

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter April 1993

Dear Brethren,

A new moon occurred monday evening, at sunset, the twenty-second of March—the beginning of the sacred year. Those called of God reckon their time from that particular event. A day little noted by most people of this world. Within the first seven months will occur all holydays. In the proper observing of them we will once again rehearse the entire plan of salvation engineered by God. Will this year's observance be anymore significant and meaningful to us than those observed when we were first called? To those who love the ways of God we say: Have a happy and purposeful year.

Spiritual Principle: Post-Passover Season Resolve

Yearly the called and chosen of God are commanded to observe the holydays, sacred observances indicated from creation in the vast planetary systems He created. To render the holydays' purpose null and void one would have to change or alter the structure of the entire celestial order (Jer. 33:20). Since the planetary system has rhythmically continued from time immemorial, unaltered in its purpose, the spiritual intent (Rom. 1:20, Psa. 19:1–6) is likewise unaltered. However, since spiritual things are not visibly seen by the physical eye, that purpose and significance can soon be lost to carnal men. Even though holyday observance continues, it becomes mechanical and routine, losing great meaning and importance. This, of course, is the object lesson of ancient Israel—as a nation. Having no faith they could not continue obediently in those ways given to them. Even those who presumably kept the laws and ways of God did so perfunctorily and ritualistically. Their minds and hearts were not with God.

These Israelites wrote valuable lessons for those of us called in these last days (I Cor. 10:6, 11, Rom. 15:4). The principle lesson we should learn is the need of faithfulness—consistency. Once given the genuine truth of God, the imperative need of faithfulness surfaces. It is in this area precisely that we must annually evaluate our mental orientation at this season. Do we observe Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread ritualistically or do we observe them with ever-increasing intensity and purpose? Could we define specifically their enlarged meaning to us?

For what purpose(s) did we observe Passover and Unleavened Bread this year? If asked to be specific, could we explain?

Pre-Passover Evaluation

If we were legitimate and correct in the observance of Passover, we initiated and pursued a careful evaluation of our lives—minds and hearts—before partaking of the incredibly significant symbols—bread and wine—just a matter of days ago. The right-spirited and determined were specific. They confessed specific sins and weaknesses. To the purposeful, generalizations are nothing more than rationalizations by which to avoid responsibility. Therefore, they know and admit their sins. There was a very real reason for partaking of the "shed blood"—wine—of Jesus Christ. That action was not purposeless. Then the subsequent partaking of unleavened bread was equally purposeful. The right-spirited know what had to be covered with the blood of Christ as also they knew what changes in their lives had to be made. In faith and determination the partaking of the unleavened bread represented their determination to master those areas of weakness for which they had taken Passover.

Let us see the meaning of these days—past, present, and future—in perspective. Seeing then requires well-defined and purposeful action. Before Passover a real and thorough—as well as honest—evaluation is required (I Cor. 11:27–32). A significant part of that evaluation is our relationship to revealed doctrine (II Cor. 13:5). Partaking of Passover, if honestly done, is a reaffirmation of our initial covenant with God—at baptism (Gal. 2:18). If truly called we began partaking of Christ (the Eternal Word—John 1:1–2, 14; 14:6) at the time of that call. From that time forward we may grow in knowledge but the truth (Christ) does not change. On an annual basis we admit failure/weakness and, in type—eating Unleavened Bread—reassure God of our determination to walk out of sin. We must eat this bread with purpose—manifested in the fruits of self-mastery (John 6:53–56).

Once called to see and know the truth—of self and the way—action, determined action, is a must (James 1:22–25, please see *Moffat Translation*). Failure to act on the word is a manifestation of blindness (Prov. 29:18). By that word we are informed of the specific works of the carnal, flesh, being. In evaluating ourselves against those natural, carnal, works we are privileged to see specific weaknesses. Our work, self-examination, is specific. Know them, admit them, and work on them specifically. But, watch the clever, deceptive, hypocritical nature of the natural mind (II Cor. 10:1–6). Do not trust the natural mind. Trust what you heard initially (Eph. 1:13). Be one who obeys the specifics of the truth, not one who presumes to judge the work and word of God (James 4:11). Specific evaluation is fundamental to the Christian walk. It is a personalized responsibility. Each called servant must accept that burden of responsibility. May we, however, project a few

leading and imperative questions? 1. Are we faithful to *all* that which we initially heard? 2. Are we perfect in our required relationships with others of the one body? 3. Are we perfect in love and respect for other members of the body for whom Christ died? 4. Are we in perfect control of our minds, hearts, eyes, emotions, and—yes, even our tongues? 5. Are we aware of and have we admitted to ourselves our frailties and weaknesses? 6. Do we have perfect trust in the revealed truth of God, or do we still trust our carnal minds? 7. Are we perfect peacemakers or does contention and strife seem to follow us? Many other concepts could be added. You, individually, should have no trouble expanding the list. To be successful you must be diligent and persevering.

In conclusion, be aware. The test of life is ongoing. We are being monitored by God daily. The pressures designed to cause us to lose faith and confidence are both external and internal. Many trials come from others who would induce us to despair, lose heart, turn bitter, or compromise for fleshly advantage. Yet, a significant number of our trials proceed from minds and hearts not perfectly tuned to God and His way. Be resolved. Have faith. Know the certainty of that received. Refuse doubts. Faith in the call, the way of life, and the promises of God have reward—the reward of everlasting life.

Office

God structures His time carefully. The order and design are manifested throughout the universe. In a comparable way I would like to structure my time. It is very necessary to have periods of time to devote exclusively to intensive study, thought, and writing. If at all possible, I would like to reserve mornings from 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. (Pacific Time) for these heavy-duty tasks. With the exception of thursdays I will try to be available for all telephone calls from 1:00 P.M. daily through the evening. Thursdays I have attempted to take off to do a few personal things. By observing these requests I will be able to help you all even better. Hopefully I will miss fewer calls. Of course, emergencies should be addressed at any time. I want you all to know I appreciate your loyalty and the opportunities each one gives for me to serve. May I say thank you?—R.C. Cole

Trips

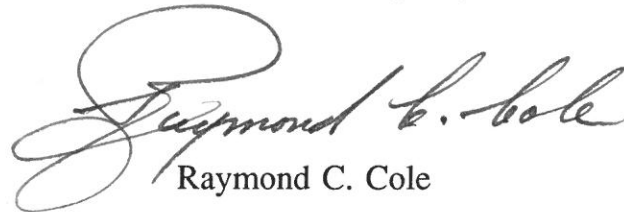
April 3–6	R.C. Cole	Amarillo
April 10, 12	R.C. Cole	Rochester
May 15	B.G. Clark	C. California
May 22	B.G. Clark	Nashville
May 29, 31	R.C. Cole	Europe

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-BC 138-30	02/10	04/03	Paul's Epistles #30
Passover (NTBO)	03/10	04/04 (04/05)	
Days of UB First Day	03/10	04/06	A.M. & P.M. (two tapes)
WSE-RC 56-10	02/10	04/10	What's in it for the Youth? #10
Days of UB Last Day	03/17	04/12	A.M. & P.M. (two tapes)
WSE-BC 138-31	02/24	04/17	Paul's Epistles #31
*CL 2-156	02/24	04/24	Humility #19
WSE-BC 138-32	03/10	05/01	Paul's Epistles #32
*CL 2 -157	03/10	05/08	Humility #20
WSE-BC 138-33	03/24	05/15	Paul's Epistles #33
*CL 2-158	03/24	05/22	Humility #21
WSE-BC 138-34	04/07	05/29	Paul's Epistles #34

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

Much love always—your servants in Christ,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark