

Church of God, The Eternal

P. O. Box 775
Eugene, Oregon 97440

Raymond C. Cole
Director
Bryce G. Clark
Asst. Director

Offices in:
Canada
Philippines
Switzerland

Announcement Letter September 1994

Dear Brethren,

Warmest greetings brethren. For months we have anxiously looked forward to the Feast of Tabernacles. It is now upon us. The day is not far removed when we will view the coming of Jesus Christ in the same way. For so long we have anticipated and now the reality will appear before us. The big question, how will we react? That day of reality is inevitable!

Spiritual Principle: The Necessity of Great Care Needed in These Last Days

Satan is the god of this world. He is aggressively active. As an active destroyer, he will do anything to confuse, pervert, create doubt, suspicion, or otherwise generate turmoil in the minds of those he hates even though he will stroke them with sympathetic and benign affection. Only those with alert minds and intent of purpose will see through these manifestations of hypocrisy.

He is the accuser of the brethren. When one goes about maligning, you can rest assured of the source. Real and genuine love covers—it does not expose unless forced to do so.

In the time of Jesus Christ and the period of apostolic activity Satan and his demons were incredibly active. In like manner we, in these last days, face the same daunting challenges. Inspired of God, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Paul wrote extensively about these challenges. Other inspired writers said much about this activity.

What activity? Care and concern with regard to what?

Jesus said that Satan was a liar from the beginning. He is the father of such perversion. As a father, he sets the example and espouses the same mental orientation, the orientation manifested by his children.

Such lying hypocrisy is manifested in two significant ways. For the good of the faithful who must make critical judgments daily, by personal examination, we present the following information. As ministers we cannot compel anyone. It is our duty to publicly set forth the facts—spiritual facts, not personal facts about another human being. Since Christ did not attempt to defend Himself—He opened not His mouth—it is not our desire to attempt refutation of false accusations. Our obligation is to protect the sheep. When the sheep will not take heed, respond, we cannot be held accountable for their wrong decisions. When falsely accused, the Apostle Paul simply said, "I lie not" (II Cor. 11:31, Gal. 1:20). In the same way, we, as the ministers of Jesus Christ, will simply give the unvarnished truth. We do not lie. From that point on, the obligation of decision will rest squarely upon the individuals who elect to listen when they should have practiced the command of God, "listen not." How you can know will be given a little later.

Two Ways in Which Lying and Hypocrisy Are Manifested

First: The doctrine taught. Based on independent thinking, hundreds of false "Christs" and "Gods" have been created. They are the creations of men's minds. Yet those who proclaim the concepts of a particular departure claim to be teaching the truth. In some cases, even calling their brand of religion a divine revelation. Yet, speaking specifically of these last days, God's truly inspired and sent servants said emphatically that a considerable number of ministers claiming to be the chosen of God were never sent and that the messages they espoused are not of God (Isa. 9:15, Jer. 23:14; 27:10, 14–16; 29:21). They lie in the very name of God. The crux of the issue is found in the fact that change has occurred (Rom. 1:25). The standard by which to make correct determinations is precise. The problem of men is that they fail to apply the yardstick given by God.

Secondly: Accusations against one another—ministry and laity. Christ was totally denied by all, but a small group, who heard Him and saw His works. In like manner, He said that the true servants of God in these last days, as well as the days of the apostles, would experience comparable rejection and persecution.

The major problem is that far too many called of God will begin to trust in the lies scattered abroad (Jer. 28:15). Even more pathetic is the fact, once members form opinions, or come to conclusions on the basis of lies, they are incredibly reluctant to face that fact (Isa. 28:15). Their fate is to live in error and sadness (Jer. 23:32, Ezek. 13:22).

Specifically, in the last days, we are told that some will depart from the truth God gave initially by listening to the subtle voice of seducing spirits. They will speak lies in a hypocritical fashion because their consciences are seared (I Tim. 4:1–2). Then tragically, because so many members lose their confidence and love for the truth taught, God will send such powerful delusion that these very people who once knew the truth will *believe* lies (II Thess. 2:11). Once such a fact

becomes known it will be too late to make amends. The just shall live by faith. That is the evidence of things not seen.

The Imperative Duty

Know that a faithful witness will not lie. And that an unfaithful one will usually utter lies to protect personal interests (Pro. 14:5). Lying is a character sin. A liar cannot be trusted. However, one thing can be known: Generally speaking, lying is an obvious manifestation of the influence of Satan (John 8:44-45). To protect the self, those who practice lying will often employ that character defect to justify actions taken or beliefs accepted (Jas. 3:11-18). The content of James' inspired message is the very reason we do not practice revealing individual sins. The suspect, in any turmoil, must be the one who goes about attempting to justify himself. If he were as right as he claims he would be covering sins, not revealing them. To claim anything else is to lie against the truth. The Holy Spirit teaches us to condemn the self, not others.

We must remember that no lie is of the truth. And that whoever lies "denies" Jesus Christ. The basic concepts in the denial of Christ is change and a failure to condemn the self (I Tim. 4:16). Why? The Holy Spirit, by which Christ lives within us, knows the unchanging nature of Truth—Christ is the Truth—and the total fallibility of carnality.

In conclusion, remember that believing is not sufficient of itself. The demons, and Satan, their prince, also believe. Further, God will send such strong delusion that many will even believe a lie. The obligation upon each of us is to know. How are you going to know unless you employ the standard given by God? Even from a physical perspective logic demands that one get all the facts before coming to a conclusion. Never go to the enemies of one accused! How does anyone expect to get the absolute truth from those who have a vested interest in lying?

Once again, the duty of *knowing* is yours. The judgment will be most revealing. By that point in time, the opportunity for change will have passed. Our love and prayers are with you.

Articles

Occasionally requests are made for articles by a specific writer. Long ago we dispensed with the use of bi-lines, so any requests for articles should be made by the titles. Our Literature List contains the names of all available articles.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Trip Schedule

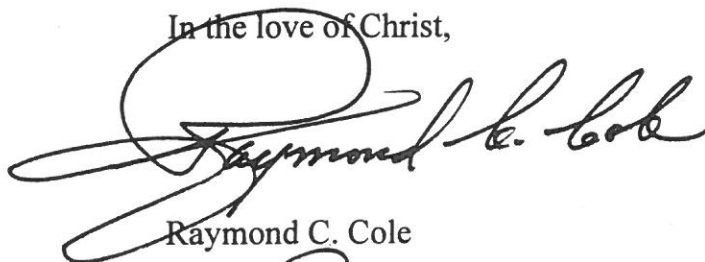
September 19-28	B.G. Clark	Townsend
October 19-30	R.C. Cole	South Africa

Tape Schedule

<u>Tape Series</u>	<u>Mailed</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Title/tape #</u>
WSE-RC 64-2	07/13	09/03	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #2
Trumpets	08/18	09/06	A.M. & P.M.
WSE-BC 138-64	07/27	09/10	Paul's Epistles #64 (I Tim. 3 & 4)
Day of Atonement	08/24	09/15	One service
WSE-RC 64-3	07/27	09/17	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #3
WSE-BC 138-65	08/10	10/01	Paul's Epistles #65 (I Tim. 5 & 6)
WSE-RC 64-4	08/10	10/08	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #4
WSE-BC 138-61*	08/24	10/15	Paul's Epistles #61 (Heb. 1 & 2)
WSE-RC 64-5	08/24	10/22	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #5
WSE-BC 138-62	09/07	10/29	Paul's Epistles #62 (Heb. 3 & 4)

*Hebrews should have followed Paul's Epistles 138-60 (Philemon)

In the love of Christ,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark