

We have often heard that Masonry is a religious organization but the truth is that we are a fraternal organization with much of our work based upon the Bible which is the rule and guide, the strength and support of all the people.

Thus shall I try to layout how religion is securely entwined in our Masonic work and lead up to the address Sir Knight Kaltenbach will give.

As an Entered Apprentice you were received as a poor blind candidate and caused to kneel for the benefit of prayer because no Mason should enter upon any great and important undertaking without first seeking the blessing of Deity. Thus began your journey around the outer courts of the tabernacle.

As a Fellowcraft you joined in Speculative Masonry to help in building your spiritual temple and to share in our sorrows and disappointments.

You were raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason where you witnessed the deadly effects of uncurbed and selfish ambition - of unbridled and violent temper.

You were not satisfied with what you had received in the Symbolic lodge and you realized that it was incomplete and your search was not ended. As a Mark Master Mason you learned the lesson of charity, you saw the wisest and most skillful overseer set aside the priceless keystone.

In the Past Master Degree you learned an important lesson, that he who rules and governs best learns self-discipline first.

As a Most Excellent Master you witnessed the completion and dedication of the Temple to the Most High God. Leading us to dedicate our spiritual temple to the highest and purest ideals.

Then as a Royal Arch Mason you made the long and dangerous journey back to assist in the noble and glorious work of rebuilding the city and Temple of your God.

As a Royal Master you were taught that though your immediate aims may be frustrated, by your sincere faith you shall in due season reap your reward.

As Select Masters, we know that we must let our Masonic Light so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works may give glory to God and our Fraternity.

In the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross you were impressed with the almighty force and importance Of truth.

In the Order of Malta you saw those ancient Knights bitterly reviled, persecuted, driven from their home, forced to flee from place to place, unjustly accused, branded as evil and fighting for their very existence.

In becoming a Knight Templar you learned how Jesus with the patience and perseverance of the pilgrim, the courage and constancy of the warrior, and the faith and humility of the penitent suffered the abuse of his people, the persecution of the established church, the betrayal of his friends and finally the agony of death on the cross.

With this I have attempted to show the line between religion and Masonry. Sir Knight Kaltenbach will now show an even stronger thread. See if you follow the influence of religion on Freemasonry. Perhaps it is even stronger than imagined.

(See “The Influence of Religion on Freemasonry” at <http://www.nvmasons.org/files/misc/InflReligion.pdf> by Robert Kaltenbach)