

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter April 1994

Dear Brethren,

The holyday season has commenced for another year. Passover and Unleavened Bread are passed. The countdown to Pentecost has begun. We can only wonder how many more years we shall be afforded the privilege of observing these marvelous occasions. The future seems so uncertain and problematic. Through prayer, fasting, Bible study, and meditation we must remain close in the embrace of God and His awesome love. How comforting such a relationship is to the mind and heart.

Spiritual Principle: Luke 16:10-12

"He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"

The above concepts embrace many very broad principles. Using a physical illustration, Jesus is emphasizing some serious spiritual implications. Though there may be other concepts contained in this allegory, we would like to present seven crucial considerations. Understanding and acting upon them will insure the receipt of the true riches. Knowledge is of little value if not understood and translated into aggressive action.

As Creator, God is possessor of heaven and earth. All things contained therein—the centrosphere, hydrosphere, and atmosphere—belong to Him. In His great design for man, God gave man a charge over this physical earth. He is responsible for it. And in the final analysis, he is going to be judged on how well he has discharged that responsibility. Further, the gift of this earth and its contents contain both restrictions and limitations. Man is not ultimately free to abuse, or abandon, this responsibility and claim such actions are within the right of ownership. Therefore:

1. God gave to His created subjects the earth and its contents. He delivered to us the duty of stewardship. How we treat this charge allows God to determine how well we will do with a more significant, as well as permanent, gift—the gift of eternal life. Claimed ownership is one thing; the required fulfillment of assigned responsibility is quite another. Man's every thought and action is revealing. We, all, are being weighed in the balances of God's plan and purpose.

2. God gives wealth. Wealth is a very great responsibility. Whether called or uncalled the power to gain wealth proceeds from God. In allowing the acquisition of this power, God is both testing and setting examples. And, in the broadest sense, wealth does not mean the accumulation of vast reserves. Whether limited or great, this gain is a basic premise on which great judgmental decisions are being made by God. The basic prescription for appropriately using that which God allows us to accumulate is completely codified—written in His preserved Holy Word.

3. God alone gives position and responsibility. Both in the physical domain, as well as the spiritual, office of responsibility and duty are given by God. Certainly this is little understood by most who claim Biblical knowledge, let alone those who actively and aggressively seek office in governments of this world. One of the great overriding necessities imposed upon this blinded and deceived world is the obligation of learning who rules and controls all things. Entrenched in human arrogance is the belief that he is the master of his own life and fate. He believes himself to be responsible for his own decisions and the direction which he gives to his life. Even though unconverted man is doing that which seems right to him, he is walking in the purposeful plan of an omniscient God. Of greater moment to us is the necessity to recognize and respect the placement of God in the one and only Body of Jesus Christ.

4. God calls and grants opportunity for life. Being called of the Eternal God, the privilege of pursuing the way of eternal life is a gift. How we handle that responsibility is completely and extensively manifested in the conduct of our physical lives—the fruits borne. Those fruits manifest either respect and appreciation for the gift given, or they manifest lethargy, indifference, defiance, rebellion, and any and all other carnal traits or characteristics. Receiving an opportunity for life—a gift—brings with it imposing and serious responsibility.

5. God gives His Holy Spirit. Is there a greater gift? The Holy Spirit is the power promised by Christ. It is that which begets us—making it possible for us to be born of the Spirit. It is the Spirit of perfection; the power of self-control and self-discipline. It is the Spirit of holiness, righteousness, and everything that is good. Yet, how many have quenched that Spirit? Caused it to grieve, rendering it unable to perform that for which God sent it? How we use the gifts given in this mundane life will determine both what we will be afforded in the life to come as well as if such privileges are to be received.

6. He gives gifts. God leaves no one destitute. He gives gifts to all. It then becomes our duty to employ those talents in an acceptable manner. Burying a talent in any manner is simply not acceptable to God. Instead of minimizing that which God gives, the principle espoused is the need to increase—making that which was given even more productive, effective, and useful. God requires faithfulness in every charge.

7. God gives orientation and direction. It is not naturally within man to give direction to his life. Being carnal, he will pursue that which seems right to himself. Once called, our Father assures us that He will grant the necessary direction and help. If through apathy, indifference, natural defiance, we fail to achieve that which God called us to accomplish, we cannot blame God. How imperative it is that we question the motives and directions of our own minds and hearts daily.

If called, God has given responsibilities. We all in some capacity shoulder specific duties and obligations. From the example given, what is the imperative duty incumbent upon us?

That Which Is Required

Emphasis is laid upon faithfulness. Alteration and change are far afield from the concept of continuity and faithfulness. The duty of obligation is concisely spelled out by God to Moses. He wrote: "And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, To keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good? Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked" (Deut. 10:12-16). Spiritual Israel is that body called the church since the days of Jesus Christ.

What Are the True Riches?

As the called of God, the faithful are destined to be born of the Spirit—thereby entering into the very family of God. We will become the spiritual sons and daughters of the Father and the brothers and sisters of our Elder Brother, Jesus Christ. The true riches are the offices, duties, powers, and purposes conveyed by birth into that glorious spiritual family.

If we have been faithful in handling the obligations and responsibilities in the constituted care of this earth we will then be afforded the right of the true riches. Those riches are then inherent and eternal. What a glorious call God has afforded us. With vision and purpose let us make sure we are worthy, by the indwelling presence of Christ, to inherit those true riches.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Magee: A daughter, named Jessica Caitlin Jeanne, was born March 7. She weighed in at seven pounds, six ounces and was 19½ inches long. Both the mother and baby are doing fine. Our congratulations are extended to Jim and Cindy.

Deaths

Mr. Albert (Bert) Dilworth died on March 26 following a long illness. We express our sympathies to Mayse and her family during this time of sadness. He was 84.

Office

Sabbath tapes have been sent out for eight services. More will be made available as they are prepared. Many have commented how much they have appreciated receiving them.

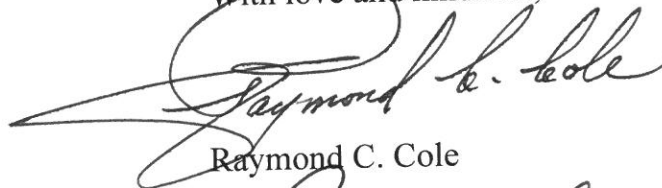
Trip Schedule

April 2	R.C. Cole	Austin
April 23	B.G. Clark	C. California
April 30	R.C. Cole	Rochester
May 7	R.C. Cole	Florida
May 21, 23, 28	R.C. Cole	Switzerland

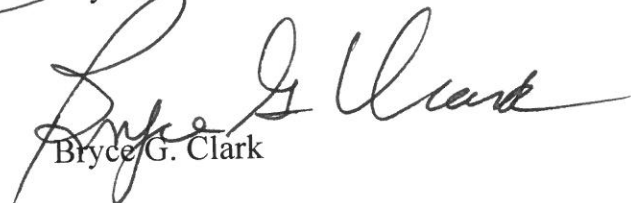
Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 59-6	01/26	04/02	Despair or Glory, Which? #6
WSE-BC 138-53	02/09	04/09	Paul's Epistles #53
WSE-RC 59-7	02/09	04/16	Despair or Glory, Which? #7
WSE-BC 138-54	02/23	04/23	Paul's Epistles #54
WSE-RC 59-8	02/23	04/30	Despair or Glory, Which? #8
WSE-BC 138-55	03/09	05/07	Paul's Epistles #55
WSE-RC 60	03/09	05/14	Does Love Condone Sin?
WSE-BC 138-56	03/23	05/21	Paul's Epistles #56
WSE-RC 59-9	03/23	05/28	Despair or Glory, Which? #9

With love and kindness,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark