

## JOHN THE EVANGELIST, THE APOSTLE

Many of our greatest institutions have been under pressure to change some of their beliefs, and in turn, their policies. The church, the military, even the boy scouts have been under such pressure, masonry has been another. Sometimes, simply in the name of "political correctness." If you are listening to proponents of such change, you might hear such statements like "all things change" or "change is necessary for growth," etc. I tend to observe the old adage "history will repeat itself." To improve on the basics but, be wary of change.

Sometimes standing up for what is right is not always popular. I found a Masonic lesson in all of this, and in turn found some "light" in the story of one of our patron saints.

We have two Masonic patron saints. John the Baptist, whose day of feast we celebrate on June 24, and John the evangelist, who by the way, his day of feast is December 27. There is a few interesting fact about the latter you might not know.

John the Evangelist, John the Apostle, did not change. He and his brother James were referred to as the "Sons of Thunder" by Christ himself and John was also known as "the beloved." (sounds like a Masonic patron already.) John would fight for what he loved, and stand up under enormous pressure for what he believed in.

John was the only apostle that did not deny Christ at one time or another. Just imagine the pressure of standing at the foot of the cross, the Romans could have easily killed John, but John would not change. It was there John was given strictly in charge to take the Mother Mary as his own mother, and she was a member of his family until the day she died. All the while, John did not change.

So where does John's story end? What was the results of a life of standing tall? Well.....John was the only apostle that lived out his life in full and died of natural causes. Even when his enemies tossed him into burning oil, he came out unharmed. John, it is said, was 105 years old when he was laid to rest, and it is also said, that when they uncovered his grave the very next day, that his body was not to be found! It is also said John, our Masonic patron saint, lives on, and will return. John the beloved, the son of thunder, who stood up for what was right, and never changed.

All for one, and one for All,  
Fraternally,  
Pete Barnhardt