FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 17

SUBJECT- UNREALITY 04/06/14

Their Foolish Heart Was Darkened

"Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." Rom. 1:21 This is a rather chilling statement and I was thinking about how one gets so off track. First, you know God, and then perhaps begin to think He exists for you. He is there to supply all your wants and wishes while you do whatever you darn well please. You don't glorify Him as God, Life, Truth and Love and you don't realize you exist for Him and for His purpose and not the other way around. And then on the heels of that one you become ungrateful, whiney, always looking at the hole in the donut. Next in line comes blaming God for all the troubles, yours and everyone else's – vain imaginations. It is no wonder one's heart becomes darkened! Good to be watchful for these telltale signs that would lead any un-alert traveler off the straight and narrow. *****

I can look back on my life and see this very progression. As a boy I believed in God and prayed and talked to Him all the time. Then, as the years passed, I became more worldly, believing less, until finally I embodied these two passages from Romans in the lesson:

Rom. 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools

Rom. 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man,

What started the decline was allowing myself to be deceived by the words of many through books. I thought I was immune to peer pressure because kids in high school couldn't get me to take drugs, but it would have been better to smoke dope than to let the noise of the world invade my thoughts and erode my belief.

Human knowledge and my own hubris was far more

It is no wonder I ended up where I was—the true wonder is that God gave me new life here! I am so grateful for that

effective in making me a dope!

every day. So now I strive toward the promise of this line from Ephesians 5: 8: For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Thanks to these lessons and the practitioners for helping me to learn how to "Put on the whole armour of God" and keep it on! ********

"First you know God and then perhaps begin to think He exists for you, He is there to supply all your wants and wishes while you do whatever you darn well please."

This nails it!! The great divide between belief and understanding, between the mortal and immortal, etc. This describes the pathetic life-motive to extend mortal existence as long as possible, and to enjoy it as much as possible. Then bang! All your efforts are flushed, and you will have to start from ground zero in the next experience. The only thing we take with us is understanding of Science, our identity as the image, reflection of God - cultivating this is the only thing worth living for! And the Christian message makes clear that this path is not a self-centered path. We draw closer to Mind as we relinquish selfish motives. ********

Love No False Oath?

The Lord hates it when we love false oaths. Sounds serious. What might that be? I heard an elderly lady say she wanted to live long enough to see how her youngest grandchildren would turn out, what colleges they would attend, etc. The dear lady got her wish, but when the time came, did not recognize who her grandchildren were.

The marriage covenant can be a false oath if it is more sacred than our obedience to God - our devotion to children or pets...

A false oath is any commitment we make that does not include God - if indeed we are His image,

reflection, had we not strive to fulfill that, and not love some self-centered, God-less oath that would override our commitment to Him? Does not the Almighty know much better than we how to care for His own? ********

Concerning the nature of false oaths, and God's hatred of such things: among the biggest false oaths in history is the "oath of allegiance" which certain influential people must swear to the Boston Christian Science Church Board of Directors.

Can anyone in his/her right mind even begin to imagine Mrs. Eddy walking around her home - or visiting any local Christian Science branch or organization of her day - anxiously brandishing a formal paper demanding of anyone, great or small, that he/she sign it, swearing an oath of allegiance to her?

Where on earth did Boston get such an idea in the first place? On one level, it's a notion worthy of a scene in a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. On another level, it is not a trivial matter at all.

