

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter September 1991

Dear Brethren:

Events, both in the physical world and the church, are very fast paced. For the called to endure the trial of their faith careful evaluation is essential—daily. For this reason both Mr. Clark and I sincerely look forward to spending much time with you at the Feast. Take care as you journey to the appointed places.

Spiritual Principle: The Major Manifestation of a Christian

In a society of change and uncertainty how can anyone know who is a true and genuine Christian? Millions claim to be converted and to be living the exemplary life. One of the disturbing signs of the last days, as indicated by Christ Himself, is the surfacing of many false Christs. Since spiritual things are of the mind and heart and are not visible to the naked eye, is there a sure way to know the true from the false?

What Is a Christian?

Succinctly, a Christian is a human being called of God, in whom, through the Holy Spirit, the Son of God, Christ, resides (Gal. 2:20). The term Christian is an appellation given to followers of Christ first at Antioch (Acts 11:26).

Born of the flesh, man pursues a natural course which seems right to him. Such direction will remain his orientation until he is miraculously called, enlightened by the external operation of the Holy Spirit, and by the help of God he surrenders his life totally to God. At that time a new heart and mind are given to him. But what is that new heart and mind? It is the life of Christ living in him. He thereby becomes a Christian.

If being a Christian is having the life of Christ lived in us, it follows that to identify a true Christian, one must know what Christ was in His own physical body. In this manifestation we will be able to see how that life manifests itself in human beings who are Christian.

Christ's Example

He was the express image of the Father (Heb. 1:3). Since we are told that there is not even a hint of change in the Father (James 1:17), in Christ could not be found any element of change, either. He was the Word made flesh (John 1:3, 14). And that Word was what the Father had given to Him before being sent to the earth (John 7:16). Christ was faithful to that which was delivered to Him (Rom. 6:17). Therefore, in summary, it can be emphatically stated: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines" (Heb. 13:8–9). Christ is the only legitimate doctrine and in Him there is absolutely no change. Any weird, unexpected, and dramatized change is proof the action was/is not of God or Christ.

In the visible manifestation of the body of Christ what is expected? What is the visible sign that it is truly the body of Christ?

The Visible Body

First, the body *is* visible. The Apostle Paul emphatically stated that the members of the body are members of the flesh and bone (visible) of Christ (Eph. 5:30). That that body is one even though there are many members (I Cor. 12:12). That is, there is only one body, visible, which is of Christ. Further, we are told that there should be no division in that body (I Cor. 12:25). And that God tempered and put together, with regard to duty, responsibility, office, etc., that body as it pleased Him (I Cor. 12:18). Finally, the ultimate proof is that which proceeds from our own lips. No one speaking by the Spirit of God claims that Christ is divided—even physically. If anyone claims that Christ is made up of divergent bodies and that changes are necessary to bring them into a proper relationship with Him, he is not speaking by the Spirit of God (I Cor. 12:3). It is the spirit of error.

What, then, are the visible manifestations of the body of Christ?

Manifestations

1. There is a prevailing sameness from the time of their conversion (I John 2:24).
2. There is an observable continuity of faith and purpose (II Tim. 3:14, Col. 1:22–23).
3. There is steadfastness, faithfulness, confidence—not being adversely affected by the unfaithfulness of others (Col. 2:4–8, Heb. 3:14).
4. There is no double-mindedness manifested—vacillation of mind which is destructive to themselves and others (James 1:8; 4:8).

5. There is no swaying by changes espoused by those who are themselves subject to an adversarial spirit (Eph. 4:14). Please consider in context Proverbs 5:6.

In conclusion let us repeat what Peter said generations ago: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness" (II Pet. 3:17).

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Trips

October 19	Raymond Cole	Pittsburgh
October 26	Raymond Cole	Dallas
November 16	Raymond Cole	Sacramento
November 23	Bryce Clark	Rochester
November 30	Bryce Clark	Baltimore

The trip schedule for the remainder of the year is being revised and will be announced later.

Feast of Tabernacles

Those who are attending the Feast in Tennessee and arriving via air will need to arrange their own transportation from the airport to their various motels. Also, on September 21, the Sabbath preceding the Feast of Tabernacles, there will be Sabbath services conducted by Mr. Cole at the town hall in Townsend. Services will begin at 1:00 PM.

Office

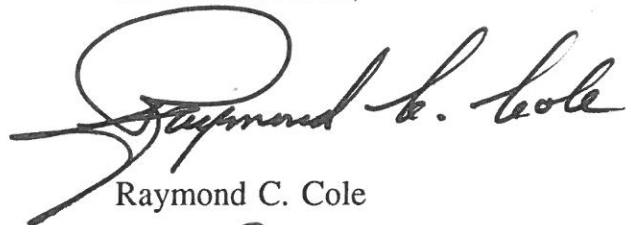
Please do not use the Bethel Drive address for sending in tithes. This address is for tape returns. Tithes should be mailed to P.O. Box 775 as this box is located at the central post office and provides more security. The Bethel Drive address is a mailbox at the side of the road.

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-RC 54	8/7 8/14	9/7 9/9	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #1 Trumpets, AM and PM
WSE-RC 54	8/21 8/21	9/14 9/18	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #3 Atonement
WSE-BC 134	8/21	9/21 9/28	Great Women of the Old Testament, #1 No tape
WSE-BC 135	9/4	10/5	Why Some Fall Away
WSE-RC 54	9/4	10/12	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #4
WSE-BC 122	9/11	10/19	Great Men of the Old Testament, #42
WSE-RC 54	9/11	10/26	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #5

The master schedule, as you can see, has been revised. Also, tape #2 of the Authority series is not presently available due to a machine malfunction. This tape number is WSE-RC 54-2.

In Christian love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark