

Announcement Letter April 2019

Dear Brethren:

The Passover is now just a few days away, and we anticipate once again the opportunity to fulfill God's command to honor Him in a very particular way, according to a strict set of instructions He has revealed to His Church. Those of you who value "the faith once delivered" are the target audience of this *Letter*, and it is you whom we appreciate so very much for standing firm to preserve those inspired precepts. More and more, human beings insist upon "changing the rules" to suit themselves, and that makes you all the more precious for your continuity and faithfulness. All of us—your humble servants—offer our thanksgiving for you, and our prayers that you will have a very glorious experience during this Passover season. Your offerings before God will be significant. Your shining lights, spiritually, will indeed be an honor and a glory to our Heavenly Father and to Jesus Christ—who made this revealed Way possible through His sacrifice.

By comparison, there are more and more individuals associated with some aspect of the apostate Church of God who will be offering polluted sacrifices at this time. Because they have no respect for the concept of Truth coming through divine inspiration of a chosen servant, they have become laws unto themselves, keeping for doctrine the commandments of men (Mark 7:6–7). God will no sooner accept their sacrifices than He did Cain's polluted sacrifice. Examples are found in those groups that have rejected the Hebrew Calendar as God's inspired gift to us, and treat it instead with contempt. A number of groups already "kept" their "Passover" a month ago, based upon their own rules for determining God's New Year's Day. Others think they are honoring God by using the "Sacred Name" to address Him, not realizing that they instead are subscribing to *occult mumblings* that God detests. Many others have repudiated foundational doctrines like Monday Pentecost, and defend the practice of adultery by justifying divorce and remarriage. No fellowships espousing these teachings (just to name a very few) will ever be accepted by God. Instead, their sacrifices are a stench in His nostrils (Isaiah 1:11–15; Amos 5:21–23).

But making this point (about those practicing blatantly false doctrines) is not intended to make all of you feel smug about your own relationships with God. The very essence of the Passover season—and Unleavened Bread in particular—is to acknowledge our own personal leavening and the need to purge out this hidden sin. Simply comparing ourselves to others who are "more sinful" is a good way to fall into deadly deception.

Within this little remnant fellowship, what are our own deadly weaknesses that we need to focus upon? Besides the common weaknesses of the flesh in general, what are some inherent "sticking points" that may yet threaten the spiritual livelihoods of some of us?

There is a reason that you are all now receiving a new sermon series reconfirming what we mean by *the faith once delivered*. Satan would love for us to lose our group cohesion through bickering about what is and is not part of "the faith." We have had a number of past defections centered upon this very debate. We may yet have more, if there is anyone who seeks to assert a personalized definition of that faith in contradiction to what Church of God, The Eternal was founded upon back in 1975. Through Raymond Cole we learned not only the value of the *revealed faith*, but what that *faith* entails. Respectfully, it is not subject to debate. It is set and very firm in this fellowship. The only question is, how many of you agree with our definition of it?

Speaking on a very personal basis, the best I can do is to reiterate, as I often do, what I learned from Raymond Cole, whom I believe God inspired divinely in the wake of the apostasy we experienced in 1974. I will continue to point all of you back to that very premise, no matter how much time elapses, and no matter how distant those days become in the rearview mirror. Fewer and fewer of you were even alive in 1974, let alone baptized members of God's Church. It can all seem so abstract to newer generations. But it should not be. The lessons are still absolutely critical for all of us.

With that in mind, how many of you have truly embraced what Raymond Cole taught us about the difference between doctrine, administration, and prophecy? It was a "new teaching" that you will not find documented in any literature of our parent church. That distinction is either inspired by God or not. Which is it? You are faced with either accepting or denying that God inspired Raymond Cole directly with *new knowledge* needful for a last-day remnant. That *new knowledge* does not in any way repudiate the *foundation of doctrine* God revealed through Herbert Armstrong—upon which you will be judged by Jesus Christ at His appearing. But it sure does present the potential for controversy among God's people. And some few of you, although walking "with us," have not truly embraced this teaching. That is not an indictment. It is just a statement of fact. But the day is coming when each of you will either embrace this concept, or else your own counter-concept will sweep you away from us. It is not I who will force the issue, but because this ministry will *fearlessly* teach what I received from Raymond Cole as the definition of *the faith once delivered*, anyone who earnestly cannot abide that teaching will never feel truly "at home" with us. This is just a reality.

By way of describing what Raymond Cole called the "three-legged stool" of doctrine, prophecy, and administration, let us look at an example: Mr. Cole taught us that serious

errors were made in the Worldwide Church of God concerning prophecy and administration, but that it was *the doctrine* that God made sure to inspire through Mr. Armstrong. It is that *doctrine* that we value above all else. It is our treatment of that *doctrine* that will be used to judge this ministry before God, not any non-doctrinal issues—like prophetic prognostications—that came out of Ambassador College.

