

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 18

**SUBJECT- DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT -
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with Christ, Spirit.

Constant Self-Immolation Required

Wonderful lesson! The Christian Science "culture" loves to equate the doctrine of atonement with the "doctrine" of at-one-ment. "How lovely!" Like Christians who believe that the purification of baptism is achieved with a ceremony that sprinkles water on an infant.

But this lesson makes no bones about it! "The atonement requires constant self-immolation on the sinner's part." *Science and Health* (Of course, as we learned last week, if you are righteous, none of this applies because you are already a perfect child of God, at one with Him - and hopelessly deluded.) "His eyes were as a flame of fire." Rev. 11:12. The "self-righteous" naturally hate him, because he comes to destroy them, "incarnate error." (definition of Christ in *Science and Health* p 583:10-11)

So our Doctrine of Atonement in Christian Science, is not an annual repentance (Jewish tradition), or a vague theological platform (Christian tradition), but a "down and dirty," "rubber meets the road," moment-by-moment striving to relinquish material, self-centered thinking, and to identify, more and more with the image, reflection of God, immortal man. *****

"...get out of man into God, to reach the science of Life and be rid of sickness, sin and death...1st Edition of *Science and Health* p.150

This clearly shows that self-immolation (sacrifice) and self abnegation (denial) are imperative. I am seeing more than ever that the correct understanding of this through the moment-by-moment practice of this requirement is what distinguishes a true follower, Christian or Christian Scientist, from who may profess to be one. This is what brings me to the correct identification with "true being" without which I cannot see my union

Malachi saw this very clearly in his prophecy of Jesus' coming. "who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap."

Who is going to stand to have their pride burned out? And have their most cherished selfish human desires torn out from beneath them and purified? Self-immolation is not a pleasant experience. It hurts when it happens, but the benefits of going through it are priceless.

Mrs. Evans used to refer to the "ring of fire." This was the phenomenon whereby people would find Plainfield and Christian Science and love it. Then, after a while, they would be required (by God) to burn out whatever needed to be burned out. Some would be willing to take the heat, but some were not, and they would leave. I don't think this "ring of fire" ever really leaves us. It is God requiring us to be what he made. *****

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Who can be at one, in union or claim to be the child of God without the necessary purification since only our "true-being" is at one or the reflection of God. Christ Jesus lived the Christ that we may also follow:

"through the revelation and demonstration of life in God, hath elevated them to possible at-one-ment with the spiritual idea of man and his divine Principle, Love." *****

Yes, it is a ring of fire, constantly, like swimming upstream. Unrelenting struggle, prayer, un-selfing, because the enemy never seems to let up. But there is no alternative. Going back to error is suicide.

Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. *****

The Results of Sleeping

While Jesus was praying at the Mount of Olives, "Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my will, but thine be done." Luke goes on to say in the next passage, "And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground. And when he rose up from prayer, and was come to his disciples, he found them sleeping for sorrow." Mrs. Eddy is quoted as saying - if the disciples had held watch with Jesus at this crucial time and not slept we would now be in the Millennium. How extraordinarily sobering! *****

Holy Hell Week?

We are wise to be aware of the warfare going on between the flesh and spirit. Why do Christians celebrate Palm Sunday with palms etc.? Should we be celebrating the worst depravity of the human condition? One day praising Jesus as king, only to be crying "Crucify him" a few days later? This "Holy Week" is the culmination of the Lenten guilt-trip, all the fabrication of what? The enemy of Christ!!

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." Rev 19:11 No wonder we may feel anguish, confusion, oppressiveness at this time. It is the flesh burning up in its own self-destruction, so that it may be seen: "The Lord God omnipotent reigneth." *****

In the Latino countries, this week is Semana Santa, and death and suffering are celebrated. They will not eat meat, only fish, but it is okay to get drunk. The Friday of crucifixion is the big day, and Easter Sunday fades in its shade.

