

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440
www.cogte.org

Raymond C. Cole
Director
Jon W. Brisby
Asst. Director

Offices in:
Philippines
Switzerland

February 2000

Dear Brethren,

For several issues of the *Monthly Letter* we have been covering subjects which are especially critical to the children of God living in these last days. The last issue on which we have focused our attention is demonism. To the unconverted mind and the perverted mind the subject is pushed aside with a contempt and expression of disgust which indicate a feeling of abhorrence—a feeling which indicates they feel the subject is not really worthy of much thought and/or concern. How wrong they are! Perhaps nothing, in one sense of the word, is of greater significance to the called who live in these closing years. Years prior to the Second Coming of Christ. We are trying to make you aware of the conditions NOW—for many are affected by the exploits and deceptions of Satan and his demons at this very moment.

You have been informed of who and what demons are. You have been given textual proof of their presence and activity. What has not yet been addressed is how to recognize the subtle deception of Satan and how to resist him. Those are the issues we want to cover in this third letter devoted to that subject.

Though not planned, the timing of this issue could not be more fortuitous. Passover is just ahead of us. It is during that service a special observation and categorization by God will be made. At what table will we partake of the required emblems? Remember, claims of any individual are not the ultimate proof. A deceived individual does not KNOW—he only thinks he knows what he believes and why. A perverted individual does not care. In all probability he knows what he is doing, but his arrogancy will not allow him to be honest. He could care less about the status or condition of another human being. Only the true and faithful individual can make a meaningful and necessary decision. He alone can and will KNOW. But on the basis of what can he know and be confident in his actions? We will address this concept just a little later.

For the immediate present we need to understand other factors about the activity and influence of demons—the work of Satan which is occurring daily.

How Demons Get an Advantage!

For reason, Jesus addressed the issues and principles of life through parables. And the reason was to obscure the meaning for all but those called to understand. The perfect setting for a hateful and volatile spirit to work. That is exactly what Satan is doing at this very hour, and has been doing since the days of Christ's first appearance. It all is according to the plan and purpose of God.

In Matthew, the thirteenth chapter, Christ gave a parable which explains what is happening in the world of religion. On the surface all may look religious and sound acceptable yet a variety of conditions prevail—conditions which are understood only by a select number who in all physical appearances look no different than all the others. In this parable Christ makes it very clear there are two broad categories of human beings—the called and the uncalled. Then, by careful evaluation one is instructed on the existence of multiple categories of those who were called—those who heard, received the seed. Taken at face value, Christ illustrates four broad categories into which human beings fall once called. He said:

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty (Matthew 13:18–23).

What is important to understand here is this: To be successful anyone called of God must take great care in establishing his foundation. That foundation is going to determine the character and solidarity of that which is built upon it. Without a satisfactory foundation Satan and/or his demons can and will successfully strike at the concepts of the initial call. All Biblical history reveals the incontrovertible facts. Satan will generate doubt regarding the Truth given, he will use emotions to destroy relationships in the body and thereby cause departures to justify the self. And, he will titillate the mind and heart with the presumed

pleasures and excitements of this world. Or, he will stoke the natural fires of fleshly concern for physical satisfaction—food, clothing, other. It makes little difference to him how and/or why we depart. His singular and unalterable purpose is to destroy. In his perverted view, he is successful only if he destroys all humanity which was purposefully created to be called, tried, and hopefully ultimately qualify to inherit everlasting life—to replace Satan and the rebellious demons as rulers of this far-flung universe.

To be successful in our call we must be at least as devoted to the purpose of that call as Satan and his demons are in pursuit of that perverted objective of destruction. Our objective must be singular (Matthew 6:22). And we must pursue it with the whole body, mind and being. Anything less shows little or no respect for and confidence in God.

