

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter
November 1989

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Dear Brethren:

The glorious anticipation of the Feast of Tabernacles has now come and gone. We are facing the long, stark, and difficult time of Winter. It is during this period of time we have our greatest opportunity to review and put to practice all the information which we garnered for eight beautiful and rewarding days. God's truth is a mystery revealed. It is glorious and inspirational. The knowledge of it wells up inside of us abundantly. For those who understand, it is loved and admired with the whole heart and being. May it take deep root in your lives and become manifested in daily living.

Spiritual Principle: "Sin in the Church"

Frequently, we hear some statement to this effect: "The ministry is allowing sin in the Church."

The statement is ludicrous. It shows a complete lack of any spiritual understanding.

There is no man who sins not, says God. Those called of God to know and live the truth must repent daily. With a change of attitude, the converted no longer *practices* sin. He has come to grips with both mind and body. He loathes the self and hates the consistent manifestations of human weaknesses—sin. Though still sinning on the basis of these human weaknesses, he is still attending services. Should we not allow such people to attend? If we followed that line of reasoning, *no one* would be allowed to attend hence forward.

Who, then, are the true members of the Body of Christ? They are chosen human beings, who because of human weaknesses sin daily, but do not practice sin, and who daily evaluate the self, but do not manifest Pharisaical tendencies toward self-righteousness. They are consistently working on the self. They practice the spiritual requirements of mercy, kindness, love, compassion, and forgiveness.

Mercy and kindness are requisite due to human weaknesses. If sin did not exist, there would be no need for either trait or characteristic. A person who manifests love, kindness, mercy, and forgiveness, is *not* condoning sin. For, if mercy and kindness are a condonation of sin, then God would most surely be the greatest offender. He has the power and insight to comprehend all things, yet He allows the continuation of sin and evil.

As a ministry, we do not condone sin. We loathe and hate it—even in the self. But we do find rewarding the manifestation of the marvelous spiritual traits of kindness, compassion, mercy, etc. Patience is what is needed. In due time all things will be known. The ministry is culpable only if they allow a *known* willful evil or bad spirit to continue. It is in this respect that the critical, self-righteous individuals are of far greater concern, both to God and the ministry, than those who sin through weakness. The one who attempts to take advantage of this mercy will surely pay a heavy price.

Brethren, we need a good inoculation of patience and trust. We do not like sin, either. But since we all commit sin, we mutually need the mercy of God. However, such mercy will not be given unless we evidence an abundance of mercy to others.

Can we at last create peace, instead of doubt and criticism?

Current Events: The fallacy of "full employment"

The very concept is both enigmatic and self-defeating. First, it implies an authority higher than self-responsibility. Will it be a government—state or federal? Will it be a community or a large corporation? Whom do we hold accountable for making jobs available? Responsibility loses identity in size and complexity. That is, the sheer size of our social order makes responsibility an obscure item. Therefore, we pick at random those we hold accountable for our misfortunes—the lack of job, etc. To make the point clear, let us ask ourselves who created the job for Adam when he was placed on this earth? No one! The only factor placed before Adam was opportunity. Opportunity and job-creation are not synonymous. Opportunity is everywhere. Job-creation usually implies the restrictive interference of someone else. And every such interference in some way carries potential enslavement—both immediate and future. It is these restrictive enslavements against which mankind has wrestled for centuries. The two most apparent and troubling personal losses are personal freedom and a partial loss of return on labor performed—taxes, charges, etc. From the beginning God pointed out the weakness of human government. From God's perspective, human government is a curse, not a blessing. For that reason governmental intervention will rob you of a part of what God wanted you to possess. When the government creates jobs, it will invariably take something from you. And that loss becomes a progressive loss. The future stability or instability of the object society depends entirely upon the tolerance level of the subjects involved. When the restrictiveness becomes too unbearable there will be an open revolt and the people will throw off the bonds of constraint. Only at that time does opportunity exist. Each individual becomes solely responsibility for his own future. If he plans, works hard, and conserves, he will live and prosper. If he fails, there will be either death or a hope that someone will take pity and share the product of his endeavor. The cycle starts all over again.

Secondly, it is not really employment man is looking for. As long as man has existed, he has sought ways to reduce his hours of labor. In fact, most modern inventions are collectively called "labor-saving devices." Is it possible to simultaneously look for labor opportunity and labor reduction? Of course not! What most human beings really want is a guarantee of the necessities of life with little or no work involved. The very thread employed by cagey men who unscrupulously deceive and lead fellow subjects into the trap of tyranny and subjugation. The thread of which we make mention is that concept employed by both government and corporation today. We are fast becoming a subjugated people because we are enchanted with the concepts of Big Brother. Full employment exists in communist countries. But are the people happy? No, because their needs are not met.

Neither full employment nor the contraction of the labor force produces acceptable results. What will? *Only* a system free of deceptive constraints employed by men in government and other positions of power, coupled with opportunity seized by men who want to bear individual responsibility. The real issue is not "full employment" but "unrestricted opportunity."

