



## ILLINOIS SUPPLEMENT

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Greetings Sir Knights:

Do you ever wonder how others outside our Fraternity view us? If not, perhaps you should; and I suggest you start with the world-wide web – the Internet. Today, information about Freemasonry is spread by the Internet. While we realize material presented on the world-wide web may be in error, biased half truths or simply a lie, discernment by the readers can be absent. Many people accept what is written as fact without knowing the motive of the author. Those authors, who otherwise would never be noticed, suddenly imagine themselves as masters of an information domain in which they are free to express their idiosyncratic views in any manner they please.

You may be amazed and surprised to know that many look upon Freemasonry as a non-Christian occult religion and they espouse that you cannot be a Christian and a Mason – you need to make a choice. It is within this context that so many people today find out about Freemasonry. Seeing websites ominously filled with seemingly supported claims of devil-worship or world domination, they wonder if this group of older men whom they happen to notice going in and coming out of an old building are really who they seem to be.

One anti-Masonic web site, [www.conspiracyarchive.com](http://www.conspiracyarchive.com), featured an article titled, “Freemasonry: Midwife to an Occult Empire” by Terry Melanson. Contained in this 20 page rambling is an introduction by Mr. Melanson which states in part, “Historically, Freemasonry has been charged with corruption of public officials because of the oaths and promises they swear to keep amongst themselves, above all else. At the very least, joining a secret society or a “society with secrets”, creates a glaring conflict of interest.” He continues with saying “my only intention here is to outline the occult nature of the organization (Masonry).”

Included as proof of his findings of Masonry being an occult, satanic organization are quotes taken directly from Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogma*, along with the page numbers and reference. Additionally, he quotes Manly P. Hall and includes a “Who’s Who List of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Occultism which of course, serves to be proof positive from various authors that Masonry is based on satanic rites from ancient times. Listed here, to name a few, are Aleister Crowley, who he calls the most controversial occultist in modern times, dubbed the wickedest man alive”, Samuel L. MacGregor” Mathers, a Freemason, a Rosicrucian and an adept occult magician; Bishop Charles W. Leadbeater, a

Freemason, a prolific author and teacher on occult subjects and Masonic history; and Gerald B. Gardner who was a Freemason, an English hereditary witch and largely responsible for reviving Witchcraft in the modern Western world.

Anti-Masons will use any convenient argument to support their position. One very common tactic used by anti-Masons is to put forth a “straw man”. One who claims to have “seen the light” and now can explain to the world from the “inside perspective” the many supposed problems with Masons and Masonry. Most of these are readily seen as a total fraud (the supposed former Mason who is now a “minister” but is apparently too embarrassed to reveal his denominational affiliation or the person who claims to be a “high ranking Mason” who will reveal all). To the unknowing, however, these pretenders are sometimes difficult to discern and can be very persuasive.

The Cutting Edge ([cuttingedge.org](http://cuttingedge.org)) supplies just such a “straw man”. The title of the document “Testimony of Former Freemason Chaplain – Why He Had to Leave Masonry” immediately draws in the novice reader. A subtitle follows: A former Freemasonry Chaplain seeks a demit from the Masonic Fraternity, and details his reasons for getting out. You will discover the truth, especially the spiritual truth about Freemasonry, from his testimony. The man’s identity is soon revealed – he is “Reverend Harmon R. Taylor who served as Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of the State of New York 1983-1984. The disclosure is basically a letter to “Dear Servant of God” wherein there are quotes from Albert Macky’s *A Lexicon of Freemasonry*; Albert Pike’s *Morals and Dogma* J.S.M. Ward, a Masonic authority who has written several important books on Masonry, Frank C. Higgins, a high mason, and Joseph Ford Newton who wrote an article entitled “The Bible and Masonry”.

Broadly classified, I feel that those who oppose Freemasonry today will generally fall into one of the following, Religious Intolerants, Conspiracy Theorists, Hate Groups and Self-Servers. All of these groups are widely represented on Anti-Masonry sites on the web and they diligently strive to provide the reader with as much “proof positive” information against Masons as one can find the time and stamina to wade through. While most of the information available on these sites is biased and containing half truths, there will be many who accept what is presented as the absolute truth and, in turn, will help to perpetuate the negative Masonry image.

I say it is time to LET OUR LIGHT SHINE. We are Christian men who should be ACTIVE DEFENDERS OF THE FAITH. So, I ask you, “Did you attend one of the Grand Commander’s Prayer Breakfasts this year?” Remember, Brothers, the Templars of old were Active Defenders of the Faith and we have their example to follow.

The “true story of Masonry” must be heard around the world. We simply cannot afford to sit quietly any longer while the vocal opposition to Freemasonry misrepresents and maligns not only the Fraternity but all of us who are proud to call ourselves Freemasons. Take that first step in becoming an Active Defender of the Faith and join me in spreading the word of Christian Freemasonry across the state of Illinois.

*Jesse Lee Johns, Sr., Grand Commander*