From https://plainfieldcs.com/index.php/Aboutthe-Church/church-history.html – "The harassment of the Plainfield Church began in 1975 when the Christian Science Board of Directors, following a pattern of the Board of Directors' interference in branch affairs, demanded that the Plainfield Church replace its highly-respected Board of Trustees with a new Board willing to swear an oath of allegiance to the Boston Directors. In a vigorously worded response to this unwarranted interference in our church's internal affairs, the members rejected Boston's demand, pointing out to the Directors that they themselves were in violation of our Leader's Manual, specifically Article XXIII, Sections 1 and 10, and Article XI, Section 13...." and, one might add, in violation of Christ's injunction from the Sermon on the Mount: "Swear [Greek, om-noo'-o: take an oath] not at all . . . " Matt. 5:34

And yet, the other half of this problem (and arguably the bigger half, the larger problem) lies not with the oath-extractors, but with the compliant enablers who agree to take the oath. For the

scripture enjoins all would-be enablers: "Thou shalt not follow the multitude to do evil." Exod. 23.2

Thus, may the God of impossible things raise up courageous men and women throughout the nominal Christian Science world to summon the fortitude, the mettle, the stoutheartedness, the grace, the independence -- to cease following the multitude to do evil, to cease speaking for and defending a cause, following many, to divert judgment.

And in every area of my life, may God grant me the grace to uphold Christ's eternal integrity if ever I am faced with the temptation to follow a multitude to do evil. Amen. *******

The Great Delusion of Mortal Mind

What perfect way to describe this so called mind...delusional.

The belief in it doesn't make me better in anyway. I am grateful that what is going on in this Church, enforces the daily discipline I need to leave this "madness" behind and go forth seeking what is Truth, what is of the Spirit! ********

Not only is it delusional, but Mrs. Eddy writes that the conceptions of this so-called mind (knowledge gained from the five senses) "symbolizes all that is evil and perishable." *Science and Health*, p 274.

There is nothing good in it! It has nothing good to offer! Mrs. Evans used to remind us that the sole objective of mortal mind is to kill. Good incentive to cultivate spiritual sense and come under the control of the one Mind, God! ********

I have always found this definition of "delusion" so helpful - "a fixed, dominating or persistent false mental conception, resistant to reason with regard to actual things or matters of fact." That's the human mind for you - it just doesn't get it!! Even that which is true and factual! I find if I am not understanding something in *Science and Health*, I need to wake myself up out of the dreamy stupid human mind! "Adam where art thou?" ******

SUBJECT- ARE SIN DISEASE AND DEATH REAL? - 04/13/14

Fear Not

Is. 40:9 - "O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!"

Why does the scripture enjoin me to "be not afraid . . . be not dismayed?"

Because the "good tidings" here are not good tidings to those who love not the Holy One, the one true God, not good tidings to those who have devoted their lives to serve other gods, gods of fear, of selfishness and self-serving motives. The "good tidings," of their very nature, cannot help but to reveal these false gods: the good news of the unreality of sin (recognized as reality by traditional theology), the good news of the unreality of disease and death (recognized as reality by materialistic science and medicine). Materialistic Science, Theology, and Medicine are the mountains of bad tidings that the good tidings of Christian Science make low and disintegrate.

So it takes courage to proclaim the "good tidings" against the mountains of resistance. It takes "counting the cost" requisite to wage war with 10,000 against an enemy of 20,000. Once empowered, however, I can rise to the awareness that our God is the God of a visible few people teamed with heavenly armies of teeming, invisible multitudes, so that it only appears to mortal-mindedness that we are 10,000 against 20,000. ***

Choice of Words

"Let Christian Science, instead of corporeal sense, support your understanding of being, and this understanding will supplant error with Truth, replace mortality with immortality, and silence discord with harmony." I've always been interested in Mrs. Eddy's choice of words in this passage:

"Supplant" – to overthrow (vigorous action needed in this one! Error seems to be stubborn!) "Replace"- to put again in the former place (meaning immortality is our original and true being; shove aside you stupid imposter of mortality!! You can't trick me into believing you are real!)

"Silence" – to quiet, to cause to cease firing, cessation of rage, agitation, or tumult (Oh, the wonderful peace that follows shutting error up!)