I don't feel that Jesus took away my "sins" at the cross, but he showed the possibility and the urgent necessity to overcome all that is opposed to Truth and Love. Day by day, moment-by-moment our struggle goes on, with glorious moments of realizing God's presence and love.

[Quotations from Mrs. Eddy's Miscellany have helped me constructively counter the appalling, 'tis-the-season-to-be-dreary, institutionalized hyper-materialism of Lent and Good Friday:]

"One thing is eternally here; it reigns supreme today, tomorrow, forever. We need it in our homes, at our firesides, on our altars, for therewith win we the race of the centuries; and we have it only as we live it. This is that needful one thing — Divine Science, whereby thought is **spiritualized**, reaching outward and upward — to Science in Christianity; Science in medicine, in physics and in metaphysics."

"The forts of Christian Science, garrisoned by God's chosen ones, can never surrender."

"I cannot quench my desire to say this: and words are not vain when the depth of desire can find no other outlet to liberty. 'Therefore . . . let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works' (Hebrews, 6:1)."

"Truth crushed to earth springs spontaneously upward, and whispers in the breeze man's inalienable birthright — Liberty. 'Where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.' "

"And how is man, seen through the lens of Spirit, enlarged, and how counterpoised his origin from dust! -- and how he presses to his original [not expending the least thought on Lenten original sin, dust, ashes, Lenten longing, leaning toward human sacrifice to propitiate a wrathful deity -- but pressing onward to deeper awareness of his origin as image and likeness of God], never severed from Spirit! O, ye who leap disdainfully from this Rock of Ages, return and plant thy steps in Christ, Truth, the Stone that the builders reject. Then will angels administer grace, do thy errands, and be thy dearest allies."

"May apostate praise return to its first love, above the symbol size the spirit, speak the 'new tongue' — and may thought soar, and Soul be." *****

Christ Does Not Make Nice

"out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God." Rev. 11:15. What is this all about? I thought the Christ was loving and comforting and tolerant and my friend! - and where does that come from? Spiritual wickedness in high places - thieves and robbers - that sentiment within us that wants to be left alone. In the Glossary in *Science and Health*: "Christ. The divine manifestation which comes to the flesh to destroy incarnate error." p 583:10-11. Sin, disease and death are to be destroyed, not cajoled!!!

This ties in nicely with something I just read in Eustace's writings.

"To be unselfed means never to harbor a thought which starts from effect."
It is our work to vigorously prove that God is Love. Darkness would take the place of light and the world would sink back into blackness if we become indolent and imagine that all we have to do is to listen for God's voice. We need to be that voice. We cannot rest. Malicious argument is always trying to lull us to sleep.

Cast out the siren of indolent peace, and demand that your peace be a conscious, ever active peace. To be deceived with a ghastly pretense of peace is but the effect of the poisonous soporific fumes of malicious suggestion. (!!!!)

As genuine Christian Scientists, let us not be deceived by subtle platitudes clothed in words of gentleness and peace which are so alluring as to endanger the unsuspecting.

Yes, now we see and understand better what has happened to the Christian Science Movement since 1910. Also, I think that religion, Christian Science no exception, has been snuggling up too much to the powers of this world.

We see that in the "normal" Christian prayer that all is done is asking God to perform some trick, and then they wait and see. No wonder that mostly nothing happens. *****

SUBJECT- PROBATION AFTER DEATH

4/27/14

Blasphemy

"All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men." !!!
Blasphemy - "to revile or speak reproachfully of God or the Holy Spirit" (1928 Webster dictionary)
Holy Ghost - "Divine Science; the development of eternal Life, Truth, and Love." *Science and Health* p 588:7

This is quite a warning! When you dare speak against God and/or His Divine Science - there is no repentance, no sorrowful heart, one has gone to the "dark side" so to speak - therefore no forgiveness. How might we do this is the question to ask of ourselves? Error's ways and means can be quite subtle.