Satan seizes the advantage of man's natural concern for physical life and his surroundings. The haunting questions of doubt consistently confront us as we experience the trials of life. Does God want me to die? Does God want me to lose my good job? Does God want me to lose my family? And there are thousands of other comparable questions. The only logical and acceptable answer is, "if God so wills it, yes." We are told that we must be willing to give up everything in this life (Matthew 10:32–39). If we as the called of God are unwilling to make that total sacrifice, Christ says plainly, we are not worthy of Him. Putting all concepts together, the enlightened are made to understand that to have the reward of the spiritual they must sacrifice the physical. The absolute meaning of baptism—the giving up of self and willingness to accept the spiritual which is Christ living in us. As Christ in this parable explains—all do not make that total commitment. Some who actually hear the word are not prompted to take action. And that action is not to question and attempt to disprove what he heard. On the contrary, the called are required to prove all things. Tragically, there are many who because of arrogance of human mind, read the requirement as a command to disprove all things. That orientation will result in a complete failure. He will become a victim of Satan. This tragedy is expressed in Christ's parable, verse nineteen. He said, "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side" (Matthew 13:19).

Though the called individual played an integral part in this event—he did not seize the opportunity afforded and failed to establish aggressively what he had come to understand—the archenemy of all Truth was quick to take advantage. Like a bird of prey, Satan, through a host of human justifications which constantly plague human minds, destroyed the value of that which was heard. Quickly the mortal mind set the value of these words aside and immediately became preoccupied with things closer to home—the dictates, expectations, and rationalizations of flesh. How watchful and aggressive the called must be. They must remember, once called, they have enemies of unwavering purpose.

The second category of the called is defined in verses twenty through twenty-one. Christ said, "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended" (Matthew 13:20–21). Here again Satan or demons play an integral part. Though no human being has to follow the dictates of the carnal emotions, there are, indeed, very few who do not. And, who is it that stirs up emotions? (James 3:14–16). Is it not Satan who generates feelings—feelings of rejection, feelings of injury, feelings of inadequacy, feelings of insult, and a host of other feelings which arouse animosity, prejudice, hatred, or anything that destroys. As mentioned earlier, he is dedicated to one objective—the ultimate destruction of the called potential children of God.

Looking at the issue from a positive perspective, we must ask why God allows the called to encounter such tests and trials? The answer is simple and direct. Before giving to the chosen any eternal responsibility He must know if there is anything which would cause them to turn their heads, lose faith and purpose, or prompt them to act in a rebellious manner. Seeing just how many have failed for those precise reasons should give us unusual confidence that God knows exactly what He is doing. The tragedy of it all is the fact only a few will find the way to life (Matthew 7:14). The others will have lived life as they willed. God owes them nothing. He has fulfilled every promise He gave. They will have been given opportunity to have everlasting life but being enamored with their "rights" in life will have turned contemptuously against the Truth—that which is the *only* way to have life. Of course, only God can and will make the final judgment. Yet, the basis of that system of judgment has been revealed to us. The net result is this: As indicated several places in the Bible there are not only those who walk in the way of life, but, there exists also, those who are presently walking in the way of destruction (2 Corinthians 4:3). In the Greek, the verb expresses progressive action. That is: "to them who are being lost." Their actions are leading them to the final judgment of condemnation.

Let us be ever aware, the depth of root, the strength of foundation, and the viability of life itself are all within the power of the called. We can make the tree good or allow it to go bad. The choice is ours despite the fact, for reason, God allows us to undergo severe trials and tests. As any gardener knows, the plant which experiences controlled stresses has the greatest chance for survival. By experiencing these trials periodically as it grows, it will be prepared for the time of real stress. That is the very reason God allows us to encounter the hatefulness and deceptiveness of Satan and his demons. If we never experienced the deceptiveness of Satan working in, by, and through those we physically love and admire, how would we know how we would respond to such trials? Remember, if we put even family members ahead of Christ, we are not worthy of Him. Yet, how many for the mere whim of flesh have already departed from the way of life. Consistency and loyalty are very difficult traits. The tendency to judge on the basis of carnal presumption is strong.

The third category as classified by Christ is found in verse twenty-two. "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful" (Matthew 13:22).

Whose world is this? Satan is the god of it. You can be assured the fabric is designed to appeal to the whims of flesh. Then, when we respond to the stimuli of this world, Satan is again victorious and the called who succumb are the losers. In an abundance of ways Satan and his demons are exerting powerful psychological and physiological pulls to destroy the called. The allurements of this world is but one. He has created it to cater to the whim of flesh. Knowing that man could not be easily deceived by a direct frontal attack, he, through those in positions to influence, will massage the concepts in such a way to make them look mentally, morally, and religiously acceptable to human minds. Such is the design of every orientation of this world. Those ways are the ways which seem to be right to human beings.

How Satan Presents Himself!

Before considering specifics let us understand a broad principle which God revealed through His servant Paul. Evil and hatefulness do not come in the guise of what they really are. They come as the epitome of righteousness—that which is holy and good. The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (2 Corinthians 11:13–15). Those who practice evil generally want to be considered good. Often they will attempt to present an image of that which is wholly acceptable. The end result of promised good, the evil forces resist not. They simply abhor, hate, the *way* of good. They do not want to make the sacrifices necessary to achieve good. In their perverted minds, they want to act on the impulses of error while deluding themselves as well as others into believing they can still have the fruits of obedience and righteousness.

How could anyone be deceived by such evil, hatefulness, and contempt? As mentioned earlier, the spirit powers use the strong emotional influence of those who are loved, respected, related, or are in some other way strongly tied emotionally. And just who are such people? First, as implied by the Apostle Paul in the above text, ministers who had gained acceptance in the fold, but who must have turned from their calling. For Paul said, "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ" (2 Corinthians 11:13). Obviously, it is vitally essential that the faithful must have some way to test those who claim to be the true ministers of Jesus Christ. That concept is to be addressed later. False ministers may be at the top of the list, but there are several others who have the potential to influence adversely if motivated by unseen demonic powers. Who

are they? Family members certainly possess this capability. Very close friends are likewise endowed. And because of unique ties and attachments members in the very Body of Christ are likewise empowered. Why else would a number of the specific warnings of Christ and even His chosen servants have been uttered? All these warnings attest to the urgent need to daily monitor our thinking and the force of our emotions. If we fail to keep our eyes focused on Jesus Christ—the Truth revealed—we can and probably will be influenced in some demonic way.

To the above list of potential deceivers must be added the following generalization. The called must be aware of any other person, organization, concept, or anything else which could mislead.

The called must be watchful. They must live convicted and faithful lives. By faith they must know who they are and what it is that makes them the unique, purposeful, and special people of God. Without that foundation of rock, they will be adversely influenced and thereby led into error.

Do Not Give Place to the Devil

The actual tests of our faith are allowed by God. He is waiting for those who "endure to the end." These are the ones who have weathered all the storms. They have refused to compromise that way of life given, regardless of the source of the influence. The hope of everlasting life is more real and of greater meaning than all the physical satisfactions combined. They have heard and acted on God's command—the command which says, "Neither give place to the devil" (Ephesians 4:27). The very context of the text implies a spiritual fight. Satan and his demons are not seen. Yet, they consistently practice their trade of deception and hatefulness. They work on minds. Once a mind is evilly influenced it will do the dirty work for Satan. The duty of the called is to resist this influence—regardless of the one from whom it comes. This very concept underscores the essence of a most profound question. Is there anything that would pull us from the walk of life—the way of Truth given? Before any one of us is rewarded, God will know the answer to that question. Our Father made us human beings. As such, we are endowed with the possibility of choice. Will we surrender unconditionally to God, or will we insist on "human rights"? The voice of Satan appeals to those so-called "human rights." But, when we act on those rights we are free from required servitude to God. For those called, the choice is ours.

Which Table?

With the exception of a small number of people, the world is deceived—totally indoctrinated in error. They, the people, are enamored organizationally, or they are

adamantly right in their own eyes. Consequently, some will be partaking at the table of demons not even realizing it. For this reason Paul warned, "But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils" (1 Corinthians 10:20–21). Was the Corinthian church the only body facing such a problem? Obviously not! God elected to use that particular example to form a part of His Holy Word. What is written is for all, regardless of the time or location (Matthew 4:4, Deuteronomy 8:3). Through Moses God made the following plain to all Israel, "And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live" (Deuteronomy 8:3). And what was written at that time was written for us (1 Corinthians 10:6, 11).

As we approach Passover season, the evaluation of self and the determination of what spirit we are following is imperative. By that determination it will become evident to God at which table we partook. Men may deceive themselves, but God is not deceived. He sees all things—even those of the spirit—and He reads hearts and minds.

To make the correct evaluation you must remember the promise of Christ, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen" (Matthew 28:19–20). Since Christ does not lie, nor does He fail, He is somewhere present today. And what He proclaimed continues unto His return. If you know these facts you can be present at the table of Christ. If you do not understand these factors, in all probability you will be seated at the table of demons.

An Imperative Need

The called must not resist or fail to act on the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Equally important is the necessity of resisting the evil, unholy influence of Satan and/or demons. From these two factors alone it ought to be abundantly clear a way of differentiation must exist. God would not leave His chosen children helpless—at the mercy and whim of guessing. What means did God allow, introduce, or underscore by which such differentiation can be made?

First, for organizational and more comprehensive reasons, through the Holy Spirit a special gift will be given to some. The Apostle Paul wrote: "Now concerning spiritual gifts,

brethren, I would not have you ignorant" (1 Corinthians 12:1). And to this concept Paul added the following, "Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy [Spirit]" (1 Corinthians 12:3). It is very plain, no one speaking by the Holy Spirit will justify confusion! Division! Hatred! Lying hypocrisy! Or, any other demon's manifestation of the flesh. Christ is One. He is always the same. He was and is the epitome of the manifestation of the fruits of the Spirit. He is the fulness of God's Word manifested! He in no way represents the ways of this world. Therefore, wherever He is today He will be doing exactly what He did in His own flesh body. And according to His own words, that will be the same as that which was given to Moses—no more, no less. The words of God were given to Israel through Moses. Even though Israel could not obey those laws, statutes, and judgments (Deuteronomy 29:4) they bore a physical responsibility. They were required to transport those spiritual principles (John 6:63, Romans 7:4, and 2 Corinthians 3:1–11) down to the people of the last days (Acts 7:37–38). The Greek for the word "lively" is *zao*. By comparing the following text the Greek word *zao* (pronounced, dzah'-o) can only mean in this text, spiritually alive. For further clarification note the usage in Matthew 4:4, "But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."; Matthew 16:16, "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."; John 4:10, "Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."; Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."; and 1 Peter 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."

For a physical nation God had given His laws, statutes, and judgments in letter form. Written by the very finger of God. In this codified form Israel was under the imperative command of God to transport His spiritual laws down to the people of the last days. Christ promised and made the concept clear. He would live through human beings from His time of first appearance unto His Second Coming. He was that Word made flesh. In no way was He a physical manifestation of the ways of Gentiles—ways which He called abominations. Though human beings have *always* been inclined to pervert—they will even pervert the living Truth of God—our purpose is to live that which God gave to Moses, that which Christ lived and taught in His day, that which the Apostles heard and taught. And, that which God gave to someone in these last days. Just what was given? That, and only that which God gave to Moses. What did He give to Moses? All other ways are abominations to God. He could not have made that fact any more clear. Any attempt to add to that which God gave to Moses will be dealt with seriously in God's own time. But, please remember brethren, the test is severe for reason. So demanding is the need of personal substantiation that God has emphatically stated: (For those equivocating, vacillating with doubt or becoming complacent

and indifferent) ". . . the mystery of iniquity doth already work And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that [are perishing]: because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:7–12). In the last days, some of the called of God do not manifest a real love for the Truth, therefore, God is allowing them to be influenced negatively by evil spirits. Discerning of spirits is an imperative. How can the faithful be sure? In just a moment we will answer that question. But, first, let us re-emphasize the ways by which Satan takes advantage of human beings.

How Demons Work

They are quick to work on man's natural tendency to disobedience toward the Truth—which is spiritual and therefore unseen (Matthew 13:14–15, 18–19). They work on the emotional responsiveness of men (Matthew 13:20–22, James 3:1–18). Because we are flesh with needs, He will appeal to that physical orientation (Matthew 13:22; 6:24–34). He will appeal to man's natural inclination to selfishness (John 13:2). He uses man's natural tendency toward contempt for others (1 John 3:7–21). He employs man's natural orientation to pride (1 Timothy 3:6–7). And perhaps the broadest and most lethal weapon is contempt for authority and government (Jude 1–13). Since God is the epitome of authority and rule, contempt for government is contempt for God.

Now: How to Resist Satan

From a distillation of the Biblical texts which relate to this urgent need, we can easily arrive at two fundamental needs. First, there is a way by which all the called can day by day, in a general manner, avoid the influence of Satan. Second, God provided a way by which anyone called can differentiate the perverted from the true.

First, how do we keep ourselves in the way of the Truth regardless of the times and conditions through which we must pass. The Apostle Peter spoke of it succinctly. He said, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away. Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea,

all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: *Whom resist stedfast in the faith*, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world" (1 Peter 5:1–9). That which applies to the ministry most assuredly applies to the laity. All the called of God resist evil pulls through the faith which God gave. What faith was it that God gave? The faith by which to obey that which was first given to Moses (Hebrews 4:1–3). Christ came and magnified the law and made it possible for us to receive the Spirit by which we could obey. As long as we keep in mind our call to the Truth, the gift of faith from the Holy Spirit, and a genuine love for that way of life we can in confidence endure to the end.

What about specific individuals who confront us? Here God made provision, also. Note God's instruction in 1 John 4:1–6, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error."

Some have attempted even to pervert the above text. They are claiming that what John wrote was, or should be translated, we must confess that Jesus *had come* in the flesh. This presumption is absolutely wrong. The Greek verb used leaves no doubt. The test is: Those who "confesseth that Jesus Christ *is come* [present tense] in the flesh is of God." That simply means Christ is present in the life of another human being doing the same work He did when He was present in His own flesh body. This is the fulfillment of His promise in Matthew 28:20, "lo, I am with you . . . even unto the end of the world." The time Christ referred to as the end of the world is the very time of His Second Coming (Matthew 24:3). Christ is present somewhere—not in His own body, but present in someone doing the same work He did—that is, holding to the same ways of life He taught—the same ways which were delivered to Moses.

Who Are the Faithful?

To make appropriate decisions the wise must know that in these final days prior to Christ's Coming there will be demons inspiring men to claim falsely they are the children of

God. The Apostle John called them part of the synagogue of Satan. He said, "And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive; I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Revelation 2:8–10).

False though these imposters may be, in their deceptive arrogance they will bitterly accuse the faithful. Christ is the example (Matthew 11:19, John 8:48–52, John 10:20).

A Day of Freedom Coming

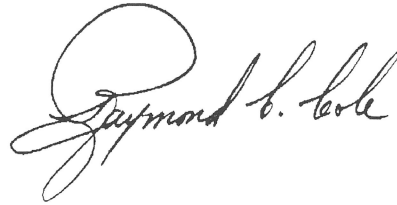
For years prior to Christ's return the called have had to battle the evil influence of demons. Thankfully, the time of their freedom to deceive is short. God has appointed a day when these evil forces will be restricted. They can no longer deceive and abuse human beings (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:1–3). What a glorious day that ought to be! The beauty of that freedom is tarnished only by the inability of human beings to see presently and understand the scope of their hateful activity. As we should have come to see through these letters, there is much activity even now. If we do not come to understand the scope of that activity, we may be destined to experience it. Our prayer is that such a fate does not await any of the faithful.

For those whose minds are alert and properly oriented, the climactic instruction of the Apostle Paul is both relevant and inspirational. It is here given in whole.

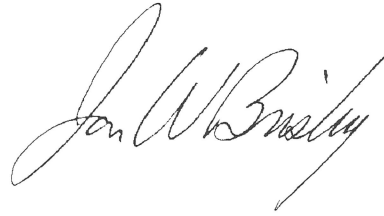
Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And

for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly,
to make known the mystery of the gospel (Ephesians 6:10–19).

Your servants 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