

# ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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## GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10 (NIV)

As Grand Chaplain of the Grand Royal Arch Chapter, I normally try to build my message around a passage of scripture from the Old Testament. But, while doing my personal Bible study today, I came upon the one cited above and felt called to use it.

When I was in Boy Scouts, I belonged to the Order of the Arrow, a "Brotherhood of Cheerful Service" within the body of Scouting. Masonry, like the Order of the Arrow, is a brotherhood of service. Service can be manifested in small ways and yet have a large effect. When we serve others, we share the gifts with which God has endowed us. Cheerful service, in particular, gives us a sense of oneness with others, with creation, with God. In Masonry, we serve through the charities we sponsor, with volunteering in the community, with doing unto others as we wish they would do unto us. Inside us, a connection occurs, a feeling of warmth, a lifting of spirit.

What is cheerful service? How is it exhibited? We can pray for one another, smile and encourage each other, run errands or help each other with tasks that need doing, share food with others less fortunate, comfort those in sorrow, be a good listener...the list is practically endless. It is truly love in action, a wonderful way to share our divine gifts, a way of practicing stewardship of God's grace and the material bounty His love has provided for us.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP  
Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

## JUDGE GENTLY

Pray, don't find fault with the man that limps  
Or stumbles along the road.  
Unless you have worn the shoes he wears  
Or struggled beneath his load.

There may be tacks in his shoes that hurt  
Though hidden away from view.  
Or the burden he bears placed on your back  
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't sneer at the man who's down today  
Unless you have felt the blow  
That caused his fall or felt the shame  
That only the fallen know.

You may be strong but still the blows  
That was his if dealt to you  
In the selfsame way, at the selfsame time  
Might cause you to stagger too.

Don't be too harsh with the man that sins  
Or pelt him with word or stone  
Unless you are sure - yea, doubly sure -  
That you have no sins of your own.

For you know, perhaps,  
If the tempter's voice should whisper as soft to you  
As it did to him when he went astray  
It might cause you to falter too.

-- Author Unknown

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## THE BEST GIFTS THIS SEASON:

To your Boss - Service  
To your Child - A good example  
To your Father - Honor  
To your Mother - Gratitude and Devotion  
To your Spouse - Love and Faithfulness  
To Yourself - Respect  
To All Men - Charity  
To God - Your Life!!

-- Author Unknown

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