

Grand Commandery of Knights Templar of Florida



Leroy Fackler, R.E.G.C.
4370 Rayburn Rd.
Cocoa Beach, FL 32926-3531
(321) 631-8397
e-mail: leroy@willardshutterco.com



Charles Chic Cicero, Editor, 4124 Raccoon Loop, New Port Richey, FL 34653

GRAND PRELATE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Sir Knights: I got a huge laugh out of a Christmas card that arrived some years ago from my younger sister, Judy. The card showed the Three Wise Men on the front cover. They were in their stereotypical robes, riding on camels, following the Eastern Star that, according to the Scriptures, would eventually lead them to the manger of Jesus. When you opened the card, it had the same wise men, who had a map in their hands, and they had stopped to ask directions of a couple of Middle Eastern looking ladies. The caption on the inside said "Three WISER Men."

The punch line, of course, is that it is always wiser to ask directions. I really don't see a problem with that. Christmas is one of those seasons of the year where finding out how to get back to God is entirely appropriate. It is, after all, that time of the year when we observe the reality of Jesus' birth, and the reason he came. It makes sense to stop and ask ourselves how well our life currently matches the expectations given us by God in his Word.

When is the last time that any of us really challenged God, through his Spirit, to cast his purging light into every nook and cranny of our lives? It is a bright light, a searing light, and a pervasive light that is our God. We can only benefit by the scrutiny that this light can bring into our lives. In Psalm 26:2, David asked God to examine him to affirm his innocence in the face of challenges by others who would destroy him. My innocence is not sealed in the approval of other men. It comes from God himself.

With that in mind, let's return to the Christmas story. One of the most dazzling aspects of this entire story, to me, has always been the extent to which God displayed supernatural sights and sounds around Bethlehem. From the lights that appeared to the

shepherds, to the heavenly chorus, to the star itself, God was very much involved in the events of the birth of his son. He made the pathway to Bethlehem clear with the Eastern Star. He made the directions clear to the shepherds with the heavenly choir and the bright lights that appeared. He secured the path to the cross by guiding Joseph and Mary safely out of Bethlehem before the devastating cruelty of Herod's murdering soldiers. He took them to Egypt, and then safely back to Galilee where Jesus grew into manhood.

He gave us directions to heaven through his inspired Holy Word. He gave us directions to a righteous life by preserving for us the testimonies of countless Bible heroes who endured affliction, persecution, the failures of sin and many other challenges to secure a place in God's honor roll in the Scriptures.

It is my hope that during this holiday season, each of us will add to the collection of implements necessary for a joyous holiday. In addition to the roasting pans, turkey fryers, forks, spoons and knives that we all think are so indispensable to festive holidays; I hope we all will pick up God's road map, his Holy Bible. Read it as a family, read it as individuals. Men, read it as the religious leader of your families that God ordained you to be. Provide some measure of calculation for yourself and your family that gives you all some indication of where this holiday season finds you as it relates to your position along God's highway to righteous living. I wish for all of you a joyous and Christ filled holiday season, and may the spirit of the Fraters guide our every thought, word and deed during this holy season, and then beyond.

In HIS Awesome Name.

Courteously and Fraternaly,
S.K. Rev. Daniel Williams
Eminent Grand Prelate

Grand Encampment has a new web site located at:

www.knightstemplar.org.

The next time you are online, check out the site and let us know you visited us by signing our guest book.