



## PAPER

### Second Degree - Three Precious Jewels

**Summary:** This is an extract from the ritual for the Precious Jewels in the Second Degree, as worked in three Lincoln Lodges. The Precious Jewels are always worked and feature in the First and Second Degrees. The First involves 'The listening ear, silent tongue and faithful heart'. Just a snippet of the rich diversity found within Freemasonry.



**WM** Bro. ..., I now present to you the three precious Jewels in this Degree; they are named Faith, Hope and Charity.

They teach us Faith in God, Hope in immortality, and to be in Charity with all mankind. But the greatest of these is Charity; for Faith may be lost in sight, Hope end in fruition, but Charity extends beyond the grave, throughout the boundless ages of eternity; or, in the poetic language of one of our 17<sup>th</sup> century brethren, Matthew Prior (1664 - 1721)<sup>1</sup>, in his eulogy on Charity, paraphrasing the words of the inspired Apostle, Paul:

**Faith Hope and Charity**  
**Unknown artist**  
**Museum of Freemasonry**

*'Charity, decent, modest, easy, kind,  
Softens the high, and rears the abject mind;  
Knows with just reins, and gentle hand to guide,  
Betwixt vile shame and arbitrary pride.  
Not soon provok'd, she easily forgives;  
And much she suffers, as she much believes,  
Soft peace she brings, wherever she arrives:  
She builds our quiet, as she forms our lives:  
Lays the rough paths of peevish Nature even;  
And opens in each heart a little Heaven.*

*Each other gift, which God on man bestows,  
Its proper bounds, and due restriction knows;  
To one fixt purpose dedicates its power;  
And, finishing its act, exists no more.  
Thus, in obedience to what heaven decrees,  
Knowledge shall fail, and prophecy shall cease;  
But lasting Charity's more ample sway,  
Nor bound by time, nor subject to decay,  
In happy triumph shall for ever live,  
And endless good diffuse, and endless praise receive.*

*Then constant faith, and holy hope shall die,  
One lost in certainty, and one in joy:  
Whilst thou, more happy power, fair Charity,  
Triumphant sister, greatest of the three,  
Thy office and thy nature still the same,  
Lasting thy lamp, and unconsumed thy flame,  
Shalt still survive;  
Shalt stand before the host of heaven confest,  
For ever blessing, for ever blest.*

**First Degree Tracing Board c. 1819**  
**Featuring 'Three precious Jewels'**  
**Josiah Bowring (1757 – 1832)**  
Museum of Freemasonry



## Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> **Matthew Prior:** 'Charity: A Paraphrase on 1 Cor. Chap. 13

### Recommended use of Papers

Please remember that there are several interpretations of many aspects of Freemasonry, this explanation reflects the views of the author, not the United Grand Lodge of England. If you want further information, there is lots of material on Solomon.

Papers offer a simple, direct means of advancement in a particular aspect of Masonic knowledge. They can be used in a variety of ways:

- Read at home for private study
- Shared for pre-reading by members of a discussion group
- Read aloud in Lodge or Chapter, or in an LOI/COI/new members forum. Followed by 'any questions', or as a precursor to a discussion (in which case much more time is needed, possibly more than double that allocated to the paper itself), and be supported by audio-visual aids, if necessary.

They can be delivered by a single person or split into bite-sized pieces and read by multiple presenters (in which case, the speaker(s) should have read and practiced the delivery of the paper beforehand). If the paper is to be used to introduce a discussion, the presenter will need to have thought about the material, done a little research, and prepared some open questions to engage with the audience. Kipling's dictum can be of help in preparing open questions, which should begin with one of his 'serving men', as follows: *'I keep six honest serving men (they taught me all I knew). Their names are, What and Why and When and How and Where and Who'*. Rudyard Kipling \*Note: All biblical passages are taken from the Authorized King James version and any reference to ritual will be from Emulation unless otherwise specified. For further papers and other learning materials visit Solomon at [solomon.ugle.org.uk](http://solomon.ugle.org.uk)

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