

The Knight Templar Motto and Psalm 115

As a Knight Templar you might be interested in our motto *Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini Tuo da gloriam* and *Psalm 115* from whence it came. Said motto is written in Latin above, but translates into English as *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but to Thy name give glory*, in the King James Version of the Bible. Here is *Psalm 115* in entirety:

1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where is now their God?

3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.

4 Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands.

5 They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not:

6 They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not:

7 They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat.

8 They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.

9 O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

10 O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

11 Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield.

12 The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron.

13 He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great.

14 The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children.

15 Ye are blessed of the LORD which made heaven and earth.

16 The heaven, even the heavens, are the LORD'S: but the earth hath he given to the children of men.

17 The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

18 But we will bless the LORD from this time forth and for evermore. Praise the LORD.

You see that our motto is taken from the 1st verse of this Psalm, but its significance may require further explanation. First we see that it states that praise and glory for anything good in this world belongs to God our Father and not us. Whatever we have or have done was gained or performed by His love and mercy, not our

efforts. In modern parlance we might say, give praise where praise is due. If somebody else did a good deed we must not take the credit and so it is in the grand scheme of things.

The Psalm goes on to explain the stupidity of worshipping graven images and other manmade idols. They can't do anything, but our God lives in Heaven. That He is "mindful of us" and will "bless us." Furthermore, He "shall increase" us and posterity; and, hath "given" us the earth. No heathen idol can do anything like that and all of those good things came to us by the grace of God. No intelligent man could take credit for any of it. Therefore, the Psalm reminds us to be thankful and praise His Holy name. This is good for all Christians, but let's relate it closer to Chivalric Masonry.

Psalm 115 is a Jewish song of praise, very familiar to Knights Templar of old, by content rather than its number, who even used part of the 1st verse as their battle cry. They rode into battle singing it full-throatedly; and, I recommend you listen to it as a song, which may be found on the internet. Hence, its come down to us as our motto. Even though we aren't warlike Christian Crusaders, we owe everything to God just the same. Additionally, praising Him might strengthen us in our personal and internal war against sin. Now lets connect it to our blessed Savior who sang it more than a thousand years before the Knights Templar.

Jesus Christ was Jewish, as we know and this was a Jewish song of praise often sung during Passover. Hence, he and His disciples were most certainly singing it during the Last Supper. The Holy event also known as Maundy Thursday to some Christians. Thus, "on the night He was betrayed" (1 Corinthians 11:23) Christ undoubtably sang this praise full well knowing of His impending fate. Think about that.

Knight Templars observe Good Friday and Easter each year, but the events of that Thursday night, including the singing of praise, were all part of the Divine plan, which led to our faith and salvation.

In conclusion Chivalric Masonry is at least doubly connected to *Psalm 115*. It rang from the throats of those warriors whose name we bear and intoned from the lips of our Blessed Savior and His disciples. Praise be to God.

Courteously,
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Commanderies 16 and 36