

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter June 1993

Dear Brethren,

By the time you receive this *Announcement Letter* Pentecost will have come and gone. It was on the day of Pentecost that God gave His Holy Spirit to the New Testament church. In the days ahead, the use we put to this Spirit will determine whether we will be able to stand the coming trials. Read on, this month's Spiritual Principle will explain.

### **Spiritual Principle: Can We Stand In These Closing Days?**

Of what sort of mettle are we? The next few years will prove to be most foreboding, gloomy, and troubling. Only those of character and genuine purpose will prevail—coming through with resolve and dedication intact.

We are commanded to stand tall and firm in our resolve (Eph. 6:13–14, 10–11). Such determination can only be the end product of genuine and unfeigned faith. That faith is all the more admirable when one realizes just how sobering and difficult these final days will become before the promised intervention of God (Matt. 24:22). Without the active intervention of God, no human life would be spared. Though the terrible events of these closing days will be initiated by human beings, little do they realize the ultimate objective of the arch-deceiver of mankind, Satan, is the total destruction of man himself. Why? All men are potential children of God. With their destruction, Satan somehow feels that all contenders to the responsibilities which he now possesses will have been eliminated. Deception is so perverse.

What are some of the crucial areas of man's trials—those called especially—in these final days of this prophetic period of time? The enemy who is planning our destruction is unrelenting. We, through love of the truth and faith in God, must be more determined. The future will reveal all things. Where will each of us stand in that day of judgment?

These problem areas yet must be faced. Please take adequate time to read the texts and ponder them thoroughly. Your very spiritual existence may be determined by what you do with this material.

#### 1. Dislocation:

In chaotic times people are moved indiscriminately. Family, friends, and religious purposes are given little consideration, if any. At some time and for some specific reason the people of God will be fleeing from city to city (Matt. 10:23). And such unsettling conditions will prevail until the coming of Jesus Christ. Further, for reason the faithful element of the church will be desperately attempting to escape the hatefulness of last day persecution (Rev. 12:6).

#### 2. Members of the "spiritual family" will turn against the faithful:

Some to save their own skins will attempt to cooperate with civic authorities (Dan. 11:30–35). In so doing they will reveal your whereabouts and concepts you hold priceless. These faithless ones will fall for the hypocritical line advanced by the powers that be. Will your faith be sufficiently strong under such circumstances?

In moments of such testing many people crumble. Their normal equanimity turns to contempt and offence (Matt. 24:9–10).

#### 3. Blood family members will turn contentious and hateful:

The called person's understanding of things spiritual is resented by those who think with a fleshly mind. The natural dichotomy of these two minds generates wrath and anger. The man of flesh will manifest deep contempt toward a brother, sister, father, or mother. Compare Matthew 10:34–37 with Micah 7:5–7. Are we ready to pay such a price? Only those who are will be found worthy to inherit the kingdom.

#### 4. Physical threats on your life:

No one who does not believe with all his heart and mind will sacrifice a physical life for some obscure and hoped for ethereal objective. On the other hand, those who sincerely and absolutely believe in the hope of everlasting life and the literal fulfillment of the promises of God will not hesitate to make such a physical sacrifice. They will, however, be pursued relentlessly (Rev. 12:6, 9–17).

#### 5. The sheep will be scattered:

Real conviction must be manifested in the ability to stand alone if necessary. There is a historical example (Acts 8:1). Usually such an event occurs when the leader is taken from his role before the group (Matt. 26:31). If, in the chaos of the last days, you are

separated from others of like faith would you be able, of course with the help of God, to sustain your faith and belief? That day may come.

6. The devastating power of your own doubts:

Are you sufficiently assured of your belief and conviction that nothing could separate you from the way to which you were called? (Rom. 8:35–39) Could you endure every trial and test of your faith? (Matt. 24:13) Are you so convinced of your beliefs that no outside concept of mind can dissuade you? (II Cor. 10:5)

7. The appealing concepts of false ministers:

How strong is your faith? Is it sufficient to resist the pulls of those who would make merchandise of you? (II Pet. 2:1–3) Is your faith and conviction sufficient to resist the indifferent pulls of the flesh? (II Tim. 4:3–4) Will you be swayed by great signs and miracles? (Matt. 24:24) Sobering tests of your faith lie just ahead.

8. The rampant and widespread proliferation of diseases:

In the presence of life-threatening diseases will you have sufficient confidence in the truth delivered to resist compromise? (Psa. 91:5–12, Lev. 26, Deut. 28)

9. The threat of losing many necessary physical amenities:

Would you compromise your faith for food? Shelter? Any other life necessity? How strong is your faith? (Matt. 6:24–34) It will be tested in many ways before Christ's return.

10. The sins and mistakes of others:

Do the actions taken by others trouble you? Are you easily offended by what others think, say, and do? (Matt. 24:12) Remember: You are not judged by what others think, say, or do! You are judged on the basis of what you—and you alone—do. Do not allow offence to enter into your thinking.

In conclusion, remember this one thing: Only those who endure to the end will be saved (Matt. 24:13). Preparing yourself through prayer, mental orientation, fasting, and a good study relationship with God is imperative—NOW. "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught . . . ." (II Thess. 2:15)

## Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## Deaths

We are saddened to announce the death of Mr. Frank M. Owenby who died May 20, 1993 as the result of heart failure. He was 84. Our condolences go to his wife and family.

## Office

The new church hymnal will be available, to those who wish to purchase one, for the sum of approximately \$15.00. Please notify us by June 15 if you wish to purchase one. We are not asking for payment now, only for your reservation. The hymnal will be made available at the Feast.

## Trips

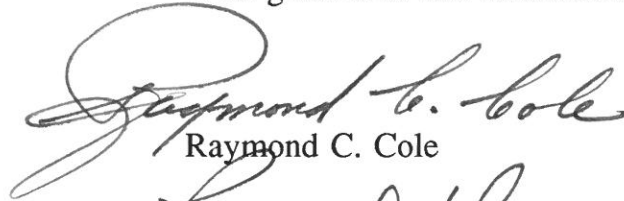
June 5	R.C. Cole	Europe
June 19	B.G. Clark	Vancouver, B.C.
June 26	B.G. Clark	Amarillo
July 3	R.C. Cole	Florida
July 10	R.C. Cole	Baltimore

## Tape Schedule

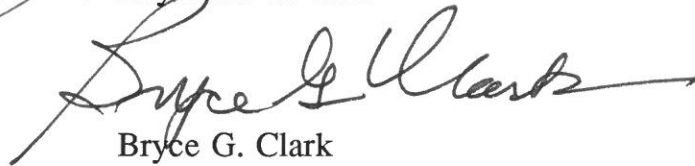
Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
*CL 2-159	04/07	<b>06/05</b>	Humility #22
WSE-BC 138-35	04/21	<b>06/12</b>	Paul's Epistles #35
*CL 2-160	04/21	<b>06/19</b>	Humility #23
WSE-BC 138-36	05/05	<b>06/26</b>	Paul's Epistles #36
*CL 2-161	05/05	<b>07/03</b>	Humility #24
WSE-BC 138-37	05/19	<b>07/10</b>	Paul's Epistles #37
*CL 2-162	05/19	<b>07/17</b>	Humility #25
WSE-BC 138-38	06/02	<b>07/24</b>	Paul's Epistles #38
*CL 2-163	06/02	<b>07/31</b>	Humility #26

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

With great love and admiration,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark