

Templars of the Plains

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Roger Walls, REGC 2021-2022



Let There Be Light

Sir Knight Roger Walls, Right Eminent Grand Commander, 2021-2022

When at the altar, immediately following his obligation, the candidate, or brother depending on which degree he is receiving, is asked what he most desires, and each one responds with a request for light.

Could it be because the lodge is in a low light atmosphere, and the initiate could not even discover the form thereof, or could it be a reference to more masonic knowledge? It is the latter. However, these two situations refer to God's command, 'LET THERE BE LIGHT.' Darkness was on the face of the deep and there was no form thereof.

Also, more knowledge was yet to come, or more light.

This scripture informs us of how important light is to God—He created light first and as He progressed with His creation, light and knowledge become synonymous.

The light of masonic knowledge is of immense importance to us as masons as well. It is through the light of the knowledge we gain as we grow in masonry that we become better men, our self-improvement becomes more solid, and we become better citizens and more of an asset to our fraternity. Our brotherhood grows closer and our compassion for each other is the epitome of our interaction in all forms of masonry. We support all the pendant bodies we belong to with the light we receive from the Great Light.

In the Charges, we are to study and obey with reverence the Word, or light God has given us in that Great Light upon our altar, over which we have all taken our obligations. The closer we follow that Great Light, God promises more light to us, and the more light we receive through that promise, the better enabled we become to display the beauty of brotherly love, relief, and truth.

I can honestly say the more light I receive in masonry, the closer I get to the brotherhood of man under the fatherhood of God. That being my desire, I shall receive it with the assistance of my brothers—

LET THERE BE LIGHT!

AMEN

SO MOTE IT BE

What is Truth?

Sir Knight Patrick C. Carr, Grand Warder, 2021-2022

In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Zerubbabel is questioned about who is the strongest. Zerubbabel's response was one which surprised everyone at the assemblage and earned him the accolades of King Darius. Zerubbabel expounded upon the virtues of truth. According to Zerubbabel truth is unchangeable and everlasting. Truth is mightier than any other thing in existence.

Zerubbabel's interpretation of truth is important for understanding the essence of God. He states in his discourse to Darius that God is the God of truth. As a Christian we must understand the deep meaning behind this statement. God, and His word, are the essence of truth for the world. It matters little what people may think of the scriptures. The Word of God is the truth which a hurting world still needs over 2,000 years later. Zerubbabel was before the time period of the coming birth of Christ, yet he understood all things pass away over time. The king will change his mind. New kings will be raised. Fortunes will be won and subsequently lost. People are born and thus must die. But the word of God continues to be true and will be true forever.

Albert Mackey attempted to define truth in his masonic dictionary. According to Mackey, truth is the real object of freemasonry, and it is the search for the philosophical and religious truth we endeavor to find through our search for light in Masonry (Mackey, 1918, p. 805). Whenever we as Masons engage in the search for light, or God, we are also seeking after the truth because God is truth. The rituals of freemasonry change slightly over time and from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. While there may be changes in some parts of the ritual what does not change is the intent behind the ritual. Freemasonry teaches the search for the truth. Mackey continued and stated, "the higher ideas of truth which pervades the whole Masonic system, and which is symbolized by the Word, is that which is properly expressed to a knowledge of God" (Mackey, 1918, p. 805). Mackey understood the search for all things regarding Masonry is inevitably the search for truth which occurs only by seeking the face of God. The truth will always prevail because it is greater than all the earthly principalities and their beliefs. Truth does not change and it will always prevail over lies.

As Knight Templars we understand the continuing search for truth. Our entire order is founded upon a belief in the Word of God. We use exclusively the New Testament in our rituals. This is not only the Word of God, but it explains the Word being made into flesh to dwell among us and to forgive us our sins. We use the Lord's Prayer throughout our rituals to remind us of the teachings of Christ. We understand truth. Truth is only found in the search for the face of God and the understanding of his sacrifice by sending His Son as a mortal sacrifice for our sins. Truth does not change. It is not relative. It survives wars and armed conflicts. Truth is the ultimate goal of the man involved in all forms and levels of Masonry. It is more especially important for those of us in the Commandery. We fight for truth with our swords, and we stand for the ultimate truth which is only found through the blood of Jesus.

