

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter May 1992

Dear Brethren:

The Spring Feasts have come and gone for 1992. In comparable type today we have been called and chosen of God. Our needful journey out of SIN has been renewed, made more real, and the woeful inadequacies of the carnal heart and mind made more apparent. Much help, inspiration, and determination are needed. To that end we now look forward to the next holy day—Pentecost. The significance of that day will be renewed at its own appointed time.

Spiritual Principle: "Will worship"—(Col. 2:23)

This is a very strange expression of the Apostle Paul—used only once in the New Testament. It is translated from the Greek word, *Ethelothreeskia*.

Is the employment of force of mind—will—contrary to the "will" of God? If God employs will, can (under correct conditions or circumstances) the exercise of determination be wrong for all human beings? Will proceeds from hearts and minds. It is the vital force necessary for human existence. There is a will of the flesh and carnal mind. That will must be subdued. But some other will must replace the expunged will of man.

What is the answer to this most baffling statement of the Apostle Paul? A synoptic review of the usage of the term "will" in the Bible should make the subject very clear.

Will is essential for a Christian. Since the will of man is wrapped up in his fleshly nature, it must be overcome (Rev. 2:17; 3:12, 21). Peter makes this concept very clear in I Peter 4:1–2. By properly evaluating the experiences encountered, due to human will, we can acceptably yield to the will of God—manifested in our lives. How? We are called to become subject to the will of God (I Pet. 3:17). And what is the will of God? (I Pet. 2:15) When called and the will of God is revealed, the faithful will to obey (I John 2:17). Not by the carnal will but by the will of God which has taken root in the human mind. Then,

once having acted upon the will of God, the obedient patiently wait for the spiritual help of the Father (Heb. 10:36).

Of greater significance initially is the fact, no mortal can will to be called and become a servant of God (James 1:18, Rom. 9:16). He must be called by God and, then, by that call come to know the will of God (Eph. 5:17). Further, what the called do not know they must not assume (I John 5:14, James 4:15). This is a significant factor in the matter of prophecy (II Pet. 1:21). Since it came by the will of God only, it can be understood only by a revelation from that Source.

Will is essential. It must, however, be the will of God and not that of the carnal flesh.

What, then, did Paul imply in Colossians 2:20–23? Taken in context it becomes clear that certain pagan concepts—of the human heart and mind—had crept into the church. Many of these demanded much self-negation. There existed even some physical abuse of the carnal body. Those caught in this erroneous orientation did precipitate some admiration on the part of Paul (v. 23). But the doctrines and customs were those of men—not God (v. 22). A quote from *The Interpreter's Bible* should help, "Will-worship would then have the sense of a cult devised by the devotees at their own fancy, not as willed by God; the idea of willfulness would extend into the humility, giving it the bad sense of a needless self-abasement; and the ἀφειδίᾳ σώματος [unsparing treatment of the body] would be taken to mean a fanatical severity to the body or a shameful neglecting of the body, implying on either interpretation a failure to give to the body the honor due to it as sanctified by the presence of Christ."

For us today, what must be the will of the Christian?

- A) To endure sound—revealed—doctrine (II Tim. 4:3).
- B) Will to keep our minds free from the ubiquitous presence of Satan (II Tim. 2:26).
- C) To stand perfect and complete in all the will of God (Col. 4:12).
- D) To work out salvation with fear and trembling through the will of God (Phil. 2:12–13).
- E) To attain the perfection of the Father (Matt. 5:48).

These lofty objectives must be accomplished by the will of the Son and the Father. Nonetheless, that will is manifested in the daily lives of all who are called and dedicated to self-mastery.

Pursuing the will of God in our lives is not "will worship."

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Deaths

We were saddened to hear of the death of Mr. Arthur Meining, who died on April 11. Our deepest condolences go to his wife, Marian, and the family members. He will be deeply missed by all the brethren.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. David Carter are the happy parents of a newly adopted daughter, named Courtney Anita Jean, who was born March 26, weighing in at 7 lb., 4 oz.

Trips

May 16	Raymond Cole	Vancouver, BC
June 4-29	B.G. Clark	Switzerland
July 4	Raymond Cole	Baltimore
July 11	Raymond Cole	Knoxville
July 18	B.G. Clark	California

Office

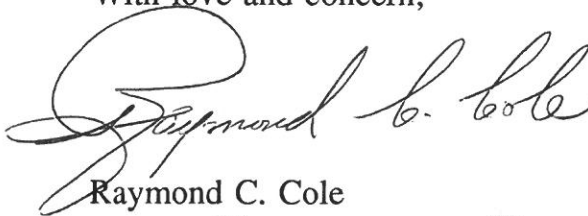
Anyone desiring to return tapes via UPS should send them to our Bethel Drive address, which is: Church of God, the Eternal; 862 Bethel Drive, #3; Eugene, OR 97402. Do not use this address for any regular mail service, including tapes.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-BC 138-10	4/1	5/9	Paul's Epistles #10
CL 2-141*	4/1	5/16	Humility #4
WSE-BC 138-11	4/15	5/23	Paul's Epistles #11
CL 2-142*	4/15	5/30	Humility #5
WSE-BC 138-12	4/29	6/6	Paul's Epistles #12
Pentecost	5/18	6/8	A.M. & P.M. (two tapes)
CL 2-143*	4/29	6/13	Humility #6
WSE-BC 138-13	5/13	6/20	Paul's Epistles #13
CL 2-144*	5/13	6/27	Humility #7

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

With love and concern,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark