

## THE CHARGES OF A FREEMASON ~ CONCERNING GOD AND RELIGION

Presented by M.W. Bro. Raymond S. J. Daniels  
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church - Waterloo District Divine Service 2014

Reverend Sir, Members of St. Andrew's, Ladies and Gentlemen, and Brethren:

“A Mason is obliged by his tenure to obey the moral law, and if he rightly understands the art he will never be a stupid atheist nor an irreligious libertine. He, of all men, should best understand that God seeth not as men seeth; for man looketh to the outward appearance, but God looketh to the heart. A Mason is, therefore particularly bound never to act against the dictates of his conscience. Let a man's religion, or mode of worship, be what it may, he is not excluded from the Order, provided that he believes in the Architect of heaven and earth, and practices the sacred duties of morality. Masons unite with the virtuous of every persuasion, in the firm and pleasing bond of fraternal love; they are taught to view the errors of mankind with compassion, and to strive by the purity of their own conduct to demonstrate the superior excellence of the faith they may profess.”

This formal statement of the university of Freemasonry was issued in 1723, soon after the formation of the first Grand Lodge in London, England in the *Constitutions* compiled from the 'Old Gothic Constitutions' by the Reverend Brother, Dr. James Anderson (1679-1739), and included the *Charge* quoted. These *Charges of a Freemason* are enshrined in the present Constitution of our Grand Lodge.

You may be interested to learn that the Reverend Dr. James Anderson was a Scottish Presbyterian clergyman, born in Aberdeen and ordained in the Kirk when he was 23. He moved to London in 1709 and served as minister to three Nonconformist chapels there.

Now this brief glimpse into our early History is intended to indicate the formative influence of a Presbyterian clergyman which endures to the present day.

Reverend Sir, this is the fourth time the Freemasons of Waterloo District have been privileged to join with you for our annual Divine Service. In ancient times the Stonemasons' Guilds all had their parish church. We have come to regard St. Andrew's in much the same way and we are most grateful for your gracious hospitality.