

Church of God, The Eternal

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Announcement Letter November 1994

Dear Brethren,

After the completion of God's annual Holyday season, we all should be now once again reestablished in our daily routines. The long dead of winter ahead of us is an excellent time for us to anticipate God's great plan of salvation revealed in His Holydays and make required advancement in all individual areas of responsibility.

Spiritual Principle: What are present day manifestations of man's rejection of God-ordained authority?

Do men really see God's hand in all the affairs of the world? Routinely—on a daily basis—men make decisions and then attempt to carry them out. They are cognizant of their thoughts, their plans, their activities. To men what has happened and continues to happen daily was determined and executed on the basis of private and personal volition. They alone made their decisions—in all things. Little are they aware of daily, and in some cases very significant, manifestations of the authority and control of a powerful and purposeful Being. And in some cases, by the express permission of God Himself, another being is allowed to influence and manipulate minds and hearts.

How many are aware of the real source of blessings and curses? (Lev. 26, Deut. 28) When they stand upon the beach and watch the mighty waves of the sea crashing and threatening before them, are they mindful of the decree pronounced and upheld by the mighty God of this universe Himself? (Pro. 8:29, Gen. 1:9–10) When they look up into the heavens and see the awesomely studded and glorified canopy panoramically stretched out before them, are they aware of the decrees made by God Himself—decrees which keep the universe organized and structurally sound? (Pro. 8:29, Psa. 104:1–6, Gen. 1:14–18) When man experiences and is often terrified by severe storms is he knowledgeable of and made to fear the Creator of such devastating forces? (Psa. 148:1–8) Has man in general ever wondered or even deigned to ask himself why beasts and other terrifying creatures of the natural world are not more aggressive and voracious against the basically defenseless posture

of themselves? (Gen. 1:26, 28; 9:2, Psa. 8:6) Why do not angels who are far greater in power and might—especially those whose minds and hearts turned from God and His benevolent ways—create havoc and much disruptive malevolence against human beings? (Gen. 1:26, Psa. 115:16) Can you imagine, if permitted to act independently, what devastation such beings could bring upon man? Reality of such behavior is incomprehensible.

The natural world is obedient. Planets, astral bodies, and all physical things do that which they were designed and created to do. Such obedience is the manifestation of structural integrity—a manifestation of some awesome Higher Power which guides, controls, and maintains their very existence. When these created objects behave contrary to design and purpose, we may be completely assured that those for whom they are obligated to serve have defied the will and decree of God. The sun, moon, and stars were created to serve man, as well as to illustrate the spiritual purpose of God (Rom. 1:20). Virtually every, if not all, area of structural integrity long manifested in this universe is destined to revolt. The earth will go out of orbit. Stars will fall. Weather will turn violent, devastating. Animals will become aggressive and malevolent. To the above may be added many other manifestations of revolt.

Why? Man who was and is created to serve God revolted and defied his Maker. In turn those things which were created to serve and help us will revolt. As chaos and confusion ruled the earth following the defiant rebellion of Satan, and one-third of the angels who followed him, so an element of the same confusion will reign in these last days, soon, due to the defiant rebellion of man who is, generally unrecognized by men themselves, led and adversely influenced by that initial rebel.

What are some of the many manifestations of a rejection of godly authority? These manifestations are ubiquitous. But because of the perversity of man in his thinking, they are not recognized, generally, because true to his carnal nature, he is always right in his own sight. Therefore, he has convinced himself he is right and completely acceptable.

What are those manifestations? Each will be succinctly stated. A complete article could be written regarding each point.

1. Man is against God: (Psa. 2, Rom. 8:7, Jer. 17:9) Does not the multitude of gods which prevail today indicate a rejection of an absolute, perfect, unchanging, God? The concept of a God is acceptable as long as man can design and create for himself the god which he chooses to serve and obey. In the act of such worship, is not that man actually bowing in servitude and respect to himself? Did he not create the god of his own choosing—that which he believes to be right?

2. Human government: By specific action man rejected the rule of God. As a curse human government was imposed upon him until he learns his lessons (Gen. 9:1–6, I Sam. 8:7, Dan. 4:16–17). Take a look at all human governments. Does righteousness prevail, anywhere?

3. Contention in human government: Though as a curse God imposed government upon man, he then required all subjects to submit to that government (Rom. 13:1–5, Titus 3:1, I Pet. 2:13–15). It is the will of God. Is not rebellion against this imposed rule a manifestation of a rejection of the authority of God?

4. Family breakup: God instituted marriage. He requires a couple to covenant with one another. Their words become the basis of that agreement. Because of a rejection of the authority of God couples have no fear of violating that sacred agreement; comparably, judges do not fear to usurp the authority of God by granting divorces.

5. Unionism and other forms of resistance against those for whom one works: Workers rebel against owners. Owners are not always right, but that does not give an employee the right to rebel, contend, or otherwise resist. Clearly, we are taught to put the matter in the hands of God and allow that superior authority to handle the situation (Eph. 6:5–9, Col. 3:22–25, I Tim. 6:1–4, Titus 2:9–10, Phil. 10–18, I Pet. 2:18–21).

6. Youth against age: Older people have made many mistakes. There is no doubt about that fact. However, their mistakes do not give the younger people, including children, the authority to behave inadvisably against those who are parents or superior in age (Isa. 3:12).