In the First Edition, Mrs. Eddy states, "Those who would follow Christ, Truth, heal the sick, etc., through doctrines and, or matter remedies are climbing up another way, and unconsciously, though it be, robbing God." ROBBING GOD?!
Dear Father, make me aware and alert to blasphemy and deliver me from such an evil by recognizing You as the one and only Power!

"Jesus demonstrated Christ; he proved that Christ is the divine idea of God — the Holy Ghost, or Comforter, revealing the divine Principle, Love, and leading into all truth." *Science and Health* p 332 (X)

I thought about this passage, too, Mary. What struck me was that ALL other SIN was forgiven except this. I read all the Holy Ghost references in *Science and Health* and this one here stood out.

Anyone who works against Christian Science is doomed! Christian Science leads us to the Christ does it not - the Holy Ghost? It unveils the laws of God. By extension anyone working against Plainfield and its standard bearers are blaspheming. *****

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It is wise to be aware that others work this way: "Anyone who does not recognize the pope...etc." Christian Science is considered heresy by many. So are we in a war to see which church or system can out-curse the other? God forbid.

I like the phrasing from our church watch of many years: "Anything... that would seek to interfere or harm God's work in the Plainfield Church..." - it keeps it impersonal, and we can safely stand with the idea that anything opposing God is doomed - as darkness is doomed by light.

If your use of Christian Science is clear, as the spiritual laws of the universe, in no way referring to a human organization, fine. But most would tend to use Christian Science as a something they belong to, and that would be bad. *****

Mrs. Eddy writes that a denial of Truth (the Holy Ghost) is fatal. The denial of Truth can never be forgiven because Truth can never forgive error. There is nothing human or personal about it. You can deny a person and be forgiven. You can deny a human organization and be forgiven. But you can never deny Truth and be forgiven. Truth has no tolerance for error of any sort. Elsewhere in *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy writes "Truth, Life, and Love are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves, because they declare nothing except God." *****

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...but why? A loving God will not forgive in some special cases? As explained in the textbook, Truth NEVER pardons error. Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost indicates the door is shut to Love, shut tight - a hardness of heart that is unreachable. Perhaps the rich man (Dives) qualified... Perhaps the one who knows about the Holy Ghost, experienced it, but sneers at it, "like the dog

returning to its vomit." - is the blasphemer addressed here. *****

Mrs. Eddy, Miscellaneous Writings, 55:9-15 ---

"Opposite to good, is the universal claim of evil that seeks the proportions of good. There may be **those who, having learned the power of the unspoken thought, use it to harm rather than to heal, and who are using that power against Christian Scientists.** This giant sin is the sin against the Holy Ghost spoken of in Matt. xii. 31, 32."

A **giant** sin . . . not of careless omission, but of malice aforethought: of conscious, deliberate, carefully thought-out, premeditative commission . . . *****

Improve Our Time

"The understanding and recognition of Spirit must finally come, and we may as well improve our time in solving the mysteries of being through an apprehension of divine Principle." I have been thinking a lot about this one for there are certainly many ways to improve our time – as well as many ways to utterly waste time!

One definite way to gain a better "apprehension of divine Principle" is the study of our textbook and of the Scriptures, and now the opportunity to listen to the recording of 1st Edition on audio. Mrs. Eddy told a student, "I recommend that you quit other reading and confine yourself for the present to the perusal of the Scriptures and my work, *Science and Health*. This book has the key to the Scriptures that never picks the lock, but opens the Word only as it turns on the grooves of God. This course pursued, and you will gain consolation and light." (MBE's Six Days of Revelation page 200) *****

Herbert Eustace warned of the use of radio - about one hundred years ago - now mankind is awash in information, about 90% is negative and false, the media are all over us. Mrs. Eddy warned about reading frivolous novels, now people watch nasty and dumb stuff like movies etc. many hours a day. Every day! The wrong mind-pictures are constantly paraded before people as reality.