



## Grand Commander's Theme 2023-2024

My theme for this Chivalric year is grounded in **2 Timothy 4:7 (KJV)**, ***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith.”*** Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

In this passage of scripture, the Apostle Paul seems to be seeing the end of his life drawing close, and he is evaluating it from the perspective of his faithfulness to Jesus, who called him to be saved and to serve him as the last and “least of all the apostles” (1 Cor 15:9). This chapter feels like a final charge to Timothy, his protégé, and Paul is eager to give the last instructions should this prove to be his last correspondence.

It is a good endeavor at every stage of life to look back on the previous stage, and prayerfully ask if one has been fighting the good fight and running a good race. Of the things God has called you to do, have you kept faithful? Consider all the roles God has assigned you, a husband or father, friend, or brother? What work have you been assigned in the world as a productive image-bearer? How has God designed you to fit as a member of his body, the local church, and what role do you play in the making and maturing of disciples of Jesus? How many talents have you been given in the previous season, and what have you made of them? Are they buried? Hurry and dig them up before the Master's return and do his work. Did you risk it all and lose them? No matter, you may be surprised at the fruit that was born if you were truly faithful. The day of judgment will decide.

What will it look like for you to have, “kept the faith?” The day will come when your work in this life is done. Fight the good fight until it comes. Dig in your heels and stand your ground. Sometimes the right thing isn’t necessarily the most popular thing. Regardless of what others do to you, what they say to you, how they treat you, you will only answer and be judged for what you have done. You see, the problem isn’t the problem, the problem is how you deal with the problem.

I leave you with this thought and challenge. As both a Christian and a Mason, the distinction is clear to me that my religion is about my personal spiritual relationship with, and my salvation through, Jesus Christ. My Masonry is about how I can improve myself within the masonic structure, learn to keep my passions in due bounds, and treat mankind with dignity and respect. When I became a mason, I professed my faith in a Supreme Being, when I was Knighted, I confessed my belief in the Lord, Jesus Christ, and the Christian faith. Our words and actions alone should be enough for a man to want to embrace both, or, our words and actions will be enough for a man to not desire possession of either one. Which do you represent?

**My challenge to you** - take time each day for one month to read about the Life of Jesus, from His Birth to His Death. The life of Jesus in the New Testament is primarily outlined in the four canonical gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which includes his genealogy and nativity, public ministry, passion, prophecy, resurrection and ascension.

The Book of Matthew:	28 Chapters
The Book of Mark:	16 Chapters
The Book of Luke:	24 Chapters
The Book of John:	21 Chapters

In the short time of 30 days, you will have read the entire account of Jesus’s life, from His Birth to His Death, and gain a much clearer picture of why we give preference to and defend the Christian Religion as Knights Templar.

The Great Architect of the Universe, Messiah, Yeshua, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, The Great Physician, Chief Cornerstone, Great High Priest, The Great “I AM”, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, Bread of Life, Son of Man, Emmanuel, Alpha and Omega,

and Everlasting Father are just a few of the names used to describe Jesus in the holy scriptures. Jesus, the greatest man and story told in history, had no servants, yet they called him Master. He had no degrees, yet they called him Teacher. Had no medicines, yet they called him Healer. He had no army, yet Kings feared him. He won no military battles, yet he conquered the world. He committed no crime, yet they crucified him.

He was buried in a tomb, He conquered death, and He lives today.