

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Switzerland
Case Postale 2 701
CH 1002 Lausanne

Canada
P. O. Box 76946, Station "S"
Vancouver, B.C. V5R 5T3

ANNOUNCEMENT LETTER SEPTEMBER 1986

Warmest Greetings to all:

Fall is fast approaching. Harvests are being gathered and stored. These facts herald the advent of the Fall feasts. All will be journeying either to Townsend, Tennessee, or to Newport, Oregon, for the keeping of the Feast of Tabernacles and the final Last Great Day. If all will pray about the Feast, we should be afforded a most pleasant and rewarding meeting this year. All of us truly want the Feast to picture the soon-coming Kingdom of God -- not only in the sense of that which it portrays, but in reality and experience what it means in our personal lives, now. We want peace, joy, love, affection, and the abundant life. With personal resolve on the part of each individual, beginning now and carried on through the Feast, we can have that sublime satisfaction. Or we can be selfish and carnally oriented, assuring that we, along with any others with whom we come in contact, will have a miserable and less than rewarding occasion. Let us all pray earnestly about the Feast and its complete success for this year.

CURRENT EVENTS

The one characteristic which seems to haunt everyone today is instability. People cannot trust the economy. They are left without anchor or foundation. Industry and business are in a constant state of flux. Bankruptcies dominate the economic scene. Workers live in dreaded fear. Their solvency and entire futures are at stake. A loss of job and most would lose all.

Considering the above, it ought to be plain why we need the unchanging ways of God. Far too many will turn to their own minds, trusting in themselves to give direction to their lives -- emotionally, intellectually, and even religiously; as God revealed, "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."

Our hope must be in God. Hope in anything or anyone less will result in devastating disappointment.

ARTICLES

Short, concise articles are being written on the basic subjects listed in the article Fundamentals of Belief. Some articles covering

doctrines listed in the above-mentioned article have been made into major works. The remainder of that list will be covered in these brief, short compositions. There are about 15 or 16 to be written. At present seven are written; five have been edited; three have been sent to you. With this Monthly Letter and Announcement Letter the latest one -- "What Is Sin?" -- is being sent.

PRAYER REQUESTS

[Omitted for confidentiality]

GENERAL REQUESTS

Some are using the small coin envelopes, provided for tape return, to send their letters, tithes, and offerings. This is fine if you will re-address them to P.O. Box 775; Eugene, OR 97440-0775. Only tapes and boxes of tapes should be sent to the West Amazon address. All other mail should be addressed to the Church's main address, the post office box mentioned above.

BLESSINGS OF BRETHREN

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

FEASTS: HOLY DAYS

The Feast of Trumpets is Sabbath, October 4, 1986 -- commencing on Friday evening, the 3rd. All arrangements should be made and announced locally. The necessary information regarding where either Mr. Clark or I will be can found under the heading "Trips."

Atonement, Monday, October 13. As with Trumpets, all arrangements should be made locally.

Mr. Clark and I will be making the usual tapes for Trumpets and Atonement. You will receive these tapes in sufficient time for the services.

TRIPS

Mr. Bryce Clark was in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area for the Sabbath service of August 30. He will be in the Mount Pocono, Pennsylvania, area for the Sabbath of September 6.

Mr. John Mitchell will travel to Portland for the Sabbath of September 6.

I will be in Nashville, Tennessee, for the Sabbath of September 27; then on to Austin, Texas, for Trumpets, which falls on Sabbath, October 4, this year. Mr. Byrd may proceed to make all necessary arrangements for services there.

OFFICE -- PROGRAMS -- NEEDS

We have just secured a computer which will greatly aid Mr. George King regarding the writing, scoring, and printing of music. It will save much time and eye-strain for Mr. King.

Also, to facilitate our expanding need for printing we have upgraded our printer. We have purchased a laser printer. This printer will work with our present computer equipment, but it will take a few months to get the entire system running properly.

COMMENTS

All people do not have faith. As it was in the first century, some have seen their faith shattered (I Tim. 1:19). Obedience to doctrine is the manifestation of true and genuine faith. It is obvious that as a result of disappointment, the initial beliefs (given by God at the time of call) are rejected and set aside (I Tim. 5:12).

Today is no different than the first century. Some cannot remain faithful. Assuming either ministerial or prophetic capability, these faithless will espouse a heretical doctrine foreign to anything originally taught by God's chosen and sent instruments of the last days.

Since we do not subscribe to the administrative faux pas of the parent body, we need to determine just what God expects of us when such situations arise.

In outline form we want to give you the instructions of God. They are as follows.

- A. Jesus promised that the Truth would be taught in these last days.
Matt. 28:19-20. (Remember, the twelve apostles are not still living in the days of Christ's Second Coming.)
- B. How are (were) the people taught the Truth in the last days?
Rom. 10:11-15. God is an unchanging Being. Remember the missions of Moses, Christ, and others?
- C. When the people were called, heard the message, and responded, they were added to one Body -- not many differing and contrary groups.
Matt. 16:18. The Church of Christ.
What? Col. 1:24. (How many bodies did Christ have?)
I Cor. 12:12-28. One Body -- many members -- the members are individuals, not groups.
Eph. 4:1-5.
- D. In the last days, an apostasy ("falling away" in the Greek is apostasias) had to occur.
II Thess. 2:1-3. Since the word of God cannot be broken, we must find a group who once believed the whole of God's Word and then changed the initial doctrine -- as taught in the last days. It must be fulfilled in a single generation. Those who believed turned away (II Pet. 2:1-22, note vs. 21).
- E. What was the cause -- source -- of the apostasy?
I Tim. 4:1-2.
- F. In the presence of such conditions, what are the faithful to do?
II Thess. 2:15.
II Tim. 3:13-14.
Col. 1:23.
- G. When initially called, how do the people view the Truth?
I Thess. 2:13. (Disappointment changes all of that. Bitterness begins to prevail.)
- H. Because of confusion and prevailing heresy, what is our daily urgent need?
Jude 3-4.
I Pet. 5:9.

I. The fundamental Christian duty is what?
Eph. 4:13.

J. Therefore, if some will not obey the original doctrine, what does God require of you?
Rom. 16:17.
II Thess. 3:6, 14.
Titus 3:10-11.
II John 10-11.

Some men cannot maintain faith. They will assume many things. They have no fear of God. Publications, letters, etc., will be circulated. God said such conditions are necessary (I Cor. 11:19). Will you fear God enough to obey Him? Only you and I can answer that question -- each one for himself.

We do not want to mention names. The facts of God's Word ought to be sufficient. If we play with fire we might get burned. A blessing goes to those who can truly walk by faith, not by sight (II Cor. 5:7).

A word to the wise is sufficient.

With deep love always,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Raymond C. Cole".

Raymond C. Cole

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Bryce G. Clark".

Bryce G. Clark