upon God. If we are faithful to Him, He will not fail us. But to seek that which for the present is withheld, not by God's will but by the frailty of man, through another channel than the Body of Christ, is just the sin which caused God to cut off Israel from the land which He had given them.

No doubt it is true in many cases that not only are the advantages of Freemasonry withheld, but disadvantages accrue. In this so-called brotherhood

there is no room for any but themselves, no thought for any than their own interests. How contrary to God's way, who desires that all men may receive the blessing! **(NOTE:** It should be noted, too, that women are excluded entirely from the "mysteries" of the "craft", whereas in the Body of Christ they are freely admitted to the Covenant of baptism.) And surely we have learned that God's blessing is above all human aid.

If there be any among us who have unwittingly become allied with this confederacy, let them seek advice from their Ministers. And if there be any who have contemplated such alliance let them learn from the warning they now receive how important it is in all temporal matters to let themselves be guided by the Lord through the Deacon's ministry.

In all things it behoves us to learn the ways of God. The sin of the present day is that man would make himself his own saviour. The anointed eye can see that failure ensues (in all merely human efforts to ameliorate the conditions of life) because the ways of God are not studied. Part of our calling is to awake to the knowledge of this, that we may commit our way unto the Lord; to take our stand upon the sure foundation of baptismal grace; and to walk by faith.

ADDITIONAL NOTE

The fact is pleaded in favour of Freemasonry that Clergy of the Established Church and of other denominations are members of the "craft", some even occupying prominent rank in various degrees". This arises from the Church's declension from the ways of God. Taught by Apostles the true calling and standing of the baptised, the spiritual sin of Freemasonry as indicated above would be apparent, and not Ministers only, but laymen as well would instinctively cleave to the brotherhood that is in Christ and repudiate that which fails to recognise His claims in our obedience.

As matters stand, however, the standard of faith and knowledge in the case of many Christian men is so low as to make it possible for them quite conscientiously to become Freemasons - but those in fellowship with Apostles, their fellowship being with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ (1st John i,3) - are debarred from every fellowship which has no foundation in Christ.

FROM A SERMON BY AN ANGEL

With regard to what is generally known as Freemasonry I have reasons to believe, and it has been brought before me officially, that there is great activity among Freemasons at the present time in the endeavour to obtain adherents to their Society. And it has been brought to my knowledge that more than one of our young men have been approached with the object of inducing them to become members of that society to become Freemasons. And I feel it necessary to give you a word of warning on this subject.

It is represented, and no doubt truly, that it is a great advantage, from a business point of view, for a young man to become a Freemason; that Freemasons make a point of helping one another on in life, and that a man stands a much better chance of obtaining a good position in the world if he is a Freemason than he would do if he is not. Now there is undoubtedly some truth in this, and yet I have to say to you that it is just one of the things in which the Lord has warned us by His Apostles that we must deny ourselves and suffer any worldly loss rather than join, and that we cannot join it without incurring grave spiritual defilement.

For Freemasonry is not a mere benefit society, like the Foresters or the Oddfellows, or any other of the great benefit societies; it is to a large extent spiritual. It holds services or so-called services of worship. It has secret rites and ceremonies in which the name of God is invoked. Its adherents enter into vows of secrecy and pledge themselves not to disclose the secrets of the society or their methods of communicating one with another. But above all, it is a society of which any Jew, Turk, infidel or heretic may become a member; and it cannot therefore be a fitting society for any Christian man to join.

And here let me say that God has given us a society in which we may find all that is offered us by any society of men. The Church is not only the body of Christ and the temple of the Holy Ghost; it is the household of God - God's household - God's family. Every baptised man and woman is a member of God's family, a child of God; therefore all the members of the Church are brothers and sisters; and if brothers and sisters they are bound to help, strengthen and encourage one another in every possible way.

They are bound to do good as far as in them lies to all men no doubt, as St. Paul says, especially to those who are of the household of faith. Now this is the true brotherhood, this is God's brotherhood.

Oh! we hear a great deal about brotherhood now, as if human brotherhoods were going to regenerate the earth. There is a brotherhood that God will use for the regeneration of the world, but it is His brotherhood; it is the Church of Christ. And if every member of the Church had lived up to his calling no other brotherhood would have been necessary or even possible among Christian men.

Alas! The Church has not lived up to her calling, but has gone back. But she is God's family - God's household; and for any Christian man to join any brotherhood or society of men which affects, consciously or unconsciously, to usurp the place of the Church is an attempt to supply by human means that which God has provided for us in the Church; is to forsake his standing as a baptised man; is to offer an insult to God and to grieve His Holy Spirit.

But there is another reason why we cannot, without sin, have part in Freemasonry. In their rites, in which all have part, God is addressed as "the Great Architect of the Universe". He is never addressed as "The Father of our Lord Jesus Christ" and the name of Jesus Christ as the one mediator between God and men is never mentioned. How, for any Christian man to address God as the Great Architect of the Universe is deliberately to forsake his standing as a baptised

man, and to put himself upon the level of the heathen. For a Christian man to address God in any other way than as "Our Father ,, or to approach Him in any other way than through Jesus Christ, is to offer him a deliberate insult, to trample on the blood of the covenant, to do despite to the Spirit of Grace. And no Christian man can do any of these things without committing terrible spiritual sin.

I am aware of the philanthropic character of the Freemasons, at any rate among themselves. I am quite aware that to refuse to join them may involve considerable worldly loss, or at any rate put you at a considerable disadvantage as compared with other men, but I believe it is one of the things in which God requires of us to deny ourselves and in which we are to take up our cross and follow Him. The Lord's Apostles have not, at any rate, left us in any doubt about this matter. I will now read to you a declaration on this subject by the Apostle **Cardale**, which he delivered at a Conference with the Angels, as long ago as December, 1873. The "Minute of the Conference" is as follows: -

In answer to a question which had been submitted to him on the subject of Freemasonry, the Apostles gave the following reply: -

A society bound together by secret signs, a brotherhood other than the brotherhood of Christ, commencing with a prayer to Jehovah, Jove or Lord, which may not be offered in the name of the One Mediator (for differences of religion) are prohibited and excluded, and the brotherhood consists not only of members of all sects, and heretical bodies of Christians, but of Mohammedans and pagan worshippers of an unknown God, cannot be a fitting society for a baptised man. No baptised man ought to enter it - or can enter it - without sin. I am quite aware that in public ceremonies in England their so-called chaplains are allowed to offer prayers in the name of Christ, but this is no doubt only an indulgence to orthodox prejudices I have no hesitation in saying that our Ministers should very plainly tell our people that they cannot become Freemasons without sin, and that being Freemasons they should as far as possible cease to attend their meetings or to symbolise with them. The Apostle further remarked that in England there was no ground to suspect the Freemasons of dangerous political designs. Still their Organisation was capable of being perverted to such purposes.

Here I must leave the matter with you, but I feel sure that none of you, now that you have heard the true spiritual bearing of the matter, will consent to become Freemasons or to join yourselves in any way with them.