

**District of Columbia Supplement Sir
Knight Kevin S. Matthews Right
Eminent Grand Commander
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Greeting from the Grand Commander's Apartment

The versus for today's lesson are from the following sources:

Ecclesiastes 7:8-11 - Better [is] the end of a thing than the beginning thereof: [and] the patient in spirit [is] better than the proud in spirit. Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools. Say not thou, What is [the cause] that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this. Wisdom [is] good with an inheritance: and [by it there is] profit to them that see the sun.

Titus 3:5 - Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost

Fellow Sir Knights,

As I write this, I am in the final full month of my time in the office of the Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of the District of Columbia. As the first verse states, "Better [is] the end of a thing than the beginning thereof." I am not so sure I agree with this. For in the beginning of being elected to this position, I was enthralled with what we can accomplish, now that the experience has passed all I have left is the reflection of what once was.

We have accomplished a lot of work in the Grand Commandery, but there is so much more to do. When I ran, I spoke of a multi-year plan and this plan is still working its way through. As our Grand Line progresses and gains in experience and wisdom, it is my wish that the next group of Grand Commandery officers achieves all they seek and we have desired. I stand by to assist in any way asked of me going forward.

Before departing, please permit me a time of philosophic reflection on the last verse we have. It is "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." This year, I proposed a year of Grace and in events hosted by the Grand Commandery, we have talked about this and I even tried to get the discussion talked about in the video I made. Grace's etymology is from the Latin word Gratia meaning "for the sake of, to thank, and gratitude or favor" (Archives.nd.edu, 2020). Grace is for whose sake? Is it for the sake of the one, who you forgive or is it for the sake of the one who is forgiving? Forgiveness' understanding has morphed over the years, where some people are concerned that forgiving the "unforgivable" is not right, because they do not deserve it. I believe this phrase has false premises, because of two reasons. First of all, who are we to determine who is forgivable or not? Second, the sin of hate is not on the heart of the one, who is being forgiven, but on the one, who does not offer Grace to others, when they have asked of it from the Lord. Since Grace is freely given, we must strive to give it to others.

Sir Knights, I leave you with a thought. We live in a divided world, but if we are willing to work together in our individual parts and contribute to the greater good through our contributions of our God given talents, we can achieve great things. If we don't we are doomed to failure. Christ's Grace is a freely given gift and not subject to a price. If Christ can grant that to us, why is it so hard for us to grant to our fellow Americans? In the Service of Jesus, Amen.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Sir Knight Kevin S. Matthews

Right Eminent Grand Commander 2018-2019

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