

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 March 1992

Dear Brethren:

We are approaching the 1992 holyday season. Another opportunity is granted to give our lives improved spiritual orientation. However, this year will be of no greater value to us than that which we will in our minds. We all can if we will it. God has promised to support our will and determination if we yield our lives wholly to Him.

Spiritual Principle: "... turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness . . ." (Jude 4)

First, three definitions are essential: 1) "turning" 2) "grace" and 3) "lasciviousness."

Turning: Means to pervert, change, change one's mind, desert, turn apostate.

Grace: Meaning graciousness, attractiveness, favor, gracious care or help, goodwill, a practical application of goodwill, a favor, gracious deed or gift, benefaction, thanks, and gratitude.

Lasciviousness: Meaning licentiousness, debauchery, sensuality, to live licentiously, pervert favor into licentiousness, follow the inclination of sensuality, indecent conduct, and licentious desire. (All definitions are from *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* by Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich.)

What is the setting? A religious orientation was surfacing which by its very nature was putting considerable pressure on the faith of those called of God. A real spirit of contention—not against but for the truth—was mandatory. A faith in that which was first given, that which had been practiced initially. That pressure was coming from false servants espousing dogma contrary to that delivered by God.

Where were these false servants? They subtly had crept into the body and were denigrating the force and power of the Word of God. They were inducing members to turn away from the original call and were emphasizing a fleshly orientation. They showed

contempt for the law and character of God. They were turning to lasciviousness. Compare the following texts:

- (1) The natural nature of man (Mark 7:22, Gal. 5:19, I Pet. 4:3)
- (2) An inclination of anyone not spiritually oriented (Rom. 13:13 [wantonness], II Cor. 12:21)
- (3) Perpetrators of self-aggrandizement who have no feeling for others (Eph. 4:19)
- (4) The "filthy" conduct of human beings in Lot's day (II Peter 2:7)
- (5) A warning that some in the last days would turn back to the inclinations of the flesh (II Pet. 2:18 [wantonness]).

What is the time element? In the last days some would creep into the church and induce members to turn back to a fleshly lifestyle, forsaking their call to grace and dignity. See verse 18 of Jude.

What are the visible indications by which we can know these people? They will attempt to use false dreams to justify rebellion and a fleshly orientation, they will despise government in the church, and they will fearlessly speak evil of those ordained and approved of God (Jude 8; compare vs. 4).

Articles

We are presently revising and simplifying several of the older articles. We are not intending to send them out to the general mailing list unless they are specifically requested. Those that are being revised are on the subjects of Pentecost, divorce and remarriage, and tithing.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Trips

March 14	Raymond Cole	Florida
March 21	Raymond Cole	Austin
April 16, 17, 18	Raymond Cole	Baltimore
April 24, 25	Raymond Cole	Knoxville

Office

The Trip Schedule may vary from the Master Schedule recently sent out as there are large price fluctuations this year in airfares, as well as other circumstances that enter into the picture. We will need to be as flexible as possible in making trips this year. Trips will not be firm until you read about them in the *Announcement Letter*. The Master Schedule, therefore, will be subject to alteration as the need arises.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
CL 2-137*	2/5	3/14	Meekness #6
WSE-BC 138-7	2/19	3/21	Paul's Epistles #7
CL 2-138*	2/19	3/28	Humility #1
WSE-BC 138-8	3/4	4/4	Paul's Epistles #8
CL 2-139*	3/4	4/11	Humility #2
Passover (NTBO)	3/25	4/16 (4/17)	
Days of UB			A.M. & P.M.
First Day	3/25	4/18	(two tapes)
Days of UB			A.M. & P.M.
Last Day	4/1	4/24	(two tapes)
WSE-BC 138-9	3/18	4/25	Paul's Epistles #9
CL 2-140*	3/18	5/2	Humility #3

*Principles of Christian Living series is currently being given at Eugene Sabbath Services.

In deep love and affection,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark