

Templars of the Plains

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Gary Mason, REGC 2024-2025

From the Grand Commander

Sir Knight Ivan DeTevis, Eminent Grand Junior Warden

The Right Eminent Grand Commander has asked the current Grand Commandery Officers to write articles for this supplement. This month we hear from our Eminent Grand Junior Warden, Ivan DeTevis.



Good day, Sir Knights.

As I gather my thoughts concerning what the month of November is all about, the first thing that comes to mind is being thankful for having the heat of summer behind us and realizing how the Holidays are fast approaching. The coldness of winter comes with more challenges for our families. In November we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. What should we, as Sir Knights, be thankful for? Each of us was motivated to become a Sir Knight by someone in our masonic travels. Have you taken the time to thank that person for their desire of wanting you to be a Knight? What about in your own community? Have you realized how much you have comfort within your own community? Be thankful for being together in unity not only at home but among other Sir Knights.

November means more activities in our family, our masonic appendant bodies and even our church. These activities strengthen our connection to others. I've realized that Kansas has a lot of rural York Rite Bodies and they are small in active member participation. Yet, recently I have discovered some of these groups are coming together and starting a fire in their hearts. They are inspiring those that have not been attending meetings for awhile. They are now wanting to find ways to reach out to those companions and Sir Knights to welcome them back to the Order and their meetings.

How Christians and Sir Knights are tied together is mentioned even in our first degree of Masonry. In the Order of the Temple, one has an opportunity to reflect on one's own value and faith. How he has hardship in his travels just as we all do in our own life. How, with the help of others, his burden is lessened. We learned to look deeper into that Book of the Law (Bible) to gain wisdom and strength from.

When Thanksgiving day approaches, let us all give thanks to our Creator who knowingly and willingly carried that cross which He died on for his love of his father so we would have an opportunity to be saved. Saved by his blood being poured out for you and me and for those who repent and believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Be thankful for your family and neighbors around you. Be thankful for our Brothers, Companions and Sir Knights that are in our lives and gives each of us strength and knowledge.

November also means the Celebration of the birth of our Creator is right around the corner in December. It is where our hope for ever lasting life, our foundation and cornerstone of faith comes from. How we, as Christian Sir Knights, are soldiers of God, to protect and serve all mankind as Jesus Christ has demonstrated in his teaching.

Truth and the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross

In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, Zerubbabel is questioned about the 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.

It has been written that truth is relative. That can be one way of looking at truth. If one person sees something as being true, it may be according to their perspective on the subject at hand. Another may look at the same discussion from a different point of view and argue against the other's version of the truth. In this way there are some merits to discussing the relativity of truth. These perspectives have been used from time immemorial to convince groups of people to do one thing or another. An example can be found in the Holy Scriptures in the 21st chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. Paul, a servant of the Most High God, had been traveling in the region of Jerusalem. Paul and a group of his followers arrived at Jerusalem and visited James and the elders of the city. Paul told them of the success which had been made among the Gentiles concerning the good news of Jesus. James and the elders told Paul there were those among the Sanhedrin who would be upset concerning his teachings about the Christ. Those people had spoken against Paul and accused him of instructing the Jews living among the Gentiles to forget about Moses and to instead follow a new path. Paul, as well as James and the elders, knew this to not be true. Paul was teaching a new way for salvation through the Christ, however he had not instructed anyone to turn their back on the Jewish customs. From the point of view of Paul, James, and the elders it was not true. From the view of others, especially the leaders of the Sanhedrin, this was the truth. They believed this new way to God was to give up all the old ways. From both perspectives there was truth in their view of the situation. Paul had been teaching a new way. There was truth in that statement. The Sanhedrin made a leap of faith to believe their view of the situation was true as well.

While there may be several ways to look at a subject and the discovery of the situation may insinuate a relative truth, it is not necessarily accurate. True truth is not relative. It does not ebb and flow with the whims of those who are seeking it. Truth is unchanging. Truth is everlasting. Truth endures throughout history regardless of what people may think about it. Zerubbabel understood the importance of truth. Zerubbabel stated, "Truth alone is unchangeable and everlasting; the benefits we receive from it are subject to no variations or vicissitudes of time or fortune. In her judgment there is no unrighteousness, and she is the strength, wisdom, power, and majesty of all ages. Blessed be the God of truth" (Templar, Rodenhauser, & Johnson, 1979, p. 34). Zerubbabel understood truth can have no variations from itself. If something is true it will remain truth regardless of the passage of time or of the social thoughts of the period on the subject. Truth is not relative, and it does not change.

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.

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 Christ Jesus.