

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter January 1993

Dear Brethren,

As the world views time, the year 1993 is here. From all we have seen, heard, and even been promised by politicians it should prove to be a most significant one in the panoply of unfolding prophecy. From all appearances those most chargeable for facing times and events are clothed for dramatic action. The world atmosphere is fraught with expectancy. Is it possible some of the signatory events of the last days leading up to the second coming of Christ will dramatically present themselves? We are consistently warned to prepare for that day. And that preparation, for those thoroughly abiding in faith, must be a most serious business.

Spiritual Principle: Judge Not

Natural man is of the flesh. He acts and reacts on the basis of that fleshly, carnal nature. Every manifestation of that carnal nature is not, as man sees it, an act of hatefulness, violence, injury, or insult. Many of his actions stem from fear—fear for the physical life, or from areas of responsibility. What could possibly be wrong with any action taken to secure good health for one's self or any member of the family? Despite this "logical" rationalization of man, the called are made aware that in the sight of God anything which is not a manifestation of faith is sin. Faith is a spiritual principle. It comes as a gift from God. A genuine, not feigned, faith is possible only for the called of God, given the gift of the Holy Spirit, and who through the long, difficult, and painful lesson of experience have come to realize the value, as well as the reality, of a personalized confidence and trust in God. They are the people who have come to realize that what God promises He can and will do. Such faith is not a static gift. It is a gift which can be given in measure. Like a seed it can and will take root in a well-conditioned environment and then grow into a mighty power or force in one's life. Conversely, it can be stunted and withered by any failure to care for it judiciously and use it wisely in the conduct of the daily lives of those to whom it was given. More tragically, perhaps, are the manifold ways deceptive men can feign it.

Flesh is an inherited weakness. Being weak, however, man does not like to admit those frailties. He chooses rather to devise ways by which he can act to alleviate his natural fears or avoid recognition of inherent weaknesses and yet delude himself into believing he is both strong in faith and personally acceptable in his relationship with God. Job security and trusting God for healing are but two of the many significant areas in which mental rationalizations can and do occur.

Conversion, giving of spiritual gifts, and development and growth are the work of God in the lives of all called of Him. As the called of God, the chosen either stand or fall on the basis of His will and purpose as determined by the individuals themselves. The ministry is commissioned to preach and teach the truth, but never as an arbiter and final judge in personalized matters. The called of God must live by a deep-rooted, personal, faith over which no man has any dominion. When faith is demanded and expected it is not faith but an act of coercion. True faith in action implies action based on the conviction of the individual in whom the action is occurring. Members, as brothers and sisters of the common faith, are forbidden to act in a judgmental fashion. The called of God are chosen to live the truth given to them, not to judge one another. Faith and purpose are individual matters—matters which can be rightly judged by God only—for God only knows the scope and purpose of His work in the lives of the chosen. Imperatively, men must be most judicious that they assume not that province of responsibility which alone belongs to God. Since all men sin and manifest many weaknesses, the only acceptable and wise course of behavior is to evidence tolerance, mercy, and forbearance for one another. The person who condemns or judges another is most often guilty of the very indictments levelled toward others (Romans 2). In fact most of the general and Pauline epistles are written as strong admonition and instruction relative to proper and acceptable relationships with one another.

Let us hasten to state: Such tolerance is in no way an approval or acceptance of sin and indifference. The ministry must powerfully preach the unmitigated truth as revealed by God. It then becomes the duty of each son or daughter of God to act on what is revealed and heard according to the level of faith developed in each. For those who are older spiritually, having grown in depth of faith, tolerance, and mercy, the duty of encouragement and inspiration toward the weaker brethren—effecting greater determination and an increase of faith in the spiritually immature—is mandatory.

What are those duties incumbent upon the called of God, especially those who are spiritually more mature? There are seven which we would like to emphasize in this *Letter*. 1) We are called to create peace. 2) We are called to be most merciful and helpful toward the weaker babes in Christ. 3) We must daily be most aggressive in the evaluation of self—not others. 4) We must make our principle duty that of acting upon the word of God which has been given to us. 5) We must in a right spirit accept all trials, within and without the body. 6) We must manifest by action and word the fact that our future is not

dependent upon what any other human being does or says. 7) We must manifest continuity and faith—that which is in no way manifested in arbitrary and volatile lateral moves.

The above is a very tall order. Yet, it is precisely what God prescribes for the inheritance of eternal life. The following texts will make these concepts abundantly clear and understandable.

1. James 3:14–18: "But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gently, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

2. I John 3:1–3: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure."

3. James 1:19–25 (Moffat): "Let every man be quick to listen, slow to talk, slow to be angry—for human anger does not promote divine righteousness; so clear away all the foul rank growth of malice, and make a soil of humble modesty for the Word which roots itself inwardly with power to save your souls. Act on the Word, instead of merely listening to it and deluding yourselves. For whoever listens and does nothing, is like a man who glances at his natural face in a mirror; he glances at himself, goes off, and at once forgets what he was like. Whereas he who gazes into the faultless law of freedom and remains in that position, proving himself to be no forgetful listener but an active agent, he will be blessed in his activity."

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Jon Brisby have a new son, born on December twentieth. He weighed in at nine pounds, three ounces, was 22 1/2 inches long and was named Thomas Westbrook Brisby. Both mother and son are doing fine.

Trips

January 2, 9, 16	R.C. Cole	Hawaii
February 6	B.G. Clark	Knoxville
February 13	B.G. Clark	Pittsburgh
February 20	R.C. Cole	Central California

Office

Holy day offerings made at the Feast of Tabernacles in Tennessee will be shown in the receipt for December. We apologize for not including these sooner. Also, the cut-off date for 1992 tithes is January 5, an item we failed to mention in the December letter.

As previously announced, the loan statements for those affected are enclosed with this *Announcement Letter*. Those who may have any questions regarding these statements should contact the office at their earliest convenience.

Significant changes of personnel in the office have been made recently. For a very long time, we have needed someone with a particular bent toward health and current events, national and international, to amass and catalog usable information in both areas. It never seemed possible to achieve economically until recently, not even considering the fact that a special type of person was required. We are currently well-blessed in that those two areas are of intense interest to Barbara Schaar. She will directly supply us with this information and service. To assist Betty Hugill in the office, we have hired Wanda Guthrie on a part-

time basis. We are most grateful to God for the provision of these fine servants. You should soon realize the benefits of their service.

Tape Schedule

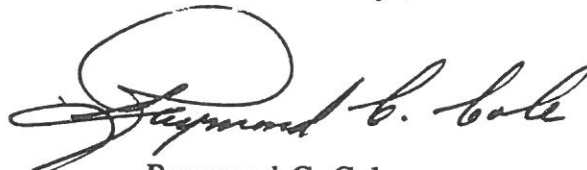
Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 56-3	11/4	01/02	What's in it for the Youth? #3
WSE-RC 56-4	11/18	01/09	What's in it for the Youth? #4
WSP-BC 13-1	11/18	01/16	Miracles of Christ #1
WSE-RC 56-5	12/02	01/23	What's in it for the Youth? #5
WSE-BC 138-26	12/02	01/30	Paul's Epistles #26
WSP-BC 13-2	12/16	02/06	Miracles of Christ #2
WSE-RC 56-6	12/16	02/13	What's in it for the Youth? #6
WSE-BC 138-27	12/30	02/20	Paul's Epistles #27
WSE-RC 56-7	12/30	02/27	What's in it for the Youth? #7


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

Comments

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Much love always,


Raymond C. Cole


Bryce G. Clark