

# Church of God, The Eternal

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## Announcement Letter November 1993

Warmest Greetings Brethren,

Due to Feast of Tabernacles timing this year, the October issues of both the *Announcement Letter* and the *Monthly Letter* had to be canceled. With these November issues we are back on schedule. It is a very great privilege to serve the loyal and faithful children of God. Thank you for making the opportunity of service possible.

### **Spiritual Principle: Many Times We Are Asked, "What Makes You Right?"**

Christ came with absolutes. He said, I am the Way, the Truth. His beliefs and convictions allowed no room for anyone else. Such is the nature of truth. It is always absolute. Right is always right. Any conciliation allowing room for others to "feel right, too" is a violation of a most cardinal principle of truth. Every man wants to feel right in his own eyes. Yet, logic and a simple grasp of the nature of truth will not allow two differing individuals to be right. Both might be wrong. But, if one is right the other has to be wrong. There simply is no way honestly to massage the truth thereby making both right.

Employing the above concept, one must ask, how does it apply today? Christ promised to be manifest in His own chosen servants—members of His body which was, and is, to prevail until His second coming. If Christ, the very Word of God, is unalterable, as it was in His own day of incarnation, then He is likewise unchanging in His manifestation today. The hallmark of the body of Christ today is: The belief and practice of an unchanging doctrine—the Word of God. The basis of that belief is faith—the evidence of things not seen.

Prophecies relating to the apostasy of "the church" in the last days reveal that a number of divergent groups would separate from the original body. All, of course, will claim to be either a part of the body of Christ, or they will believe themselves to be the continuation of the one and only true representatives of Christ in these final days. How is anyone to know since the only evidence is faith—a fruit of the Spirit which is unseen? One factor alone is sufficient evidence to eliminate any doubt on the part of those who love and honor the truth once given. All those entities which were at one time in the parent body once believed the same doctrines practiced by those remaining faithful. Did those who have departed believe

when they initially accepted, responded, and were baptized? Or, did they practice hypocrisy from the very beginning? By simple logic, any group which came out of that original practice—way accepted and believed—cannot be a continuation of the truth. Can truth come from either a change or hypocrisy? The answer ought to be self-evident.

The strongest proof and element of confidence, for those electing to remain faithful to the original revelation, is found in the fact all of the presently differing groups once believed the same things which the faithful continue to practice. If truth can come only by divine revelation, how can they explain their pasts? How can they justify their accepted changes?

Take heart in your faithfulness—your endurance required to the very end.

### **Current Events: The Waco Tragedy**

Mystery! The Unknown. The world is full of the mysterious—actions, events, circumstances beyond the comprehension of all whose knowledge is limited—either by frailty of the human mind or by design of some specific power or being. The Bible clearly addresses the most far-reaching of these mysteries. The whole Babylonian system existing today is not understood (Rev. 17:5, 7). Neither is the awesome plan and purpose God built into His entire physical creation, specifically the creation of man (Eph. 1:9, Mark 4:11, Matt. 13:11), or the church created by Christ (Eph. 5:32), or the work of subtlety and rebellion destined to work its evil within the body of the church in the last days (II Thess. 2:7).

Due to its very nature a mystery remains unknown until revealed by its own fulfillment or by the one(s) responsible for its creation. In appointed times God reveals those mysteries for which He is either responsible or allowed in order to fulfill some specific purpose (Col. 1:26, Rom. 16:25, Eph. 3:3; 6:19).

Regardless of the many articles, newspaper stories, and other writings, the tragedy of Waco, Texas remains a closed event—a mystery. The more written about the subject the more confusing and troubling the event becomes. Even the most brilliant analytical minds known today are unable to arrive at specifics. Questions and doubts proliferate. Suspicion prevails. The most profound of all the questions raised is: Why should such an atmosphere exist? Is there no honesty and integrity of purpose within the fabric of our society today? Can any society long stand in which no one trusts or believes any other person or actions taken by agencies of government? It certainly seems that we are addressing the issues and fabric of anarchy.

In order that we may profit from the circumstances of this tragedy which will not simply disappear, let us analyze three aspects of the event.

I. What are the familiar—known—components?

- A. The beliefs and practices of the group are at best a religious absurdity. No one is defending such beliefs and practices. Questions generated arise from a much more profound premise than the beliefs of the group.
- B. There was no local problem which surfaced either in the city of Waco or the immediate environs of the compound prior to the attempted seizure. Locals are more mystified about the whole situation than the general populace which is more removed from the scene of the event.
- C. Orders for the seizure came from the very highest echelons of government. Did they have irrefutable facts warranting such a destructive action? If so, why not advance the information which would clear the whole murky mess?
- D. Eighty-five deaths occurred due to action taken. There were twenty-nine children, within that number, who lost their lives. We do not send children to war. We do not require children, legally, to pay the price of parental mistakes. How can any action taken which eliminates the lives of mere babes and young children ever be justified? Only God, the Creator of us all, has such a right. Does that concept say anything about those who would take such action?
- E. There is no end to the conflicting cover-up stories, propaganda, which are in circulation. Most make no sense at all when compared to the actual facts known.
- F. Based on personal contact with other concerned individuals, it is apparent that no one really believes anything written or heard.
- G. And finally, the underlying facts mentioned above have created a reign of suspicion and doubt.

II. The questions generated—questions which need, indeed must, be answered.

- A. What was the real reason for the attack, seizure, in the first place?
- B. Why was there no fear or real concern on the part of the local people who lived around the compound? Or, in the city?
- C. Was there any real justification for the claim of child-abuse? Could anything have been any worse than the elimination of twenty-nine children?

- D. Why so many conflicting reports and statements from responsible individuals?
- E. Who really started the fire?
- F. Why such strict and arbitrary secrecy surrounding the whole compound area during the time of the siege?
- G. And of more importance than anything else, if real honesty and integrity prevail, why the total "inability" to clear the matter so that all concerned individuals may understand and then put the issue to rest?

III. Finally, what are the possibilities—even probabilities?

- A. Due to the nature of the group and the religion practiced, coupled with a "belief" that the average American would not severely or long condemn the action taken by the government, did this action symbolize an overt crackdown on religious freedom—the ultimate elimination of all religions which are not "approved"? Time will tell.
- B. Further, considering a number of similar examples, involving differing circumstances, one must ask if this action establishes a cause and creates a justification for the seizure—"taking"—of private property.
- C. Without doubt individual rights, privacy, along with religious freedom have been compromised. Where can we expect to go from here?
- D. Are we seeing the establishment and increase of government control? Good and correct government should be the servant of the people. What we have seen here is not service but intimidation, along with provocation.
- E. The creation of broad and generalized fear. People everywhere now question and live in fright of their concepts and practices. They wonder when their turn will come to face the tyranny of others just because concepts and beliefs are different.
- F. Without question we are seeing the creation of the societal fabric out of which last day concepts of the prophesied Babylonianism will emerge. The called of God must watch carefully and not be caught in a blinded condition.

Conclusion: The above conditions will make many turn toward disrespect and contempt for government. These assaults upon our integrity and emotions must not be allowed to take root, causing us to violate cardinal principles of spiritual character. We must endure unto the end. God will rectify in His own time.

## Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

## Deaths

We were saddened to hear of the death of Miss Anita Jackson who died of heart failure or a stroke on October 21. She was 88 years old. She had just attended the Feast of Tabernacles in Tennessee. She had requested prior to her death that no cards or flowers be sent on her behalf. We all will miss her.

## Office

The enclosed card is the request form for Feast of Tabernacles tapes. Please fill one out and send it in if you desire Feast tapes even if you signed up at the Feast. We have found that to avoid confusion it is best to handle it this way rather than to depend on a sign-up list.

During the Feast some brethren failed to pick up the hymnal(s) they requested. If you still desire one please notify the office with a \$12.00 remittance and your hymnal will be mailed to you.

A mistake was made in labeling "The Body is One" series. "The Body Is One," numbers one and two, were inadvertently labeled "Christian Living" series numbers 169 and 170. Please keep this in mind when listening to "The Body is One" series.

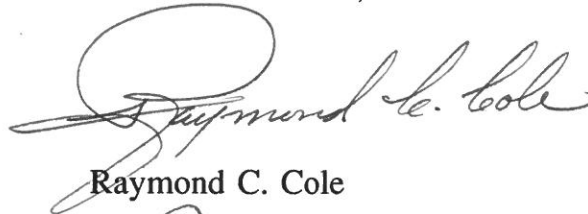
## Trips

November 6	R.C. Cole	Pittsburgh
November 13	R.C. Cole	Florida
November 20	B.G. Clark	C. California
December 4	R.C. Cole	New York City
December 11	R.C. Cole	Austin
December 18	B.G. Clark	Canada

## Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-BC 138-43	08/25	<b>10/23</b>	Paul's Epistles #43
WSE-RC 57-1	08/25	<b>10/30</b>	The Body Is One #1
WSE-BC 138-44	09/08	<b>11/06</b>	Paul's Epistles #44
WSE-RC 57-2	09/08	<b>11/13</b>	The Body Is One #2
WSE-BC 138-45	09/22	<b>11/20</b>	Paul's Epistles #45
WSE-RC 57-3	09/22	<b>11/27</b>	The Body Is One #3
WSE-BC 142	10/06	<b>12/04</b>	Man's Nature at Creation
WSE-RC 57-4	10/06	<b>12/11</b>	The Body Is One #4
WSE-BC 138-46	10/20	<b>12/18</b>	Paul's Epistles #46
WSE-RC 57-5	10/20	<b>12/25</b>	The Body Is One #5

In Christ's Service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark