

Freemasonry

WHEREAS Freemasonry in its speculative form has existed since the early 18th century, and has erroneously influenced multitudes through such groups as the Blue Lodge of the three degrees, Scottish Rite, York Rite, Job's Daughters, Rainbow Girls, Tall Cedars, DeMolay, Daughters of the Nile, Ancient Arabic Order Nobles Mystic Shrine (A.A.O.N.M.S.) and Square clubs, and has deceptively included multitudes of professing Christians within its ranks; and

WHEREAS Freemasonry is indeed a religion though purporting not to be, according to Albert Pike, the most important of all American Masonic authorities, who says, "Every Masonic lodge is a temple of religion, and its teachings are instructions in religion...this is the true religion revealed to the ancient patriarchs"; and

WHEREAS Freemasonry firmly believes in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man by such statements as, "It (Freemasonry) seeks to make good men better through its firm belief in the fatherhood of God, the brotherhood of man and the immortality of the soul" (from a tract published by the grand lodge of the state of Maryland entitled *Freemasonry - A Way of Life*); and

WHEREAS Freemasonry claims priority over the local church by stating that "No institution was ever raised on a better principle of more solid foundation, nor were ever more excellent rules and useful maxims laid down, than are inculcated in the several Masonic lectures" (from the charge to the candidate in the first degree); and

WHEREAS Freemasonry reduces the Bible to just one of many books of authority, Albert Mackey stating in his book, *Encyclopedia of Freemasonry*, "The Bible is used among Masons as the symbol of the will of God, however it may be expressed, and therefore, whatever to any people expresses that will may be used as a substitute for the Bible in a Masonic lodge. Thus, in a lodge consisting of Jews, the Old Testament alone may be used upon the altar, while Turkish Masons may use the Koran"; and

WHEREAS J. D. Buck, M.D., another Masonic writer of importance, in his book, *Symbolism or Mystic Masonry* wrote, "In the early church, as in the secret doctrine, there was not one Christ for the world, but a potential Christ in every man. Theologians first...tore the Christos from the hearts of all humanity in order to deify Jesus", thereby denying the deity of Jesus; and

WHEREAS Freemasonry preaches a message of salvation by good works instead of by faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ, by the symbolism of the Lambskin or white leather apron which is the "badge of a Mason" and which reminds the Mason of "that purity of life and conduct, which is so essentially necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge above, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides";

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the messengers of the churches in fellowship with the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting for our 58th Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio, on June 26-30, 1989, express our conviction that Freemasonry is cultish and a dangerous false religion leading many away from true salvation through faith in Jesus Christ under the guise of compatibility with Christianity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the churches of our Fellowship who have taken a clear-cut stand against Freemasonry, and that we encourage churches which have not done so to do so; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend to the people of our churches a recently published book by Regular Baptist Press. *I Left the Lodge*, by one of our pastors, Dale A. Byers, for useful instruction about this frequently neglected false religion.

*Columbus, Ohio
June 26-30, 1989*