

Church of God, The Eternal

P.O. Box 775
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October 6, 1975

Dear Friends:

What a feast God gave us!

"One thing I know for sure, the love of God was everywhere manifest." This comment was frequently heard throughout the eight day period of time, but especially at the conclusion of the meetings. Tears of joy and gratefulness were plainly obvious. Truth still registered deeply in the minds and hearts of those thoroughly converted. To sum up the whole picture, we need but consider the simple but profound statement of Jesus Christ: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35).

The ways of flesh, this world, are contention, suspicion and doubt. As Paul explained to the Galatians, these two principles—flesh and spirit—are contrary, the one to the other. A manifestation of love and concern—for one another, as well as for God, His Son and the Truth—is a profound proof of the working of God's Holy Spirit. You all were witnesses of the presence of that power. So powerful was the influence, few, indeed, wanted to leave the others behind to journey back to respective homes. Augmenting the obvious feelings was the thought of not seeing old as well as new-found acquaintances again for another year. But, ingenuity did not fail. A system of communication was worked out by all. Contact will be maintained. May the love of God continually flow through this vast system of internal contact. Rightly used, I know God will be greatly pleased. It is only through the manifestation of love to the brethren that we can demonstrate our real love for God.

Contact with one another has been arranged. Yet, despite all this the future is viewed with a degree of misgiving and uncertainty. The spiritually alert are well aware of the times in which we live. Trials and sore pressures of intense nature will be periodically encountered. Only those who love the Truth, genuinely fear God, are maintaining a very close contact with God and His Son through Bible study, prayer and fasting and really understand the present as well as the future will be equipped to resist the multitudinous pulls designed to separate us from the one and only way of life. A real and genuine love of Truth and God will be the catalyst. If we sincerely love the ways of God, there is absolutely nothing which can separate us from that way.

The answer: see and understand the future. Prepare to meet God. Solomon succinctly stated it in this manner: "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18). Until future events transpire they must be accepted in faith. Belief in and acceptance of the Bible—at face value—is an act of faith. God's Word plainly tells us what is coming, what has happened in our time and how we are to prepare to withstand the onslaught of all Satanic forces as well as the pulls of our own carnality.

One of the greatest pulls in the times of doubt, confusion and apostasy is discouragement and bewilderment. This is a key antic of Satan and his cohorts. Because of these conditions three basic principles are repeated, in various ways, over and over in the Bible. They are keys to your success as a Christian. First: You were *called* to understand the truth. Never doubt that. Second: Remember the "First Love." You started out in real *confidence*—full assurance that God knew what He was doing. You saw the evidences of His presence. Keep that initial confidence. Third: Without *faith* you cannot please God. Neither can you endure the turbulent storms of doubt, fear and confusion. God says you must endure to the end. But, endure what? The very problems mentioned above. Therefore, by faith—faith in the revelation of God, faith in your answered prayers, and faith in God's faithfulness and loyalty to His Word—you will live and inherit the promises.

The example of the Apostle Peter is most relevant at this time. Note Matthew 14:24–33. In contrast, you can walk in the ways of storms if you do not doubt but rather keep your eye fixed upon Christ. He is the way. Christ is the same. He is consistent. You need have no second thoughts. He is worthy of your trust.

If you will put your whole trust and confidence in Him, you will endure unto the end. Now is the time of judgment upon the house of God—upon the people with whom He is working. He wants those who have that faith and tenacity—those who would die for the Truth rather than to live with a lie—that is, change or reject the Truth.

God gave us a very priceless possession—the Truth. I know that none will lightly esteem it.

Again, we stand ready to help in anyway possible. Please allow us the continuing privilege of serving you. We joyously anticipate the opportunity of service for the next year. Thanks for allowing us the right of serving you.

In conclusion, I want to take this opportunity to tell each of you how much I appreciate your part in the success of the Feast of Tabernacles at Redmond, Oregon. I know God was greatly pleased. His blessings were showered down upon us. May we ever, through the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, be worthy of His continued love and mercy. Great and wonderful is our God.

Until next month, our deepest love and respect to you all.

In Christian love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Raymond C. Cole". The signature is written in black ink and is centered on the page.

Raymond C. Cole