

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter August 1990

Dear Brethren:

From month to month we strive to give interesting and relevant information under either "Spiritual Principle" or "Current Events" headings—sometimes both. This month's spiritual principle is most important. Please read carefully and apply to the self.

### Spiritual Principle

In his natural estate, man does what he pleases, or perhaps, more accurately stated, as some controlling body or agent dictates. When a condition or circumstance displeases him, he is profuse with his criticisms. His contempt is frequently verbalized. Only some general innate barrier keeps man from carrying out his violent and contemptuous threats. In such a state, the natural course of human conduct is downward. Society, man's social structure, tends toward increasing perversity, wickedness, selfishness, lust, and greed. When liberated from the bonds of constraint, men act purposefully, quickly, and with determination.

Is it possible that such aggressive behavior could be correctly directed? For there is nothing wrong with aggressiveness, determination, purpose, inflexibility, and resolve. It is simply a matter of direction. The pursuit of flesh manifestations is evil. The pursuit of spiritual purposes is right. And uniquely, a spiritual orientation blesses man with innumerable physical benefits—the things in which he is really interested.

The question: Why does not man experience the manifold blessings promised of God? Basically, there is one foundational reason only. Man, though called of God, does *not* diligently and aggressively *act* on the word. As God ordained responsibility, there are two imperatives.

### I. The Ministry Must Fearlessly Preach

In Isaiah 58:1, God commands the ministry to thunder out the truth—revealed truth. By decree of God, they are called the stewards of the mysteries of God (I Cor. 4:1). These mysteries are revealed to the chosen of God; then they are commanded to remain faithful to the call and commission.

What, then, is the responsibility of all who are called and chosen of God—the laity as well as the ministry?

## II. All Must Hear and Act on the Word

Numerous Biblical references stress the importance of hearing. This can refer to one thing only. Man must get his mind into neutral. That is, he must abhor and reject the natural mental orientation—the tendency to hear what he wants to hear and interpret what he hears on the basis of what he thinks. To hear—really hear—necessitates openness, teachableness, responsiveness. We hear nothing if we listen to the truth, then proceed to forget it, reinterpret it according to individual thinking, or fail, out of weakness or rebellion, to act on it. We hear—truly hear—only when we act on the Word.

### You Are Being Taught

Long arduous hours are spent in research and writing of articles, letters, studies. Of what value are they unless all of us spend the time to study, pray, and fast about those things written? We must not merely gloss over the relevancy of the material by undertaking only a casual reading. We must get our Bibles out and thoroughly digest the material. Life everlasting depends upon just such action.

We must forever impose the will of God upon our rebellious minds. Here are a few manifestations of that change required. By these fruits the true Christian will be known.

1. We will no longer be judging or condemning others. Our tongues will speak only good things.
2. We will manifest, daily, the joy of salvation. No element of contempt, hatred, resentment, or self-justification will exist. Peace, happiness, success, health, and the abundant life will prevail.
3. We will avoid all the abominable pitfalls of a perverse society. Our lives will be exemplary.
4. We will be faithfully obedient to all the laws—ways—of God. Keeping of the Sabbath and holy days cannot occur at home, unless there is no appointed meeting place. Why? The command of God is a convocation before Him—at the appointed place. How can we claim obedience if we are not convoked at the appointed place—and at the right time?
5. We will respect the lines of responsibility as established by God. Children toward parents, wives toward husbands, employees toward employers, citizens toward constituted leaders, laity toward the ministry—every designated division of responsibility. To fail in any of the above duties is to hold God and His laws in contempt.

There are many others. We all know them. But knowing is inadequate. *Now*, we must live them.

Finally, the most imperative of all. What is our resolve quotient? In God there is not even the shadow of turning—the same consistently. Only those who manifest the same perpetual resolve will endure unto the end (Matt. 24:13). Faith, purpose, character are both refined and manifested in trial, persecution, crisis—difficulty.

God is weighing, observing, our daily responses. How will we measure up to His exalted standard?

Our future depends on daily action—*acting on the word* which has carefully taken root in our minds and hearts, manifested in required changes.

Will any of us grow weary in well doing (Gal. 6:1–9)?

## Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## Trips

August 4	Raymond Cole, Rochester, New York
August 11	Raymond Cole, Nashville, Tennessee
August 18	George Leeman, Vancouver, Canada
September 15	Raymond Cole, Sacramento, California

## Office

A reminder once again that those attending the Feast sites may bring their tapes there. They can be easily transported to Eugene from both Feast site locations. Tape returns by mail or UPS should be sent to 862 Bethel Drive, #3; Eugene, OR 97402.

## Tape Schedule

Tape series:	Mailed on:	For:	Title/tape #:
WSE-BC 125	7/25	8/4	How does a man examine himself?
WSE-RC 41	7/25	8/11	Who and what is this person called Christ? #4
WSE-BC 122	8/8	8/18	Great men of the Old Testament #33
WSE-RC 41	8/8	8/25	Who and what is this person called Christ? #5
WSE-BC 122	8/22	9/1	Great men of the Old Testament #34
WSE-RC 46	8/22	9/8	Marriage and separation #1

WSE-GL 7 9/5 9/15  
WSE-RC 46 9/5 9/22

Do we challenge the sovereignty of God?  
Marriage and separation #2a, 2b

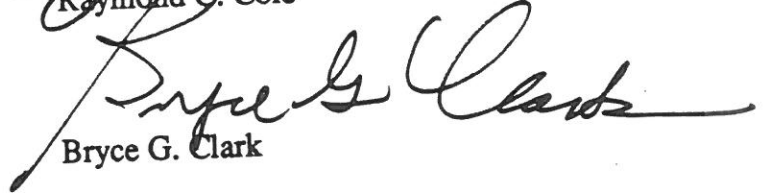
**Comments**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

With much love,



Raymond O. Cole



Bryce G. Clark