

Church of God, The Eternal

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Dear Brethren,

Warmest greetings to all. For those whose minds and hearts are in true harmony with Jesus Christ, I can say with deep feeling you are in our hearts to live and die. We love and admire your faithfulness. As you know, there are only a few, indeed, who will find the way of everlasting life (Matthew 7:13–14). Conversely, there are many who will be mesmerized by the ways of flesh—of the world. In the day of reality there will be considerable weeping and gnashing of teeth. The ground rules were laid out precisely. Once those rules are revealed, and the called are given the necessary spiritual ingredients to commence the journey called "the way of life," they have the right and privilege to cling tenaciously to those revealed concepts. On the other hand, if the pulls of human nature or the more virulent influences of demonic agents induce doubt, despair, resentment, or outright rejection such candidates for the Kingdom of God will be met with the terrifying statement of Christ, "I know you not." Logic, therefore, tells us we must be aware of the influences which could separate us from the love of God and His Son, Jesus Christ and somehow set up defences which will insure safety and success.

What are the manifestations of difficulties which could cause us to lose our orientation, zeal, and determination to be successful in the most significant enterprise transpiring here on earth? What are the telltale manifestations of problems?

Preoccupation With Things of the World

When called we were called out of the world (John 15:18–19). As Christ prayed "in the world but not of it" (John 17:9–18). In fact, the world rejoices when the truth is not apparent—when it does not stand as a mirror of man's conscience (John 16:18–20, 22). Emphatically, Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into

the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:36–37). How does the world come to know Jesus Christ? (1 Corinthians 1:21). In fact, to man, the whole process of that which is called the work of God, is termed a mystery (1 Corinthians 2:1–16).

What is the world—that which is contrary to the will and purpose of God? Is it not that which was developed and perpetuated under the influence of Satan and his demons? (Luke 4:5, Genesis 3:1–7). It is a system totally antagonistic to the truth and way of God (John 14:17–19, 1 Corinthians 3:19). It all commenced by one man who was led into sin thinking, of course, he had chosen the way of truth (Romans 5:12, Genesis 3:1–7). He had listened to the voice of Satan. As a result he was destined to live his physical life in wretchedness and misery. Only in the process of time would he, as well as all future generations, come to recognize and admit their natural state and thereby be induced to return to God. This process is the great plan and purpose of God (2 Corinthians 5:19). The world will stand guilty before God (Romans 3:19).

At the appointed time the Father sent Christ into the world (John 10:36). He was to become the light of truth to mankind (John 9:5). He came to save the world (John 12:47). Despite man's wretched orientation—both mentally and physically—God so loved His creation that He designed a plan by which all humanity would be given an opportunity to be saved. Within this process is a required confrontation. He must meet and overcome the influence of the initiator of the fabric of this world as well as that system which was created. He must overcome the world (John 16:33). In so doing he will have resisted the evil influences of Satan and his rebellious demons, living by the rule of responsibility which was revealed through the Apostle Paul (Romans 12:1–2). God does not want us to live in accord with the concepts of this world. But, how is any man to live in opposition to the substance of his own being? Only by the indwelling presence of Christ (John 14:19–26). Christ has already overcome the world (John 16:28–33). In us, He, the unchanging Son of God, will live as He lived in His own life. Those truly called of God have received the Spirit of God, not the spirit of this world (1 Corinthians 2:12).

All people have not really rejected this world. Too many are greatly enamored with this system and attempt to dilute the purity of God's truth. Christ, several times, emphasized the fact that the ways of this world have no part in the "way of truth." The called must come out of the world—the systems and ways by which men live. The entire conceptual basis of this world is foolishness with God (1 Corinthians 3:19).

So deep is the world's contempt for the way of truth that they emotionally hate those who love it (John 15:18). The question which looms large is, why? (John 7:1–13, 1 Timothy 4:10). On the other hand, the called hate no one—only the things of this world (1 John

2:15–17). The faithful of God know that any love for the ways of this world makes them enemies of God (James 4:4).

Christ, due to God's love for the people of the world (John 3:16–21) came into the world (John 11:27). He came into the world but was never a part of it (John 8:23). Through the Holy Spirit, which proceeds from the Father, Christ returned to the earth and lives in the bodies of those called and who remain faithful (Galatians 2:20). Since the world hated Him, even crucifying Him, He will be equally hated in the called. The spirit of this world has no love for truth. Yet, despite the intensity of hate for the called, they are inspired to overcome the world (1 John 5:4). They are in the world physically, yet called out of world mentally (spiritually). See John 15:19. The true ministry of Jesus Christ is called to preach the Gospel—the way of truth. Since that message is dramatically and diametrically opposed to the way of flesh and the spirit of this world, can you imagine the level of contempt manifested against that ministry? Recall what happened to Christ! Observe what Paul said (1 Corinthians 4:9–13, 2 Corinthians 4:1–18).

The world hates the truth of God. It lies in almost total deception and wickedness (2 John 7, 1 John 5:19). How, then, is the called and faithful individual to differentiate between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error? (1 John 4:1–6). The verbiage in this verse shows that it is present tense. That is, the spirit of truth confesses that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. The called know where Christ is and in whom He is working. Christ is the unchanging word. The doctrine is the Word of God. It is not the concepts and/or ideas of men. The true Spirit of God is found in that minister(s) who remain(s) faithful to that which was received.

This ministry remains faithful to that which was initially received. What the Bible clearly shows, however, is that the people would be bombarded with perversions. That concept will be covered later.

Due to the very intense limitations imposed upon me—the loss of peripheral vision—coupled with a desire to be exhaustive in explanation of the telltale evidences of last day activity, I will conclude this letter simply by giving my list of those subjects. With God's help I will attempt to cover each of the following subjects in future *Monthly Letters*.

The telltale evidences of the last days are:

- 1) No love for the truth.
- 2) A self-seeking orientation.
- 3) The prognosticated perversion of the Gospel.
- 4) Hate for cohesiveness—oneness.

- 5) Waffling—uncertainty.
- 6) Too many aimless—without purpose.
- 7) Weary in well doing.
- 8) Unteachable.
- 9) Abdication of individual responsibility.
- 10) Hardness.
- 11) Demonic influences.
- 12) Persecution.

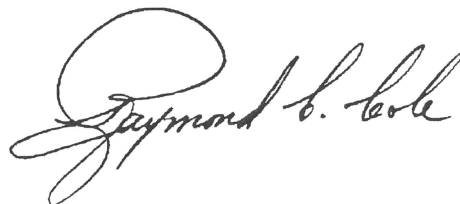
By choosing the above way of handling this problem, I can, hopefully, devote much more time to each concept.

Your continued love, patience, forbearance, and understanding are and will continue to be appreciated.

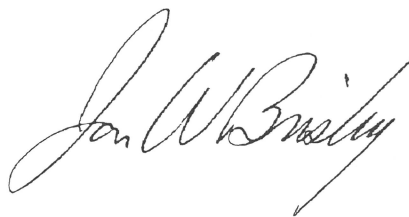
I am very sorry for this present difficulty which restricts the scope of what I would like to accomplish. As always, however, God knows best. I am most contented to leave all things in His most capable hands.

Love and thoughts of kindness from both Mr. Jon Brisby and yours truly.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'R'.

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jon W. Brisby". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'J'.

Jon W. Brisby