

Church of God, The Eternal

P.O. BOX 775

Eugene, Oregon 97440-0775

Switzerland
Case Postale 2 701
CH 1002 Lausanne

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

Announcement Letter October 1992

Dear Brethren,

The Feast is upon us. Take great care as you travel. Remember, you are the children of God. You are not your own. He is concerned for His children.

Have a wonderful Feast.

Spiritual Principle: What Is Your Word Worth?

Speech is a universal feature of mankind—of humankind only. Humans think, plan, make agreements, execute, and regulate a society on the basis of lingual ability. Can you imagine the resulting consternation and confusion if all mankind were instantaneously to lose all communicating ability? Recall the thousands of years of isolation and division generated by the confusion of languages in Genesis 10! Just now, in these last days, have men begun to acquire the ability to communicate with one another again. And what happens? They revert to the same tendencies which necessitated the original confusion of the languages. Men through all their acquisition of technical and philosophical knowledge, have turned anti-God. They are constructing a society on a concept excluding the presence and influence of an Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent God.

As bad as the fateful condition above appears to be, it is not the worst human condition. In the time appointed of God, certain men/women are called to know God and the truth. Knowledge unavailable until, through a miracle, God makes Himself known and also His priceless way of life. Such is a miracle of almost incomprehensible understanding. Once such knowledge is *known*, man should manifest that comprehension via his words, thoughts, and actions. Tragically, man's words (we are dealing with

words only) too frequently manifest doubt, lack of purpose, and determination—possible via God’s Holy Spirit.

Before completing the above question, let us notice just a few underlying verbal principles enunciated in the Bible. Knowledge and recall of these concepts are both essential and helpful in understanding.

1. God’s words are both absolute and authoritative. They never change, or need revision for they are pure and right. They are priceless. Commitments and promises to mankind are infallible. Failure to receive these assurances is the problem of mankind—not of God.
2. Man must always condition his words. Why? He has neither the power nor the will to perform. He is fallible in his thinking. Therefore, he must always say, "If it is the will of God, I will do this or that."
3. In the condition of number two above is found an avenue of exploitation for deceptive man. He often will make promises, conditionally, to receive what he wants, then when he fails to achieve objectives involved in agreements, promises, commitments, he will justify non-performance on the basis of that condition. He refuses to face the reality of his own failure—the fact he did not will to succeed and seek the help he needed from God. Failure is accepted. In essence he is blaming God for it rather than facing the fact he failed because he did not really will to be successful, knowing he could have received the necessary help from God.
4. Words are expressions of our thoughts. Since man is going to be judged by his words, and those words proceed from the heart and mind, it becomes obvious, the orientation of life upon which those thoughts are based, the verbalization of those thoughts—words spoken, and the subsequent action or failure to act are all crucial to God. Do our words express honesty, integrity of heart, and genuine willingness to perform? Or, are our words always conditional on time, other conditions, relationships, and any other factor(s) which we can use to justify ourselves?
5. A lie is a manifestation of hate and contempt. It is a willingness to hurt or injure someone else in order to protect either the self or others specifically chosen for favors.
6. Finally, to use the badge of "truth" to scatter the knowledge of others weaknesses, or sins, is a contemptible usage of the power of speech. Truth yes, perhaps! But

was the proliferation of such knowledge salutary and beneficial to and for all concerned? It is always highly doubtful.

What is your word worth?

Remember: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue . . ." (Pro. 18:21). How seriously do we take the power and influence of our words? Are they expressions of emotions only? Are they reasoned and well-thought out expressions of honesty, and integrity?

"The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters . . ." (Pro. 18:4). Is that depth of integrity, profundity, wisdom? Or, is it representative of a vitriolic flood of hatefulness, contempt, and injury? We all must remember, "A fool's mouth is his destruction . . ." (Pro. 18:7).

Are our thoughts and subsequent words graceful—always seasoned with salt? Are we ever watchful of our tongues? Man cannot live in relationship with other men without commitment. He must communicate. How he communicates is of imperative significance.

In conclusion think soberly about the following:

1. Man is going to be judged by the words he has spoken (Matt. 12:31–37).
2. Man was given the capacity to speak for the purpose of glorifying and praising his Maker—not to curse Him, take His name in vain.
3. Man's speaking ability is requisite for beneficial service and help to others—not to abuse and ridicule.
4. Man's words are the determining factor in his orientation and purpose. From his verbalizations—conversation in general, agreements, promises, and statements—he is known.
5. Man's words are first and foremost a commitment upon himself. He is obligated to back them up—in constructive action—with the promised assistance from God.

In the final analysis, man's character is determined by the thoughts generated in mind and verbalized by mouth. God's words are pure, life itself, and perfectly glorious. What are our words worth?

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Comments

Due to the pressing schedule and Feast preparation Mr. Cole has fallen behind in his personal correspondence. Please be patient. He will endeavor to catch up following the Feast, but for those of you attending the Feast who are expecting correspondence from Mr. Cole, try to get as many questions answered personally by him at the Feast so that perhaps your questions can be taken care of this way.

Trips

October 10	B.G. Clark	Knoxville
October 12-19	B.G. Clark	Townsend
October 12-19	Raymond Cole	Newport
November 21	Raymond Cole	Vancouver, BC

Office

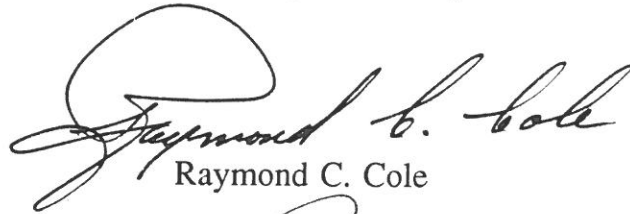
Another reminder—beginning January 1993, and quarterly thereafter, we will send notices from the office reminding those who have taken loans from the Third Account that they have an obligation to meet. These notices will serve as a reminder since many may have forgotten their obligation. All who have taken out loans should be thinking seriously about some type of repayment plan.

Tape Schedule

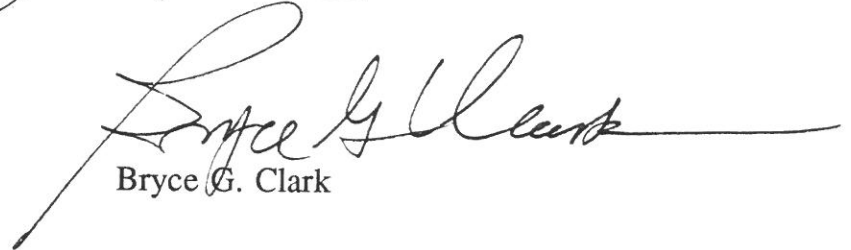
Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
CL 2-151*	8/19	10/3	Humility #14
Atonement	9/16	10/7	A.M. (1 tape)
WSE-BC 138-21	9/2	10/10	Paul's Epistles #21
CL 2-152*	9/2	10/24	Humility #15
WSE-BC 138-22	9/16	10/31	Paul's Epistles #22
CL 2-153*	9/16	11/7	Humility #16
WSE-BC 138-23	9/23	11/14	Paul's Epistles #23
CL 2-154*	9/23	11/21	Humility #17
WSE-BC 138-24	10/6	11/28	Paul's Epistles #24

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

As always with deepest love and affection,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark