

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Switzerland
Case Postale 2 701
CH 1002 Lausanne

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

Announcement Letter December 1991

Dear Brethren:

Winter is closing in on us. I wonder if the winter of human existence can be far removed! Truly the called must be knowledgeable of the times and ever diligent in effecting necessary mastery and self-discipline.

Spiritual Principle: "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself" (II Tim. 2:13).

There are many gods in the minds of men. And there are myriad concepts ascribed to these created gods. No man feels that he is wrong. That god which each man has formed in his own mind, of course, is the "true" god. How can this be since we are emphatically informed that God is One? His way is one? And that there is not even a hint of change in His orientation?

The One with whom we have to do never changes (Heb. 13:8). And we are told: The Father is consistent, unchanging, the same always, and variableness does not even exist in His character (James 1:17). There is not even the slightest hint that either the Father or His Son have ever or will ever change. Both are perfect, in character as well as purpose and concept.

From where does change come? And, what does change indicate in the lives of those who practice it? In a typical fashion Solomon explains: "Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her [a strange woman, verse 3] ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them" (Pro. 5:6). And who are these strange adulterous and/or fornicating women? Spiritually speaking, they are strange bodies or groups who proclaim doctrines and ways contrary to the real and only doctrine of God (I Cor. 6:15-20). The true and faithful body is characterized as a virtuous woman (Eph. 5). In comparable fashion, all other churches, groups, or independent bodies are characterized by fallen women.

Truth is singular; truth proceeds only from the Father. And since Christ is the personification of that truth, it must be revealed. Then only the called of God can live that singular truth by the indwelling presence of Christ. What imperative demands are laid upon the called? The following texts make it abundantly clear that any lateral moves or changes are totally unacceptable. This does not obstruct growth. But, growth is not synonymous with change.

Specific Commands/Statements

1. ". . . continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard . . ." (Col. 1:23).
2. ". . . be ye stedfast, unmoveable . . ." (I Cor. 15:58).
3. "Whom resist stedfast in the faith . . ." (I Pet. 5:9).
4. ". . . the stedfastness of your faith in Christ" (Col. 2:5).
5. ". . . rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith . . ." (Titus 1:13).
6. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith . . ." (I Cor. 16:13).

Can such commands be honored by any lateral moves or changes? Such a thought is as impossible as any change in the character and purpose of God (Heb. 6:17–18).

Interestingly, the mental pressures for change or independence are a source of trial ordained of God. To establish an example for the called, following the time of Christ, God allowed the children of Israel to write lessons of faithlessness (II Cor. 3:13). It is, therefore, obvious that change of any kind is a manifestation of carnality, the weakness of flesh.

Considering the above concept, let us note an emphatic statement of the Apostle Peter. He said: ". . . beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness" (II Pet. 3:17). What was the problem? A perversion (change or lateral move) of the Scriptures (verse 16). Contrariwise, faithfulness demands the unmoveable adherence to that which God had revealed.

Tests Allowed By God

Most, if not all, the changes and doctrinal turmoil being experienced by the called are allowed by God. For purpose! The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Jews, indicated the severity of these trials (Heb. 12:25–29). When writing to the church at Thessalonica

he emphasized the scope of these trials (II Thess. 2:9–12). In all cases the trials are allowed for the good of those who are exercised thereby (I Pet. 1:7).

Disturbingly, all who are called of God do not manifest sufficient faith and conviction to weather doctrinal and conceptual trials. Far too many will turn from the truth delivered to them (II Pet. 2:21). Note also Titus 1:14 and II Tim. 4:4. We are informed that only a few will really endure to the end.

In conclusion, let us note what God really requires of us. With faithful adherence to these requirements any change or move whatsoever is rendered impossible.

1. "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught . . ." (Titus 1:9).
2. "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering . . ." (Heb. 10:23).
3. ". . . continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved . . ." (Col. 1:23).
4. ". . . shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end . . ." (Heb. 6:11).
5. "Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith . . ." (Heb. 10:22).
6. ". . . let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him" (I John 3:18–19).
7. "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of . . ." (II Tim. 3:14).
8. "Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God" (I John 3:21).
9. "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end" (Heb. 3:6).
10. "For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end . . ." (Heb. 3:14).
11. "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught . . ." (II Thess. 2:15).
12. "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" (II Cor. 13:5).

Regardless of what our detractors and enemies say about us, this little group still believes and practices what we were taught initially. The interpretations they advance are nothing more than perversions of Scriptures as well as a perversion of what we do teach.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Trips

December 7	Raymond Cole	Pittsburgh
December 14	Raymond Cole	Nashville
December 21	Raymond Cole	Vancouver, BC

There are no trips scheduled for January at this time.

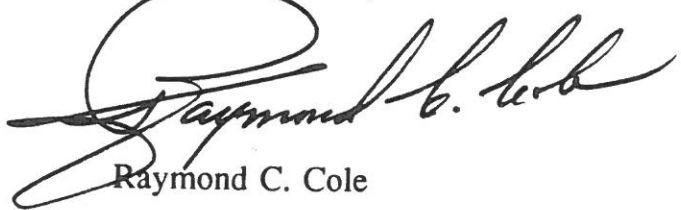
Office

A large print version of the *Monthly Letter* and the *Announcement Letter* are available to those who would benefit by them. Both are also available on cassette. Please notify the office if you would like to receive either.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 54-8	11/13	12/14	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #8
WSE-BC 138-1	11/13	12/21	Paul's Epistles #1
WSE-RC 54-9	11/27	12/28	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #9
WSE-BC 138-2	11/27	1/4	Paul's Epistles #2
WSE-RC 54-10	12/11	1/11	What Is the Purpose of Authority? #10
WSP-BC 13-1	12/11	1/18	The Miracles of Christ #1
Principles of Christian Living CL 2-134	12/23	1/25	Meekness #3
WSE-BC 138-3	12/23	2/1	Paul's Epistles #3

In Christian Love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark