

# Church of God, The Eternal

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**Announcement Letter**  
**September 1990**

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Dear Brethren:

## **Spiritual Principle:** Whose Tithes Are They?

Many years ago certain members thought to force Mr. Armstrong to conform to their wishes by withholding "their tithes." He could not be coerced into conformity. The members left. They soon faded into non-existence. The church which God had established continued to grow and flourish.

In a comparable manner, early in our present configuration, a few heavy tithe payers were threatening to coerce the ministry into subjugation by withholding their tithes. It could have been devastating. But, in faith, we—the ministry—left the matter in the hands of God. Miraculously, within a couple of weeks the people were gone but God had completely replaced their income through loyal and right-spirited members who were added to the "remnant." God's purposes cannot be frustrated by any mortal. When we are wrong, we ask to be shown the truth by God. What we have accepted by faith we do not intend to change in any way. Since men always feel themselves to be right in their own minds (Prov. 16:2, 25), it is not uncommon for some to feel that they can instruct and correct the church. Even the ministry does not appeal to their own ideas. We hold to the faith which was once delivered—that which we taught and practiced for the many years leading up to the time of the apostasy. Do you have confidence in the truth for which you were baptized and which you practiced for years?

Threats continue to exist. They always will. One more time, I want to make it clear: This ministry does not intend to compromise the truth which we accepted and preached for years. Despite the hollow comments by some who are disaffected, we do *know* what we taught and that which the church believed for many years.

Tithes do not belong to us. They belong to God (Num. 27:30, 32, 34). And God gave them to His servants (Num. 18:20–26). It is your duty to know those who serve you—who are the instruments of God for His service to the called (I Thess. 5:12; I Cor. 16:15–18). You will be held accountable for that decision.

I am like the Apostle Paul. I do not like to mention money matters. I would rather go without than be made to feel that others are sustaining me. For any personal gain, let me assure you that I have labored long and hard. For the cause of Christ, I am most happy to be spent (II Cor. 12:15). May I add a word about the other ministers. They, too, have willingly given their lives. They ask very little in return for the effort expended for your everlasting good. Truly, we all try to give our lives in service.

I am reminded of the early example of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1–11). They, too, were more concerned about their internal image than they were about the future of everlasting life. They were going to manipulate that image economically. But they forgot the one fact that God sees and understands all human hearts and minds. He inspired Peter to comprehend what was occurring in those deceitful minds. The result was a very tragic condemnation, the death of both.

In conclusion, let us note the sad fate of any who would attempt to use money for nefarious purposes. We must not attempt to use money to force God's chosen ministry to conform to personal expectations; or attempt to buy special considerations from one who is chosen of God (Acts 8:19–20). Tithes belong to God. It is the price He levies against all mankind for use of His earth. In turn, God gives those monies to His chosen ministry for service which He requires of them.

Simply put, we ask only for the privilege of serving those whose hearts and minds are right. They, in turn, willingly serve God in faithful obedience to all the commands of God, including tithing. Economics is not a forced consideration in either direction.

### **Articles**

The article on Passover/Pentecost is just about completed and we hope to have it available at the Feast. We believe you will find this article to be most helpful in establishing "the faith once delivered" about the Passover and Pentecost.

### **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Feast of Tabernacles**

The Feast is rapidly approaching and there is an urgent need for excess second tithe. There are many expenses that need to be met as yet.

### **Trips**

September 15	Raymond Cole, Sacramento, California
September 20	George Leeman, Ohio/Pennsylvania

September 22	George Leeman, Central Pennsylvania
September 29	George Leeman, Ohio/Pennsylvania
October 20	Raymond Cole, Baltimore
October 27	Raymond Cole, Ohio

**Office**

There will be no October *Announcement Letter*. The September *Monthly Letter* will be mailed early.

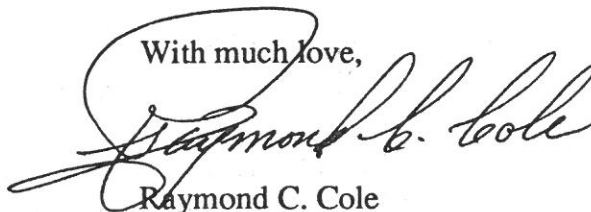
Also, pay no attention to the rumor that the old hymns should be pulled from the hymnal. There are no present plans to do such.

Those who request changes of address should let us know well in advance, or they can expect a delay in receiving tapes. It takes several weeks to complete making a change of address for tapes.

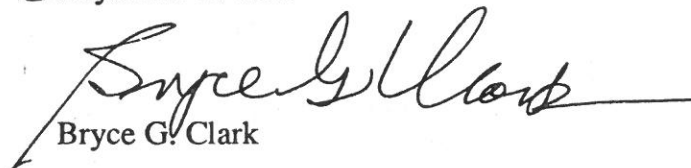
**Tape Schedule**

<b>Tape series:</b>	<b>Mailed on:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Title/tape #:</b>
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	Do we challenge the sovereignty of God?
WSE-RC 46	9/5	9/22	Marriage and separation #2a, 2b
		9/29	Day of Atonement
		10/6	no tape (Tabernacles)
WSE-BC 122	9/19	10/13	Great men of the Old Testament #35
WSE-RC 46	9/19	10/20	Marriage and separation #3
WSE-RS 5	10/3	10/27	The book of Jude #1
WSE-RC 46	10/3	11/3	Marriage and separation #4
WSE-RS 5	10/17	11/10	The book of Jude #2
WSE-RC 46	10/17	11/17	Marriage and separation #5

With much love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark