

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter July 1994

Dear Brethren,

How will we react to prophesied events of the last days? Some of those events are incredibly dramatic, and highly visible. Not only are the writings a revelation of Jesus Christ, but it seems that those events and conditions are designed to reveal the true Christ from the plethora of myth developed over the centuries. How startlingly different the "real" Jesus is from the elaborately developed fictitious ones constructed over the past two thousand years. Will we know the true One?

Spiritual Principle: "Take heed therefore how ye hear"

Communication is essential to the stability and progress of any society. The capacity to communicate intelligently belongs to the human race only. Based on that ability man has accomplished amazing things. Yet with all that technical ability, so grandly employed, and so gloriously deployed, a glaring social defect has haunted these created beings from the beginning. Man does not always hear well. Deafness is not the problem. He simply does not really hear what is being said. But, what can possibly be meant by the statement that he did not hear what was said? Did he not hear the words said? Are not most men intelligent and therefore capable of understanding ordinary words which are common to a specific language? Indeed! Yet, in far too many cases the fact remains such individuals do not really hear what is being said. Why?

What are the mental orientations of human beings which keep them from really hearing and comprehending what is technically said? If we all really understood the nature of these problem areas in our minds we would be well advised to ask many clarifying questions—perhaps of the self first—thereby enabling us to comprehend the intent and purpose of what was said. By such a response we could also avoid endless misunderstandings. And by achieving a better understanding of what was said, an atmosphere of mutual trust, peace, and confidence would be generated.

What, then, are some of the ways by which misunderstandings occur, or by which a biased outlook is perpetuated, conceptions arising out of a misunderstanding of what was really said?

1). Mental orientations are derived from our own unique and personalized experiences. All too frequently others' actions and words are interpreted on the basis of our own experiences. Is such an interpretation an honest attempt to understand and objectively respond? Honesty and integrity demand that we attempt to put ourselves in the real position of the other party.

2). Our mental outlook is always colored by our educational background. Institutions of learning usually, if not always, attempt to convey and perpetuate a specific orientation. It is deemed necessary to create a particular image. The perpetuation of that image is accomplished by the many graduates who enter society, and who by virtue of their training, influence many people with whom they come in contact. This can be for good or bad. Remember, from the very same textbooks come many different philosophies—all dependent upon the orientation, purpose, and training of the teachers involved.

3). Our religious training and experiences: This concept needs little comment. Reactionaries have dubbed this power of influence and persuasion an opiate. How frequently are others' intents and purposes judged on the basis of our own religious "knowledge" and experience?

4). Our family training and philosophy: Do we use the standard of our own training as a framework by which to evaluate every person with whom we come into contact? Such actions are taken only by those who feel that perfection prevailed in their family relationships or by those who unconsciously forget that others have "rights" too.

5). Our geography of life and influence: Far too many judge others by what happened in their small part of the globe. Objectivity demands two things: Only an absolute standard should be used by which to judge or evaluate all people. And tolerance of others' ways and practices, in things which are strictly personal, is imperative.

6). Our race or nationality: Certainly little needs to be said about this area of human mental response. Prejudice and past experiences prevail. Little objectivity is apparent in government, social areas, business, or in any other area of our existence. The pendulum of honesty and integrity usually swings to both extremes. Emotion rules—not honesty and integrity.

7). Our gender: What needs to be said about this area of emotion, prejudice, contempt, yes, even blindness to fact? How many hear on the basis of who and what they are?

8). Our age: Will youth ever understand parents? Will they ever understand the experience of age and life? Should they? Or, is it the responsibility of those with age and experience to teach, kindly, with compassion, and with understanding? Is it not the responsibility of those who have grown older to have learned from the experiences and trials of life; thereby imparting to the younger the knowledge of that experience? The problem is the fact that an absolute standard has been rejected, being replaced with a moveable standard that youth, as well as no one else, finds mentally satisfactory.

