

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter November 1992

Dear Brethren,

What a rewarding Feast! Success is not based on numbers, but quality. In the final analysis only a very few remained faithful in the day of Christ. He certainly was successful. Success is measured by the quality of spiritual lives lived. We all can thank God there are a few who sincerely desire to live those exemplary lives.

### **Spiritual Principle: "He thinks he is the only one who is right."**

The above is a statement frequently heard. It deserves an answer.

The following is an objective answer. What anyone says about another does not make the statement a fact. We have chosen to capitalize on the issue to explain a much larger spiritual principle. Before beginning that explanation, it is imperative to address, briefly, a minor issue also.

How is it that a human being can read and understand the mind and heart of another individual? Is not such a practice a form of judgment—an exercise in which we are forbidden to indulge? Generally those who make the above accusation construct it out of "whole cloth." It arises from a mind or heart deeply troubled, confused, and bent on self-justification.

There are inherent fallacies in the statement, "He thinks he is the only one who is right." Truth is always singular. Right is right. Anything outside of the oneness of truth, the way of life, the doctrine, the mind and attitude of Jesus Christ is categorically wrong. Logic indicates it. Reason demands it.

There is a sizeable amount of hypocrisy manifested in such a statement, "He thinks he is the only one who is right." All too frequently, unless we soberly and seriously evaluate our thoughts and concepts, such expressions are based on emotion—a form of retaliation, self-justification, or get-even-philosophy.

## **What Is that Larger Issue?**

Spiritual truth is not naturally known by man. He lives in the way of the flesh, the carnal mind. With that natural orientation man is always right in his own eyes (Deut. 12:8). Human beings are extremely capable of creating their own concepts (Jer. 2:28–37). Since they have come from a deceived mind they believe, and "know" within themselves, that they are right. They tend to give divine credence to their own concepts. It is the very philosophies out of which idols are generated. In fact, those so deceived are generally energetic and determined in their recruitment of followers. They will merchandize the gullible for personal advantages (II Pet. 2:1–3, 12, 15, 18–21). They once knew the truth but were goaded, by the dictates of their own minds, into a rejection of the faith they once held.

## **What Are the Problems Inherent in the Statement?**

Is not truth the implied meaning of the word "right"? What, then, is truth? Jesus said, ". . . I am the way, the truth, and the life . . ." (John 14:6). And what was Christ? The Word made flesh (John 1:1, 14). Since doctrine is synonymous with the word, Christ was the doctrine living and animated in the flesh. His mind gave direction and purpose, doctrinally, to His life. How many minds did Christ possess? Unless He was a double-minded Being, as some human beings are, He had exactly one mind and no more. In other words, one conception, one way, one doctrine prevailed in His thinking.

The only way any mortal man can live a truly spiritual—Christian—life is by crucifying the old self and allowing Christ to live that singular life in him (Gal. 2:20). Before such a transformation can take place that life—way—must be revealed (compare Matt. 11:25–27, I Cor. 1:21, Heb. 9:8–9). Logic assures us that when an immutable, unchanging, power resides in us there can be no, nor will there be, any change in that which is revealed. Further, if any spiritual change seems indicated, one of two things must apply. One, the individual never had the truth and any change at the present does not indicate a divine revelation. Two, the party accepting such change is departing from the truth.

## **Manifestations of a Call and the Indwelling Presence of Christ**

If change indicates unfaithfulness (Rom. 1:21–23, 25, Jer. 2:11) it is obvious faithfulness is indicated by continuity of belief and purpose (John 13:20, Col. 1:23, John

8:31). Those called to *know* the truth manifest stability and confidence (John 8:32). They are free from the doubts and frustrations which plague those troubled with double-mindedness. But it is imperative to note: They know the truth and are not troubled with the heresies promulgated by others who once knew the truth.

Those called of God and in whom the life of Christ continues all speak the same things. They speak from the oneness of the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ is *always* the same regardless of the human being in whom that mind exists. That person is right, always, in whom is the mind of Christ. It is not because he is right in his own eyes. He is right because the mind of Christ is consistent and is always right. Those who possess the mind of Christ manifest its presence by loyalty to the initial call and revelation of the truth.

### **Tragically: Few Manifest that Courage and Conviction**

Christ said, ". . . he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13). Endure what? The Apostle Paul called it a war of faith (I Tim. 6:12). It is almost impossible for anyone to be consistent—to manifest faith. Yet, we are told that the just will live by faith (Rom. 1:17). Though not seen by human eye, faith is manifested in unchanging conviction. It is certified by confidence, a lack of doubt and confusion.

In the final analysis, the quote "He thinks he is the only one who is right," can proceed only from minds which have lost understanding or by those which were never converted. Truth is singular. Wherever it is found, it stands alone and is always in opposition to those ways which seem right to human minds. All who possess the truth—which is singular—are in agreement with one another. There is only one way. That way is right. And all who possess that way are right.

We as human individuals are not right. It is the *way* which is right. We have elected to believe that way and remain faithful to it regardless of the cost. The implied concept in the statement that others can be right, too, even though they hold to different concepts, is not of God. There simply is no justification for differences of opinion. If called, the faithful individual adheres to that which he heard and accepted initially. It is a way which has prevailed, without interruption from the days of the initial commission given in these last days up to the present, and will continue without a hiatus until the return of Christ.

How many will be found faithful at the time of that return? (Luke 18:8) Remember, in the original Greek the text reads: ". . . Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall

he find [the] faith [the doctrine] on the earth?" The test is a severe one. Let us all be faithful though we will be accused of mental arrogance, as Christ was, because we adhere to that one and only way of life.

### **Prayer Requests**

[Omitted for confidentiality]

### **Feast of Tabernacles**

A number have asked to be remembered to others who attended the Feast. In a general sense may we take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who manifested love, kindness, and service whereby the Feast meaning was enhanced and made memorable. Doing for others gives meaning to our faith and conviction.

### **Trips**

November 21	Raymond Cole	Vancouver, BC
December 12	B.G. Clark	Ohio
December 19	B.G. Clark	Austin

### **Office**

In order to avoid confusion regarding requests for Feast of Tabernacles tapes we are enclosing a postcard with this *Announcement Letter*. Please indicate your request by returning the card. Please return this card even if you signed up for Feast tapes while at the Feast as there is too much duplication and confusion resulting from the present system.

Please be reminded that beginning January 1993, and quarterly thereafter, we will send notices from the office reminding those who have taken loans from the Third Account. These notices will serve as a reminder since many seem to have forgotten their obligation. Those who have taken out loans should be thinking seriously about a repayment plan.

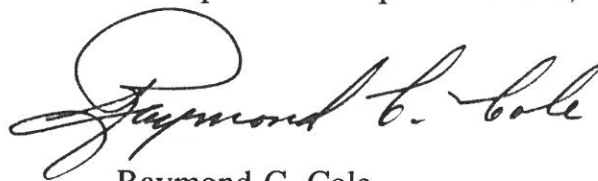
## Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
CL 2-153*	9/16	<b>11/7</b>	Humility #16
WSE-BC 138-23	9/23	<b>11/14</b>	Paul's Epistles #23
CL 2-154*	9/23	<b>11/21</b>	Humility #17
WSE-BC 138-24	10/6	<b>11/28</b>	Paul's Epistles #24
CL 2-155*	10/6	<b>12/5</b>	Humility #18**
WSE-RC 56-1	10/21	<b>12/12</b>	What's in it for the Youth? #1
WSE-BC 138-25	10/21	<b>12/19</b>	Paul's Epistles #25
WSE-RC 56-2	11/4	<b>12/26</b>	What's in it for the Youth? #2

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

\*\*Humility #18 was incorrectly numbered and mailed out as Humility #17.

With profound respect and love,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark