

WILLIAM O. WARE LODGE OF RESEARCH

BOOK REVIEW

MARCH 2021

MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

Carl W. Davis

Review by Keith W. Gunkel, Past Master, Orion Lodge No. 222, and Senior Steward
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Carl W Davis's book, ***Making Good Men Better***, opened my eyes to how helpful this tool would be for every Lodge.

The motto we Masons share is "Making Good Men Better," and by following this 52-week personal growth plan based on the teaching of Freemasonry, we as a fraternity, can only better ourselves and our Lodges.

His concepts, understandings and explanations of the working tools, symbols, and rituals, with which, we, as Masons, are familiar, can also help us in our day to day lives to be better men.

If each Lodge dedicated 20 to 30 minutes of time and read from this book and discussed the topics introduced, I am positive our Lodges would be brighter, more knowledgeable, and more active. This book was meant to be read as a devotional, and is not academic in nature.

Individually, we are only capable of accomplishing very limited tasks, but as a group we can organize ourselves with great efficiency and production, with only limited waste.

There are some chapters that jumped out at me, and chapter 6 was one of them. The portion related to brotherly love, relief and truth was eye opening, and a very uplifting topic related to today's Masons helping Masons. Worshipful Brother Davis describes the working tools we use in detail, and explains why they are so important. He also shares Masonic ritual teachings and their symbols, and why, as Freemasons, we work to exhibit the highest moral and ethical principles in our lifestyles, even when the profane world may not agree.



This book is written in a way that all, from a freshly raised Master Mason to a 50-year member, will enjoy it and receive a wealth of knowledge to share. His description of the topics within these pages are perfect for one-on-one contemplation, or as a group. A good example is chapter 27. The three attributes of a Mason – physical, mental, and spiritual – are well covered in detail for us to examine ourselves and try to follow. We should never cut corners or take shortcuts in our daily decisions or actions. We all are imperfect. As Masons, we are charged with being aware of our faults and trying to improve on them.

In Chapter 47 Mr. Davis illustrates the purpose of a Lodge, which I was never taught, but will in the future share with new Masonic brothers for their betterment.

In conclusion Masonic rituals states that to be good and true is the finest lesson we are taught in Masonry. A true Freemason wishes to reach his personal educational potential and help other brothers to reach theirs also. This book will help you reach that level.