9). Our social status: How many times are others heard and misunderstood on the basis of their status within a given community?

10). Our general human orientation: There are thousands of general areas which affect our hearing and comprehension. We hear and judge on the basis of personally imposed boundaries. If we will stop and think about the issues involved, weighing the matters carefully, we will be forced to admit that there are many such boundaries existing in our lives. Issues which either unite or separate. Habits and thoughts which generate conflict or unanimity. Actions that coalesce or divide. How many such areas exist.

Indeed, we all need to take heed how we hear. Honesty and integrity are on trial. In due time the intents and purposes of our hearts and minds will be exposed and judged. Such judgment will not be based on any of the biases of the above human imposed standards. An absolute standard will be used. Now is the time for us to begin using that standard. We need the practice.

Articles

Our new article on the Hebrew calendar is now available for those who wish to order it. You will find it to be most enlightening although you may need to read and study the article more than one time. As a result of this article our earlier article, number one, on the Hebrew calendar is being revised and will be available before too long.

General Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Blessings of Brethren

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Green: A son was born on May 8, weighing 7 pounds, 10 ounces. He was 21¾ inches long. The mother and baby are doing fine.

Deaths

We were saddened by the untimely death of Mr. John Engel who took his own life on June 6. Mr. Engel had been suffering from a chemical imbalance for some length of time and suffered from periods of depression. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Christine and her daughter Rebecca, as well as for the Aviolat family. Please remember to pray for Christine at this sorrowful time.

Comments

The following statement is from Christine Engel to the church brethren:

I express my deep appreciation to the brethren for their love and sympathy manifested through prayers, cards and letters, phone calls, flowers and gifts. While I express my heartfelt thanks for all their words of support and encouragement, I ask for their continued prayers that God will give me the strength to bear such a great loss and assume added responsibilities as a widow.

Christine Engel

Trip Schedule

July 16	R.C. Cole	Hawaii
July 23	R.C. Cole	S. California
August 13	R.C. Cole	Denver
August 20	R.C. Cole	C. California

Office

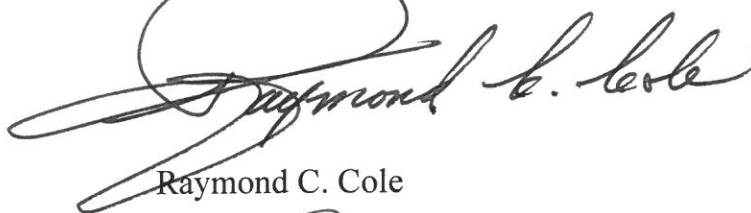
Mr. George King: Though we had meetings here at the office regarding the status of his employment and future opportunities, the specific instructions were that nothing was to be said in general allowing for a quick resolve to the situation, hopefully. Unfortunately the grapevine went to work. Information—mostly fiction—covered the United States within days, in some cases hours. The result was a personal letter to him from me (Raymond Cole).

In that letter I made a window of opportunity available. A part of the conditions involved are that there should be no contacts with members, by George, or any of our members contacting him. At Feast time this fall, I am praying and hoping for an acceptable resolve. Please help George to achieve this objective by abiding by the above rules. I will inform you once all factors are ascertained and a firm decision is made possible.

Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-BC 138-59	05/18	07/02	Paul's Epistles #59
WSE-RC 62-2	05/18	07/09	Do We Really Believe #2
WSE-BC 138-60	06/01	07/16	Paul's Epistles #60
WSE-RC 63	06/01	07/23	What Is Expected of Us Now?
WSE-BC 138-61	06/15	07/30	Paul's Epistles #61
WSE-RC 62-3	06/15	08/06	Do We Really Believe #3
WSE-BC 138-62	06/29	08/13	Paul's Epistles #62
WSE-RC 64	06/29	08/20	Satanic Activities of the Last Days
WSE-BC 138-63	07/13	08/27	Paul's Epistles #63

In the love of Christ,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark