

# Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775  
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Switzerland  
Case Postale 2 701  
CH 1002 Lausanne

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

Dear Brethren:

**Spiritual Principle:** Is your life correctly prioritized?

In any area of physical responsibility confusion reigns where there are not structured and ordered lines of duty, obligation. Chaos is the result of anything less. And where chaos reigns there is every hurtful and troubling manifestation—anger, resentment, bewilderment, selfishness, hatefulness, uncertainty, and a host of other carnalities.

The above manifestations are quickly observed at the physical level. They, however, are not so quickly noted in the mental realm. Yet, they do exist at that level, too. The most confusing and troubling is that of the mental when coupled with the spiritual. To have peace of mind, a major transformation must take place—a transformation which can take place only by the indwelling presence of the Spirit working upon the natural mind (Rom. 12:1–2). With that supernatural help, the recipient can effect changes in life regardless of natural inclinations. It is not possible to make the proper mental orientation first in one's physical life by will or determination on the part of the individual. Outside help is essential. This process is called conversion. To the world this manifestation is of questionable orientation.

What are some of the priorities which mankind must acknowledge? Based on Biblical principles it is abundantly clear that the following are basic structures ordained of God. (1) In the God-family, God is greater than the Son, Jesus Christ (John 14:28). (2) Angels are greater than men (II Pet. 2:11). (3) The Spirit of God is greater than the spirit of Satan (I John 4:4). (4) The husband is the head of the family (I Cor. 11:3). (5) Rulers arise superior to the governed (Rom. 13:1). (6) Employers have authority over the employed (Eph. 6:5–6, Titus 2:6). (7) Lastly, but most significantly, Christ is the Head over His future bride—the church (Heb. 3:6, Eph. 5:23, Col. 1:18).

Being greater than something affects many areas. It can involve dimension, authority, responsibility, purpose, or other matters. What we are most interested in, in this letter, is the subject of purpose. That is, when we prioritize our lives, what do we make first? This concept is of grave significance to God. For on the basis of that judgment we will regulate our lives and every issue with which we are confronted.

The called are of God. They know who they are. They understand that which God has given to them—His priceless way of life. With that understanding they made a decision, a decision to lay down the physical life and pursue the spiritual. The Apostle Paul addressed this matter when he said the physical was first, after that came the spiritual (I Cor. 15:46–47). That is, in time sequence, we were first born physically and then in due

time God calls and we relinquish the physical and accept the spiritual. That is the transformation which was mentioned earlier. It is conversion. Conversion from that which we can see and touch—the physical—to that which cannot be seen or touched—the spiritual. From the time of God's call, the called are obligated to walk worthy of that spiritual responsibility (Eph. 4:1, Col. 1:10, I Thess. 2:12, II Thess. 1:5). By our every action, thought, expression, and orientation we must always confess Christ before men (Matt. 10:32–33, Luke 12:8–9). Because of the tendency of men to turn back to the physical, the truly called must daily awaken themselves to their spiritual call (I Cor. 15:34). In every aspect of life they will put the purposes of God ahead of the pulls of the flesh and the will of the natural mind (Matt. 6:33; 10:37–39). What really counts is the family of God (II Cor. 6:14–18). It is the will of the Spirit, not of blood.

The above concept sounds praiseworthy, but how is it accomplished in our lives? The old self must be crucified (Gal. 2:20). We must put on Christ and thereby become new creations (Gal. 4:19, II Cor. 5:16–17). Each one called, converted, and having the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit becomes a member of the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:27). And that body is one, not divided (Gal. 3:28, I Cor. 12:11, 20, 25). It must mature and grow to perfection (Eph. 1:10; 4:13). And it does have a physical manifestation (Eph. 5:30). (Can you understand why the Church of God, the Eternal, has never claimed to be a separate organization? We are merely estranged brothers and sisters from the apostate mother. There is no justification and there never will be for any separation except for the sake of doctrine.)

Spirituality is a condition which cannot be seen by eye. The very nature of it allows for much deception. But there is a means of knowing, an acid test which God laid out for the faithful and honest. Though there be many false Christs, the true one can be known. He is revealed at the time of an individual's call (Matt. 11:25–27). He is the Word of God, the Truth by which the called came to know Him (John 1:1–3, 14; 14:6). He does not change, ever (Heb. 13:8). It is imperative that we confess (admit) who and what He is and that He *is* come in the flesh, now (I John 4:2–3).

All called, however, cannot retain faith and conviction (I Tim. 5:12). Many will turn to their own concepts and beliefs. They will deny the true Christ, although they will appropriate the name and apply it to the Christ which they have devised for themselves (Matt. 24:5).

Only those who have made the spiritual family first will understand. Others will reason for themselves. And their reasonings will seem right to them (Prov. 16:2, 25). How can the faithful know? The test is found in I John 2:22–24. Only if we abide in the faith which we received at the beginning can we *know* that we are the faithful of God. Thank God, brethren, we have not elected to depart from that which we (those who remain faithful) did receive at the beginning and that we are still one in spirit and attitude. We are united in the Body of Christ. We have truly put the spiritual family ahead of all things physical.

## **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

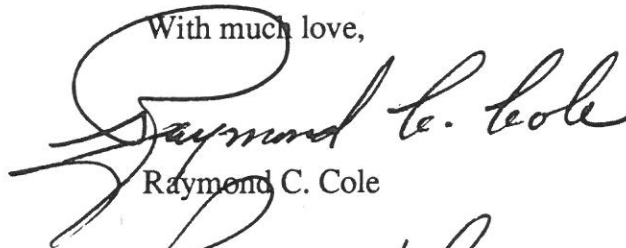
### Trips

January 19	George Leeman, Sacramento
February 2, 9, 16	Raymond Cole, Hawaii
February 16	Bryce Clark, Knoxville
February 23	Bryce Clark, San Antonio

### Tape Schedule

<b>Tape series:</b>	<b>Mailed on:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Title/tape #:</b>
WSE-RC 49	12/12	1/5	How to resolve problems
WSE-RS 6	12/12	1/12	The ancient satanic beliefs are with us today
WSE-BC 128	12/26	1/19	What is true Biblical love?
WSE-RC 50	12/26	1/28	A guide by which to navigate troubled waters
WSE-GL 8	1/9	2/2	How to have faith toward God, #2
WSE-RC 51	1/9	2/9	How to keep the Sabbath, #1
WSE-RC 51	1/23	2/16	How to keep the Sabbath, #2
WSE-GL 9	1/23	2/23	What is your relationship with God?

With much love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark