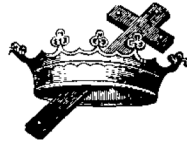


ALABAMA SUPPLEMENT



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FROM THE GRAND COMMANDER

Sir Knights, it has been such an honor to serve as your Grand Commander! It has been rather strange but none the less a great honor.

This pandemic has caused many disruptions to everyone's life and mine is no exception. I am saddened that I was not able to visit more of your Commanderies but to the few I did visit, thanks for the warm welcomes and hospitality.

Due to the Covid 19 considerations, we plan to have a greatly curtailed Grand Commandery for 2021. Friday afternoon will start with a joint opening of all three Bodies which will be followed by the Commandery Divine Service and then the banquet.

Saturday afternoon we plan to have the Commandery business completed in one afternoon (Saturday). With everyone's understanding and cooperation we should be able to perform the necessary business, including electing and installing a new Grand Commandery line, and do so in a safe manner.

As Christian Knights we must believe in a bright future. I believe we have a great slate of Grand Commandery Officers ready to carry the banner into 2021, and beyond! Your Grand Commandery officers are ready to lead us into that future. And if you should so wish, Sir Knight Winston Each is ready to lead them.

Please continue to support the Knight Templar Eye Foundation and our efforts of sending ministers on the Holy Land Pilgrimage.

We look forward to seeing you at the Grand session but we want you to feel safe. We will practice social distancing, wear our masks (bring your own), limit contact and wash our hands often. Most important, if you don't feel well, have a fever or are just not comfortable being in such a gathering, we will miss you but completely understand.

Be safe my Brothers and I hope to see you soon!

In His service,
William J. Burfitt, KCT, KTCH
Right Eminent Grand Commander

GRAND PRELATE'S APARTMENT

"...And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ."

Ephesians 3:17-18

In Freemasonry we are reminded of the three dimensions of objects, namely, width, length, and height. In physics, we learn of a fourth dimension—time. In the verses cited above, Paul tells us that God's love can be thought of in three dimensions. And I would humbly suggest that we can add to this the dimension of time.

Consider the following: **WIDTH.** God's love is as wide as the sky above us. God's love extends to every person who ever lived. It includes the whole human family, male and female, young and old, rich and poor, bad and good, all races and nationalities. When humanity asked Jesus how much He loved us, He stretched out His arms...and they nailed Him to the cross. **LENGTH.** What is the length to which God's love will go? How far? God went so far as to sacrifice His only Son for us, sparing nothing. The parable of the prodigal son teaches us the length of God's love, the extent of His rejoicing over our sincere repentance for our sins. **HEIGHT.** God's love has height. In the Psalms, David tells us: *"As the heavens are high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward those who fear Him."* (Psalm 103:11; 108:4). God's love raises us from the depths of sin to the heights *"in the heavenly places."* (Ephesians 1:3). **TIME.** God is a being without beginning of days or end of years. Through the sacrifice of His only Son, God opened to us the portals of eternity and gave us an opportunity to spend forever in the radiance of His love. The people around the cross did not understand that the death they were watching meant life everlasting to all people of all nations who would repent of their sins and believe in Him who is the way, the truth, and the life.

Truly, the love of God through Christ surpasses knowledge; *"to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:19) God's love is immeasurable, boundless, bottomless, and timeless. *"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us."* (1 John 3:1)

--Adapted from a message by Allen Webster

George L. Marshall, Jr., PGC, KCT, KGT
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