

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

State News for February 2022

Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

Grand Commander: Winston L. Each REGC

Editor: Thomas F. Craig, PGC, tfcraig@aol.com

GRAND CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9, KJV)

How often do we imagine that we know better than our Lord; how many times have we made important decisions without first calling upon Him in prayer to guide us by His knowledge and His love? As Masons, the first words we utter inside the Lodge as Entered Apprentices are a declaration of our trust in God. Yet we still order our lives as we see fit, without daily seeking the guidance of our Heavenly Father to assist us in making good choices in accordance with His will and requesting a portion His superior knowledge to rest upon us in doing so. We may not understand why God allows certain things to happen in the world or in our lives, but we can rest assured that He is in control, that His thoughts and ways have a definite purpose and that His love and mercy are always with us.

George Marshall, Jr., PGHP

Grand Chaplain, Grand Chapter RAM of Alabama

HUNTSVILLE COMMANDERY NO. 7 CHRISTMAS OBSERVANCE

On Tuesday evening, December 14, Huntsville Commandery No. 7 held its annual Christmas Observance at Helion Masonic Lodge in Huntsville. A delicious pot luck meal preceded the event, after which the Sir Knights and guests repaired upstairs to the Lodge room for the Observance. Four past grand commanders were present: Right Eminent Sir Knights Emory "Smokey" Ferguson, KCT; Philip Sherman, KCT; Jerry Burfitt, KCT; and George Marshall, Jr, KGT. Also present were two current Grand Commandery officers: Sir Knights Doug Burfitt, KCT, Grand Sr. Warden; and Johnny Strickland, Grand Sentinel. Also present were Sir Knights from Decatur, Gadsden, and Birmingham. Following the impressive ceremony at the Triangle, Sir Knight Marshall sang two solos and led those present in a round of Christmas carols. A photo of the members and guests is shown below.



THE ONION

I was an onion before Christ set me free.
Layers upon layers of iniquity.
An ugly old onion whose fragrance was strong;
That my Jesus bought and loved all along.

THE ONION (Cont.)

Unknown to me what He was going to do.
Of what He was planning, I had not a clue.
Pulling each layer off one by one.
In order to make me more like Jesus the Son.
The first layer wasn't so bad.
I saw all the sins that I knew I had.
They were easy to fix, just change the way I talk.
And learn more of how He wanted me to walk.
Reading His Word, and learning again;
How to put aside my life of sin.
But the next layer was pulled which hurt more.
He was getting closer to the core.
Unknown what He would find there.
I simply gave it to Him in prayer.
As another layer was removed, He started to cry;
Pulling this layer brought pain to my Father on High.
And I was crying over the sadness I felt;
The brokenness and all of the guilt.
Past memories that I thought were gone;
They were buried under layers disguised in a fragrance so strong.
As onions peel more and more;
And they put tears in our eyes as we get close to the core;
So my Father wept over my pain;
Giving me a balm of comfort and strength to sustain.
"No More Layers." I would scream.
As He continued to peel them off of me.
"I'll have nothing left my Lord, what will I do?
I'll be nothing but a worthless core to you. "
But He just said "Trust me," and continued to peel
I was sure He was blinded to my pain that was so real.
Year after year I shrunk more and more;
Until all that was left of this onion was a core.
It was then that I began to understand;
As the Lord embraced me in His loving hand.
He said, now and only now can you be;
The creation that will minister before me.
Clothed with the righteousness only from above;
Gone are your layers of self so you can be filled with my love.
He took my layers of sin, hurt and pain;
And clothed me with love, truth and mercy in His name.
Yes, we are all onions, learning with each day;
How to overcome as each layer is taken away.
Some layers tear and pull at our heart;
While others grieve us to our innermost part.
But we are nothing but an ugly onion without Christ.
Layers upon layers of pride, sin and strife.
Only God can take those layers away.
And clothe us with His righteousness in that final day.

-- Author Unknown
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