To think that such changeable, baseless beliefs (which is all that error is) can cause such torment if not seen as unreal makes me forever grateful for Mrs Eddy's choice of words. They drive the point of error's powerlessness home!*******

Death to the flesh

"For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die" Rom. 8:13 Should we be surprised? The flesh is mortality, and by definition, ultimates in death. Death of what? That which is not Spirit, that which is not the image, reflection of God. Why play the game of flesh when it has such predictable "rules"? Because it feels good? Jesus was not whistling Dixie when he promised" "If ye believe in me, ye shall have everlasting life." If you understand the Principle, abide in it, you are the image, reflection of God, Life, spiritual, not material. ********

"If you understand the Principle, abide in it, you are the image, reflection of God, Life, spiritual, not material."

The spiritual unchanging fact that Principle and idea is one should help me realize I am the image and likeness of God. But when "Spiritual sense is wanting while personal sense is acute," I still strive daily to know this Truth and **desire** to see I am His reflection. So much in Science depends on this! Mrs. Eddy asks the name of the one physician and states, "Would you learn His name? It is the Science of being." *Science and Health* 1st Ed. p 91

Where Are The Nine?

So what happened to the other nine lepers who were healed by Jesus? They did not express gratitude which Mrs. Eddy says is the "unpardonable sin" and they didn't acknowledge God to be their Healer. So where did that leave them? In a godless state of hell no doubt. Maybe they thought their healing was a coincidence, or luck or just some nice guy helping them out because they deserved it. Whenever anyone complains they don't know God – this is the reason why! And I was once included in this category. I was not grateful for Him, pure and simple. Therefore I did not know Him nor could I feel His presence and power. Gratitude is hugely important. "In Christian Science, a denial of Truth is fatal...!!" Science and Health p 372:27

"If pride, superstition, or any error prevents the honest recognition of benefits received, this will be a hindrance to the recovery of the sick and the success of the student." Science and Health p 372: 29 This is why tarot card reading, astrology predictions, séances etc. are so prevalent today (and yesterday too!). If one can't admit there is an Almighty God that governs the universe and give Him all credit and gratitude – superstition becomes a very poor substitute! And pride? – There are those who are very reluctant to give up what they feel is their control, their power and their position and because of this suffer greatly the consequence. "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." Proverbs 16:18 ******

Thank you for the re-telling, re-emphasizing of this great lesson, "**re-Minding**" me of the necessity of keeping a gratitude-appreciation journal, and keeping it up-to-date, listing, contemplating, appreciating the significance of every blessing I have ever received throughout my life.

Luke 17: 18 - "There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger." The ungratefulness-to-gratefulness ratio here is 9:1, making "1" a stranger indeed.

Reading this story allegorically: have I given 100% thanks - in thought and deed - for all that God has done for me, or have I only given 10% of my

"thanksgiving quotient" to God, expending the other 90% of my gratitude-mindfulness energy in taking blessings for granted, or mulling over some lack in my life that still needs divine assistance, mentally trying to steady the ark when I should be giving thanks in everything - this very moment? 1 Thess. 5:18.

The original meaning of praise is "the just price," and an important component of praise is repaying God with gratitude in extended seasons of deep, thoughtful, whole-not-half-hearted thanksgiving for every moment, and for all the wonderful things that have happened, are happening, and will happen in my life and, self-forgetfully, in the lives of others.

Everyone except Jesus saw the 5 loaves and 2 fishes as an absurdly microscopic meal for 5000+ people, but where they saw lack, he gave 100% thanks for what they had at hand, and the food multiplied, blessing everyone around him - with so much more to spare! - proving the metaphysical principle that counting one's blessings in the service of others is a law of increase and multiplication of more those same blessings.

The Eternal Verity of Divine Science

The Bible declares: "All things were made by Him [the divine Word]; and without Him was not anything made that was made." This is the eternal verity of divine Science. If sin, sickness, and death were understood as nothingness, they would disappear. " *Science and Health* p 480: 26-2

I recognize how much I must insist on the SUPREMACY of Spirit everywhere. This practice is helping me not react to the organized medical thought that seeks to make the **nothingness** of sickness a **somethingness** and imprint it on the thoughts of many, calling it enlightened knowledge!