

# The Baptist Examiner

A nation-wide, independent paper, standing foursquare for the distinguishing doctrines of Baptists, and shunning not to declare all the counsel of God.

"To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

Vol. 2, No. 7

ASHLAND, KY., MONDAY, MAY 2, 1932

Whole No. 23

## THE EVILS OF SECRETISM

(By THE EDITOR.)

I desire to call your attention to some scriptures which give basis and authority for a treatise on this unpopular subject:

"Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people people their transgression" (Isa. 58:7).

"Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine" (2 Tim. 4:2).

"Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them" (Eph. 5:11).

It is not pleasant to the flesh to attack that which is held in high esteem by so many people, but the duty of the preacher is very plain in the light of the foregoing scriptures. Whether it pleases him or not, if he will be faithful to his commission, he must "cry aloud" with reproof and rebuke; and show God's people their transgressions. He must preach the word both in season and out of season. He must declare all the counsel of God.

### Secretism a Great Evil

Secretism today presents one of the most widespread, pernicious, and insidious forms of evil that has ever been lifted up against truth and righteousness. Some preachers seem to think that it is too trivial a thing to merit their attention. But they are sadly deceived. **THE CHURCH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TODAY HAS NO GREATER FOE THAN SECRETISM.** Secretism is unexcelled because it is an organized evil that rivals and threatens the true religion of Jehovah. It is an evil that blinds, enslaves, and damns. It is an organized power for the advancement of the kingdom of darkness. **IT IS ONE OF THE MOST AMAZING PIECES OF DECEPTION THE DEVIL HAS EVER INVENTED.** It is the perpetuation, in a somewhat refined and disguised form, of that system of false religion that has from time immemorial sought to overthrow and displace true religion. **IT IS NOTHING MORE, NOR LESS, THAN MODERNIZED BAAL WORSHIP.** The maintaining of closed lips toward this evil, on the part of the majority of preachers today, only shows how far the present-day ministry has strayed from the spirit of the prophets. While the preacher who affiliates with a secret order, occupies a position analogous to that of the prophets of Baal.

### Why I Am Opposing Secretism

I held aloof from the task of opposing secretism as long as I could. I anticipated the immensity and the seriousness of the undertaking. I knew that it would cause me much inconvenience and that it would cost me dearly. I hesitated to wound the feelings of friends that were members of secret orders. But finally, like Jeremiah, I can say: "His word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forebearing, and I could not stay" (Jer. 20:9). And having been convinced by a close study that, beyond the chance of a doubt, this system is perpetrated and indwelt by "the prince of the power of the air;" and having a deep impression from God, in addition to the commission expressed in the scriptures given at the outset, I can do nothing less than take a firm stand on this matter. And this I do without fear, "For the Lord God

will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded; therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed" (Isa. 50:7).

### The Motive of This Paper

And now, before proceeding further, I want to say that I am inveighing, not against individuals, but against a system and an institution in the interest of individuals who have been deceived by it. It will be natural and needful for me to say some things which are applicable to individuals, yet this I do through no malice for them, but rather in order to awaken them to a realization of their sin. I disclaim every motive in discussing this subject other than a desire to see the truth advanced "for truth's sake," and for the sake of those who are walking in error, whom I covet for the truth.

### The Paper Confined to One Form of Secretism

Inasmuch as it is impossible in the compass of this paper to analyse and discuss all of the multitudinous forms of secretism, it is expedient that I select the outstanding form and confine myself to it. According to the words of a respected writer among secretists, this is a sound policy. This writer says: "The analysis of one secret order is the analysis of every one." And he gives as his reason for this statement that they are all "fashioned after the same idea." So while I shall discuss one form only, yet in a general way my remarks will be more or less applicable to other forms, and let it be explicitly understood that the author is unalterably opposed to every form of secretism from the Knights of Columbus to the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. One is singled out only for the reasons stated. A member of another secret order will be able to see that his lodge is enough like its mother to stand condemned.

### Freemasonry

As the one form of secretism upon which we shall center our attention, I shall select the oldest, most pretentious, and most prevalent one of all, which is Freemasonry. Freemasonry is the mother of all secret orders. In the world it enjoys the reputation of being the best and most venerable, but from the standpoint of God and his truth it is the most perverse and deceitful.

### I Commend Myself to Masons

And now, as I turn to point out the evils of Masonry (by which familiar name I shall from now on refer to it), I commend myself to Masons on the ground of the reverence they profess for the light and truth. They profess to be in search of the truth, and to be constantly desiring "more light." And truth and "more light" are in store for them in this discussion. In fact, I hope that this discussion may be used of the Lord to actually bring many Masons "from darkness to light." "God said, Let there be light," and let all "the redeemed of the Lord say so." And let none rebel at light. If any do, then Jesus described them when he said, "Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." Then I commend myself to Masons on another basis: the testimony of one of their renowned and illustrious, often-tried and never-denied