New Interest

For a number of years we have not wanted to see much numerical growth within our little operation. We could not accept the possibility of new life (old members whose faith had been shattered) coming into a situation where they would be subjected to suspicion, doubt, contention, and strife. How would such a setting be beneficial to their future growth? We simply needed time to "get our spiritual feet on good terra firma" before we attempted to be an example or help to anyone else.

Now, due to the conditions and circumstances which we see transpiring around the world, we wonder if it is not time to focus our attention upon the need of these estranged brothers and sisters. We cannot talk them into a return to the "faith once delivered." Only God can change their hearts and minds and set the stage for a return to the doctrine which they once so heartily believed. Our part is to pray with the whole mind and heart. God says the harvest is plenteous but the laborers are few. Maybe God would add to the fold if we had a real desire to see them return—if we have come along sufficiently to refrain from precipitating tension—contention, and strife. We have had problems somewhat akin to those the Apostle Paul experienced in Corinth. Everyone had his own idea of what was delivered and what was right and wrong. Corinth was rife with division. We in the present day church have had our problems of individualization, too. We are often amazed to learn what people think the church believed in its earlier days. Those who came rather late into the "fold" seem to "know" what the church believed thirty and forty years before their time. Since God has always used witnesses, of every time, work, etc., we suspect He made sure there would be witnesses of the events of the last days. Can we count on His witnesses?

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Fowler: Carolyn delivered a healthy baby girl. She weighed in at 6 plus pounds (we do not have the exact weight). She was born on Monday (October 30) at 12:42 P.M. Her name is Danielle Elizabeth Fowler. We congratulate you and hope for many joyous returns for you both.

Feast of Tabernacles

From what we have learned, this year's Feast was a grand success. It was greatly appreciated by all who truly love the truth of God and do sincerely want to obey His will. For all those who so generously contributed to the success with a willing and cooperative spirit, let us extend our personal thank you. Subjugation of the self is not easy. Always, when we are irritated or upset, we feel that we are right and that God is on "our side." Little do we ever recognize that such behavior is never acceptable in the sight of God—regardless of how right or wrong others may be. We are always accountable for our own attitude and behavior only.

Again, thank you for making the Feast a meaningful occasion. At some point in time, we all are going to have to live what we know. And I think it is safe to say that we know what the truth is. It is simply a fact that there are times when we want to manifest the characteristics of the nature with which we were born far more than we want to repress the self and put on the divine nature.

Trips

Special Note: The scheduled trip of Mr. Bryce Clark to Newark and Rochester is cancelled. At the present time there does not seem to be a real reason to make that trip.

The upcoming trips are listed below:

November 18, 1989
December 2, 1989
December 16, 1989
December 23, 1989
December 30, 1989

Bryce Clark, Sacramento, California
George Leeman, Baltimore, Maryland
Raymond Cole, Vancouver, B.C.
Raymond Cole, San Antonio, Texas
Raymond Cole, Dallas, Texas

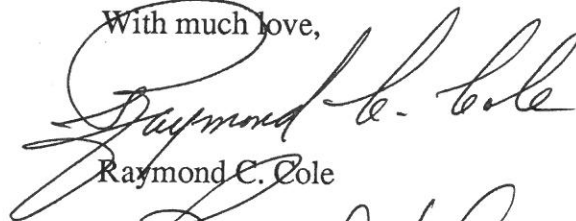
Tape Schedule

Tape series:	Mailed on:	For:	Title/tape #:
WSE-RC 39	10/11	11/4	Confrontations and responses of Christ #18
WSE-BC 122	10/11	11/11	Great men of the Old Testament #20
WSE-RC 39	11/01	11/18	Confrontations and responses of Christ #19
WSE-BC 122	11/01	11/25	Great men of the Old Testament #21
WSE-RC 39	11/15/89	12/02	Confrontations and responses of Christ #20
WSE-BC 122	11/15/89	12/09	Great men of the Old Testament #22
WSE-RC 39	11/29/89	12/16	Confrontations and responses of Christ #21

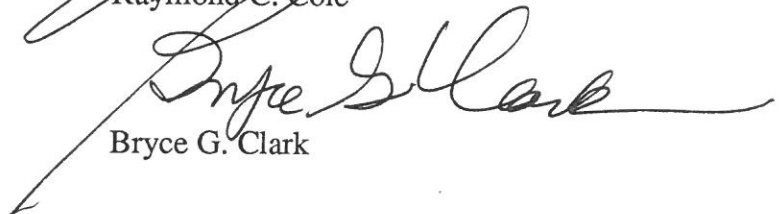
Comments

Late Fall and Winter are setting in around the country. We hope and pray that you all will have a very profitable and rewarding slower-paced time. It is the time for reading and much review. Please take care until we are again in contact—in December.

With much love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark