

2009 MWUGL MASONIC WORKSHOP

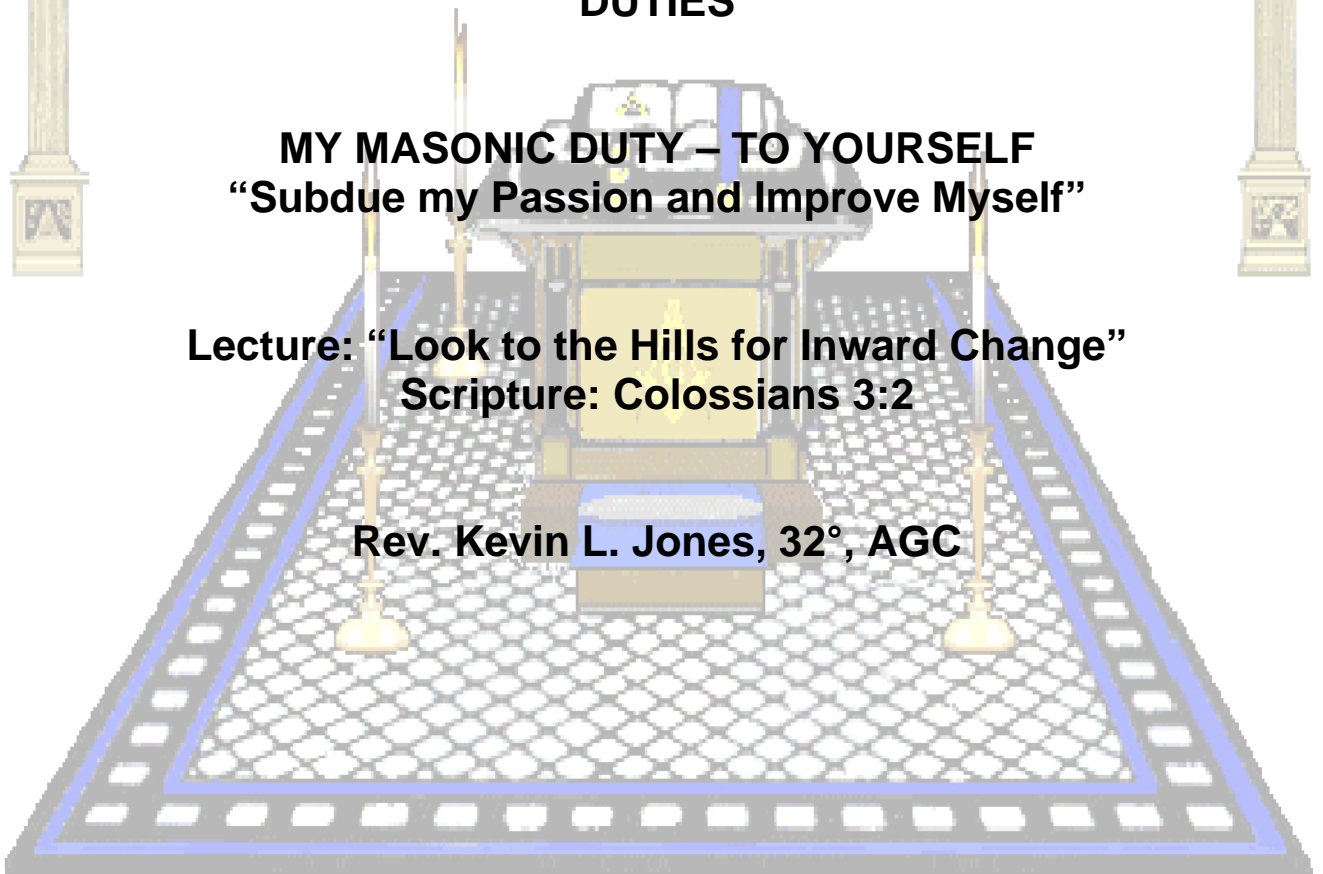
JULY 17-18, 2009

**WORKSHOP THEME: IMPROVING OURSELVES
THROUGH THE PERFORMANCE OF OUR MASONIC
DUTIES**

**MY MASONIC DUTY – TO YOURSELF
“Subdue my Passion and Improve Myself”**

**Lecture: “Look to the Hills for Inward Change”
Scripture: Colossians 3:2**

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“Look to the Hills, for Inward Change”

Scripture (NIV) – “Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.”

Behavioral Purpose - For brothers to understand that God is needed in order for you to make true change internally.

Introduction – The passage that was selected is a simple, but powerful one. I would submit that what we will eventually become hinges on whether or not we are able to subdue our passions. It is a feat lot easier said than done. The individual has to be willing to bring into submission, some habits and thoughts that they have allowed to freely reign most of their lives.

To “subdue your passions” means that you are willing to bring something under control that you have an intensive drive or affection for.

Biblical of examples of individuals who allowed their passions to consume them:

1. Adam and Eve (Gen 3:6)
2. Achan and the “bling bling” (Joshua 6:18;7:1)
3. Samson and Delilah (Judges 16)
4. David and Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11)

This is something that we have endured Masonically.

1. We all had to dress in all whites.
2. We were all subdued by the cable tow, hoodwinks, etc.
3. We were subdued physically, but not spiritually.

Text – Paul’s letter to the church in Colosse

1. It was a community in crisis.
2. Colosse was once a thriving city, but over time it was nothing more than a second rate market town.
3. The church there consisted of Gentile believers.
4. They were being challenged by some of the false teaching that was taking place in the city.
5. Paul’s message was to focus on the supremacy of Christ!!
6. Another message that we will look at today is how you should live your life.

When you look to the hills, for inward change, remember the following:

- 1. There has to be an intervention with the Holy.**
 - a. Brothers we have to go to God through Jesus Christ to see the work of the Holy Spirit within us.
 - b. We have to recognize our faults. (A hard thing for men to do)
 - c. This should lead to us opening our hearts, our minds, and our spirits. **(It's good to read our Masonic rituals, but we have to cultivate a relationship with God through prayer, devotional reading, quiet time, etc.)**

- 2. We have to come to the realization that this will not be an easy process.**
 - a. It's always easy to look at someone else's struggles or where they need to improve, but God wants us to search out hearts.
 - b. We cannot be true representers of Christ or shine that light of Freemasonry until we are able to get ourselves together.
 - c. Remember that everything that may seem good to us, is not good for us and what we are aspiring to be.

- 3. Take some time for serious self-reflection.**

What area of your life have you failed to turn over to God?
What is that you need help subduing?
What is hindering you from being the most complete person you can be?

 - a. Whatever it is, Paul says to put it to death. (Col 3:5-8)
 - b. Those areas of our lives are the results of earthly focus and our own personal desires.

- 4. Replace those desires with the fruit of the Spirit.**
 - a. What does this look like? (Col. 3:13-14)
 - b. If your life models these passages, you are subduing your passions.

- 5. What are the benefits of subduing your passions?**
 - a. You are living a life that is pleasing to Almighty God.
 - b. You are living a life of selflessness. Not my will, but thine will...
 - c. You will be a better person. (Father, husband, uncle, son, co-worker)
 - d. You will be a model for others in the church and community.
 - e. You will be a better **Mason**

Notes