7. Members against the ministry: The ministry belongs to Christ. They must be subject to His rule. There is no example of God dealing with His ministry through the laity. Korah learned the hard way. The only acceptable standard of judgment by which the laity can determine a course of action is the faith once delivered. Christ rules His body through the ministry (Heb. 13:7, 17).

8. Gentiles against Israel: The Gentile element of the world is almost universally against Israel today. God's promise to Abraham was that his descendants would be over all others. Rebellion and assertiveness of Gentiles is a distinct manifestation of a rejection of God's authority.

9. Social chaos: God, as man's Creator laid down the rules by which he should have governed his internal conduct. Today, virtually no one accepts God's standard of social conduct. The results are the curses which we are experiencing around the world.

10. Religions: Are not the abundance of denominations and individualized groups an abundant manifestation of the absolute rejection of the rule of God? God is singular. His way is singular. Short of defiance against God, how can man possibly justify the enormous proliferation of religious concepts?

11. Upset weather conditions: God is in control of His complete creation. All physical forces and powers act according to His word. The very existence of such conditions as we are beginning to experience today is proof that man has rejected the authority of God.

12. Animals rising up against man. Why would that element of creation which was made subject to man and his rule rise up against him? Only because that other element of creation—man himself—has rejected the authority of God.

There are other manifestations of a rejection of the divine authority of God. However, the above is sufficient to give us a clear picture that man's rebellion is now producing a host of circumstances which will take a devastating toll in due time. For those called of God, there must be a correction of the course which man has assumed. Short of this required correction, even called man cannot assume his rightful position as a helper to Christ in the restoration of the world.

Let us take acceptable inventory of our minds and hearts.

Prayer Requests

[Omitted for confidentiality]

Births

Mr-s. Michael Hughes: A son, Benjamin Jacob Hughes was born November 2. He weighed in at 7 lbs. 15 oz. and was 21 inches long. Mrs. Hughes is doing fine. Thanks to the prayers of the brethren, the baby, who appeared to suffer serious difficulty, is now doing fine.

Feast of Tabernacles

The series begun at the Newport Feast of Tabernacles, entitled "Who/Where Is Christ Since His Personal Days in the Flesh?" is being completed in the studio and will be available in December. Anyone wishing to receive these supplemental tapes may request them by notifying the office.

Office

There have been a number of complaints regarding tape # 8 of "Satanic Activities of the Last Days." This tape is of poor quality as it was recorded from a church member's tape recorder. There is no better tape available at the present time.

The tape library is lacking masters for several sermons that were given quite a while ago. If you have a copy of any of these please send it to us so that the series involved can be offered as a complete set. The following is a list of those missing: WSE-RC J (1-3); WSE-RC M (93, 96); WSP-RC 14 (7-9); WSP-RC 13 (2); WSP-RC 16 (10); CL-RC 2-138, 139; WSE-BC 121 (2); WSE-BC 126 (2).

Newly reprinted articles include # 31, *True Christian Fellowship—Today*, and # 65, *Grace—A Divine Gift*.

Comments

[Omitted for confidentiality]

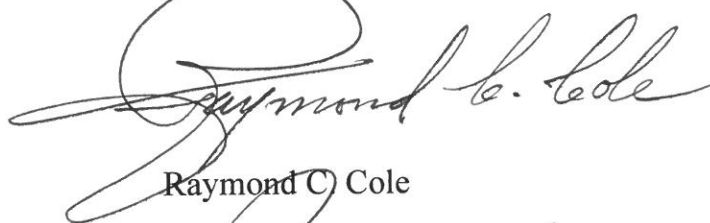
Trip Schedule

November 12	R. C. Cole	Knoxville
November 19	R. C. Cole	Denver
November 26	B. G. Clark	Central California
December 10	B. G. Clark	Canada
December 17, 24	R. C. Cole	Philippines

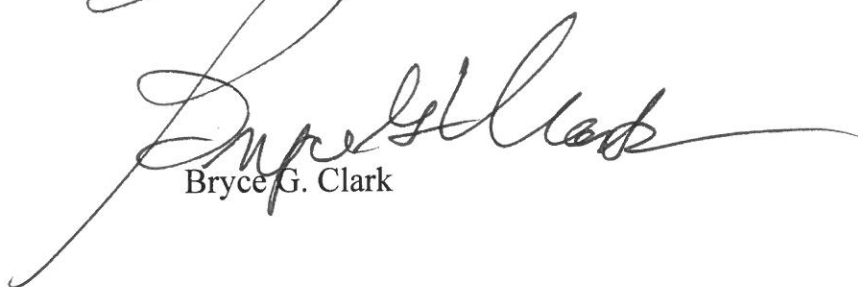
Tape Schedule

Tape Series	Mailed	For	Title/tape #
WSE-RC 64-6	09/07	11/05	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #6
WSE-BC 138-63	09/21	11/12	Paul's Epistles #63 (Heb. 5 & 6)
WSE-RC 64-7	09/21	11/19	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #7
WSE-RC 59-11	10/05	11/26	Glory or Despair, Which? #11
WSE-RC 64-8	10/05	12/03	Satanic Activities of the Last Days #8
WSE-BC 138-64	10/19	12/10	Paul's Epistles #64 (Heb. 7 & 8)
WSE-RC 59-12	10/19	12/17	Glory or Despair, Which? #12
WSE-BC 138-65	11/02	12/24	Paul's Epistles #65 (Heb. 9 & 10)
WSP-RC 17-1	11/02	12/31	Seeking God #1

In Christ's Service,



Raymond C. Cole



Bryce G. Clark