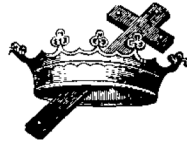


ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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GRAND PRELATE'S APARTMENT

*The grasslands of the wilderness overflow; the hills are clothed with gladness.
The meadows are covered with flocks and the valleys are mantled with grain;
they shout for joy and sing.*
Psalm 65: 12-13 (NIV)

The psalm excerpt quoted above contains a message of the abundance found in our world. And this abundance is celebrated in our annual festival of Thanksgiving, a time for rejoicing and rendering thanks to God for all the blessings His bounty has bestowed upon us.

But what a joy it is to go outside, to view the panorama of bright red, gold, and yellow foliage that the trees upon the hills display to us. Spending time in nature reminds us of the unlimited power of God, from which everything originates. Every season is filled with different and new treasures to behold and contemplate. We learn in our Entered Apprentice lecture the great books of nature and revelation are our spiritual, moral, and Masonic trestle board. God's handiwork is displayed in nature everywhere, from the largest galaxy to the smallest grain of harvest wheat.

Sir Knights, let us never fail to frequently read the book of nature, written by the finger of God, and never more beautifully than at this time of celebrated abundance. Go outside, watch the passing clouds in the clear blue autumn sky, smell the crisp Fall air, or just close your eyes and simply breathe in the awareness of the riches of the world you inhabit. And remember to render thanks to Him who created the world, you, and all the blessings with which you have been endowed.

In His Name,
George Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, KGT
Grand Prelate

PSALM 23 READING

There once was a Shakespearean actor who was known everywhere for his one-man shows of readings and recitations from the classics. He would always end his performance with a reading of Psalm 23.

Each night, without exception, as the actor began his recitation "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want"... the crowd would listen attentively. And then, at the conclusion of the psalm, they would rise in thunderous applause in appreciation of the actor's incredible ability to bring the verse to life.

But one night, just before the actor was to offer his customary recital of Psalm 23, a young man from the audience spoke up. "Sir, do you mind if tonight I recite Psalm 23"?

The actor was quite taken aback by this unusual request, but he allowed the young man to come forward and stand front and center on the stage to recite the Psalm, knowing that the ability of this unskilled youth would be no match for his own talent.

With a soft voice, the young man began to recite the words of the Psalm. When he was finished, there was no applause. There was no standing ovation as on other nights. All that could be heard was the sound of weeping. The audience had been so moved by the young man's recitation that every eye was full of tears.

Amazed by what he had heard, the actor said to the youth, "I don't understand. I have been performing Psalm 23 for years. I have a lifetime of experience and training, but I have never been able to move an audience as you have tonight. Tell me, what is your secret?"

The young man quietly replied, "Well sir, you know the Psalm. I know the Shepherd."

-- Author Unknown

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THE BASEBALL PLAYER

Almighty Father, you who are called the "Mighty Umpire" in this game of life, we are not sure what uniforms we should wear. While we may be Angels in spirit, in reality we are Giants in pride, Dodgers of responsibility and Tigers in ambition. When it comes to faith, we find ourselves in the minor leagues. When it comes to good works, we strike out; when it comes to knowledge of your Word, we are not even sure of the ground rules.

Therefore, we are thankful for your mercy when we find ourselves in foul territory; for your forgiveness when we commit one error after another; for your uplifting spirit when we find ourselves in the pitfalls of a slump.

Dear God may our game plan be your will, and our response a sellout crowd with standing room only. And, when our number is retired here on earth, may we rejoice to hear you call out, "SAFE," in His name who gives final victory to all who believe! Amen.

-- Author Unknown

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