Yet some of you are still very much convinced that certain conclusions about the who, what, when, and how of the future were part of "the doctrine"—like a German-led European Union and the Catholic pope being the Beast and False Prophet. If you believe that is true, you believe that is true. But it is at variance with what this group stands for to be so dogmatic, and if in time you do not reconcile that in your mind, it does indeed have the potential to become like leavening which Satan will use to instigate offense in your minds toward this ministry. With that said, here is my question:

If I am skeptical of whether a German-led United States of Europe will turn out to be the *full answer* to God's prophecy concerning an end-time Beast Power, is my salvation in jeopardy? Is that really a question on my "test" for salvation? If, like Raymond Cole, I prefer to "watch" *everything* going on in the world, rather than to get locked into a dogmatic conclusion that God *must* fulfill His prophecies in a particular way, am I showing disrespect to God? Raymond Cole allowed that *maybe* God will fulfill His prophecy that way, but then again, maybe not. We do not know! Is that a departure from the *revealed Faith*? I say "no."

Put another way, am I being a better "watchman"—a sentry on duty—by staring fixedly in one direction to spy out the enemy and to sound the alarm, or am I wiser to scan *in all directions* from my post? Which sentry is being more wise and diligent—the one who trusts "past intelligence" that the attack will come only from *one particular quarter*, or the one who maintains his vigil in looking for *all possible points* of threat from *all directions*?

All too many think they are defending Mr. Armstrong's reputation and credibility by asserting that his conclusions about details of future events must be accurate. Raymond Cole showed more respect to Mr. Armstrong and his legacy than anyone I ever knew, and yet Mr. Cole did not at all "hook his wagon" to those specific prophetic conclusions. So again, does that mean Raymond Cole is in danger of losing his eternal salvation because he went to his grave being skeptical about whether Germany and the Catholic pope would turn out to be the Beast and False Prophet?

Or instead, is it possible that those issues are all *red herrings*, used by the real enemy to distract God's people from what really matters? You will not be judged upon whether you bet on any particular *prophetic horse* in advance. You will be judged by how much you have embraced *the revealed doctrine* into your life and put on the character of Jesus Christ. Let

God work out the details of how He will fulfill everything the Bible says about last-day events. You recently received the February *Monthly Letter* that expounded the history of prophetic prognostications in our parent church, and what the wiser approach should have been, in hindsight. I wonder how many will ever take that true history to heart and learn from it. Raymond Cole did. I did. Many of you also see it. God helping us, we will have the basis of real unity as we march forward to the end. How ever prophesied world events may transpire, we know God will do everything He said He would do, and we also know that He will accept every one of His dear children who are willing to *walk in real faith* to defend the *true doctrine*. No matter where threats surface in this world and within the church, those who know truly what is *the faith once delivered*, and who love it, will never be "caught out." It is not about knowing in advance who will do what by matching Bible prophecy to current events. It is about knowing what you love and what you are willing to defend to the very end of your lives.

We pray for the opportunity to teach more of God's beloved—howbeit wayward—children that divine wisdom, as He sees fit to bring them to us. In the meantime, a small remnant of true believers has an opportunity to worship God in Spirit and in Truth during this Passover season. May God keep you through His infinite mercy and His grace.

New Moon

The new moon, Nisan (first month), begins Friday evening, April 5. The new moon day is Sabbath, April 6.

The new moon, Iyar (second month), begins Sunday evening, May 5. The new moon day is Monday, May 6.

Holy Days

- Passover Thursday, April 18
- Night to be Much Observed Friday, April 19
- First Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread. Sabbath, April 20
- Second Holy Day—Days of Unleavened Bread. Friday, April 26

Trip Schedule

Mr. Jon Brisby

May 25 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
June 1. Mansfield, Massachusetts
June 8, 10. Lausanne, Switzerland

Recorded Sermon Schedule

Sermon #	Mailed	Played	Title
WSE-RC 90-6	03-21-19	04-06-19	An Analysis of Jude #6
WSE-JWB 225-2	03-21-19	04-13-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #2
Holy Day Sermons	—	—	Passover/NTBMO/UB
WSE-RC 90-7	03-21-19	04-27-19	An Analysis of Jude #7
WSE-JWB 225-3	04-11-19	05-04-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #3
WSE-RC 90-8	04-11-19	05-11-19	An Analysis of Jude #8
WSE-JWB 225-4	04-11-19	05-18-19	Just What Do You Mean—Faith Once Delivered? #4

In Christ's service,



Jon W. Brisby