

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE 6/22/14

Sound Morals Most Desirable

The Heart and Soul of Christian Science

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer." (Ps 19:14)

I don't remember much of the sermons I listened to in my youth, but I do remember this prayer - it preceded each sermon.

We would do well to keep this one in our hearts in our practice of Christian Science, and never think "I am a Scientist so I don't need to bother with this feeling stuff!" *****

To keep all and every one of my thoughts acceptable in the sight of infinite Love.....is a huge challenge.

....a priceless sense of the dear Father's loving kindness.

....that recognition of infinite Love which alone confers the healing power.

....That this light be not hid, but radiate and glow into noontide glory. Yes, I want to glow! *****

I usually pray this prayer before I give a testimony. When I do it lets my heart speak and nothing intellectual comes through. Those testimonies are the ones that bless mankind. *****

Thank you for pointing this out. What a good thing to remember whenever I have to speak!

Although raised in Christian Science., it was coming to this church that taught me the importance of FEELING the Christ in one's heart and not intellectualizing Science. I distinctly remember Mrs. Evans' teaching on this point. That was a huge turning point for me, and set me on the right path. There is much affection in this church, which I now know is essential to Christian Science! *****

"No intellectual proficiency is requisite in the learner, but sound morals are most desirable." (*Science and Health* p. x)

Why did the children of Israel seem to constantly get drawn away from the one God to idolatry? Apparently, it seemed to benefit them, and since they were morally weak, they had nothing to hold them to the one invisible God that required their obedience.

In the practice of Christian Science, many get drawn into faith cure, away from Science, although still under its name!, because it seems to benefit them. They are morally weak.

Both idolatry and faith cure are enticing, but deadly. They leave the subject "healed" but removed from the living God, where they are worse off than before. They eventually become absolutely unhealable, unless they go through a painful "deprogramming" process, to burn out their false trusts.

The moral man is not fooled. *****

I think this faith healing depends mainly on emotion and suggestion. As disease is not real, those things do have an effect. But they are not always permanent. I think that only a deep understanding makes healing permanent. The only place where discord can seem to be real is in our deluded consciousness. I have witnessed some of this, individuals presuming that because they are faithful students of Christian Science, they are above the attacks of animal magnetism. They kind of become complacent, enjoying the scenery of nice words and hymns.

To apprehend the divine nature - apprehend: capture, arrest, perceive, understand, and also to dread.

Personal sense and Truth are mutually exclusive. For me, it is a daily, constant warfare. *****

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emotion and suggestion. “

Yes - and subject to human will - this is why it is so dangerous. Although the intention may be good, this method can just as easily be used with malicious intent. On the other hand, Science, God is ONLY good, and cannot possibly be misused.

She Loved Much

This is a wonderful lesson! The story of "a sinner," whom we have come to know as Mary Magdalene, coming into the Pharisee's house where Jesus was dining with "an alabaster box of ointment, and stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment." Knowing the Pharisee's disapproval of allowing this by a "sinner," Jesus explained: "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little."

This calls to mind the chapter on "Prayer" in *Science and Health*, "Dost thou 'love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind'? This command includes much, even the surrender of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship. This is the El Dorado of Christianity." *****

This story is the opening paragraph to Christian Science Practice in *Science and Health*. That in and of itself speaks volumes.

Before Plainfield, I didn't notice what a heart wrenching scene this was to consider. I just read it as a story with no import to me. But one day that changed.

I came face to face with my mistakes, which had driven me to my knees. At that point, I was ready to reach out with humility to God and ask forgiveness. I think at that moment, my freedom from wrong began. I knew I had to leave the past and it was Truth that I wanted and needed. You can't give someone this experience or aid them in avoiding it.

As gut wrenching as it was for me, I wouldn't trade it for the world. *****

Serve Their Own Belly

“Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”
(Rom 16:18)

During the height of an ordeal known as the “next friends suit” when it was alleged Mrs. Eddy was mentally and physically incapable of conducting business, the respected journalist Arthur Brisbane questioned her as to why the suit had been brought about. Her pointed reply was, “GREED OF GOLD, YOUNG MAN.” It has been written her analysis of what was really at work enabled her students to specifically address this metaphysically and the plaintiffs eventually withdrew their petition. Those who serve their “own belly” represent a malicious form of animal magnetism and the error is doomed to fail by its own hand; but as in this case, it must be handled directly and not go undetected. *****

“the respected journalist Arthur Brisbane questioned her as to why the suit had been brought about. Her pointed reply was, “GREED OF GOLD, YOUNG MAN.”

This is an example of the wisdom Mrs. Eddy expressed. Apparently, the instigator of the "Next Friend's Suit" was Joseph Pulitzer. A journalist looking to create a lucrative story, yes, but there had to be extreme hatred of Mrs. Eddy - to choose a woman in her late eighties!! Her son and step-son were pursued and became dupes. But if Mrs. Eddy had answered Brisbane with "It is hatred of my revelation." or "Animal magnetism, young man." it would have been held against her and put the battle in array.

Another interesting example along this line: in the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, the chapter on Healing the Sick begins with some 10 pages of warning the Science healer of what is in store for by him/her in terms of resistance to Truth, and it is not pretty! In the current edition of the textbook, as

we read in this week's lesson, the first 6 pages of Christian Science Practice describe Mary Magdalene's attitude before Jesus vs. Simon the Pharisee. She came to understand that hitting the enemy (aka carnal mind) head on produces chemicalization, a violent reaction, which causes more trouble, in practice. And so wisdom is required, and there is no more beautiful example than this, the opening of Christian Science Practice. *****

SUBJECT -GOD - 07/06/14

According to His Purpose and Grace.

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace," (11 Tim 1:9) Throughout, Paul makes a clear distinction between "the wisdom of men" and the power of Spirit - warning against the tendency to think we are something when we are actually nothing. The pompous Christian Scientist might wonder why Paul did not demonstrate more dominion - over two weeks in a hellish storm!! And yet the tone of the story indicates that Paul was "undisturbed amidst the jarring testimony of the material senses" (*Science and Health p 306*) - he was not the least bit discouraged, but had a quiet sense that God was right there. His Maker was sending him to Rome. There was no doubt in his mind that it was His purpose and grace." *****

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Paul's demonstration of that CONFIDENT, QUIET TRUST in God is most touching. This kind of trust is what I need most to hear and not doubt, even for a moment, no matter what appears to the contrary. So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith (complete confidence) in God that it will be exactly as it was told me (Acts 27:25); that sounds like the humility of the "sheep" with a pure and complete trusting reliance on the Shepherd. This is what

saves. *****

Quite An Example!

Paul was very much the expression of Divine Love on this journey! First of all, he was a prisoner on this ship, and yet he refused to hate. He predicted this destructive storm would come and no one listened to him. During the many days in which they saw "neither sun nor stars" Paul kept his focus on God and his prayers saved them all from total ruin. And even then, "the soldiers counsel was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim out, and escape." At any time, Paul could have become really, really mad – and yet he didn't. He could not be moved off point - from his understanding of and trust in God. This deep understanding and trust is what saved himself and everyone else, as well. Quite an example! *****

Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me. 36 Then were they all of good cheer, and they also took some meat. (Acts 27: 25, 36)

To be in such a situation as they were, for Paul to break through their fears says so much about the intensity of his focus, faith and understanding. His fellow prisoners didn't just "feel a bit better;" they were "of good cheer!" Paul's example must have created an atmosphere beyond what any of them had ever encountered before, helping them to see without a doubt that God would easily do what was humanly impossible.

I am so grateful for this very inspiring lesson on Paul's amazing example. *****

This is also an example of not getting mesmerized and sucked into a problem. Had Paul been mad or entertained any feelings like that he would have been separated from God, so to speak. On that ship in that storm to be separated would have been death to him and everyone aboard. He maintained his consciousness in reality thereby ensuring "God the preserver of man".*****

This particular thread reminds me of what a

wonderful mentor taught me several years ago, paraphrasing Philippians 2:5 - from "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" to "Let this **mood** be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

This week's lesson, Psalm 42, featuring the psalmist's spiritual mind battling with carnal mindedness, is also so very relevant and practical here:

"Yet the LORD will command his lovingkindness **in the daytime, and in the night** his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is . . . my God."

"I shall yet praise Him" in spite of the "cast down . . . disquieted" mood of my sense-centered thoughts allowing me to praise Him in the daytime, but arguing with all their strength against praising Him in the night.

"I shall yet praise Him" with praise that is unconditional; for I am purposed to praise Him not only in the daytime heights, but also in the nighttime depths, during those difficult times when offering thanksgiving becomes "the sacrifice of thanksgiving," and when offering praise becomes "the sacrifice of praise."

"I shall yet praise Him, who is . . . my God." I refuse to allow seemingly insurmountable, sense-derived feelings to be God, or to dominate me in the least. Moods based upon the perjurious testimony of the five senses are not "the God of my life."

"Thou art my God," not the downcast disquietude. "Thou art my God," the God Who can never be cast down or disquieted in the least, the God who has said, "beside Me there is none else." "Thou -- and Thou only -- art 'the God of my life.' "

Unchanging Truth!

God is all! I must declare this with understanding until I see Him everywhere. Watching the horrible

effects human deterioration from drug abuse in so many communities was hypnotizing, the erroneous scenes seemed so real. But when I asked myself "where is God in all this?" and the answer brought a comforting relief, that right where all this appear to be is the living God, the ever operating divine Principle, entirely separate, maintaining His own!

Science and Health p 304 speaks directly to this: It is ignorance and false belief, based on a material sense of things, which hide spiritual beauty and goodness. This is the doctrine of Christian Science: that divine Love can not be deprived of its manifestation, or object; that joy cannot be turned into sorrow, for sorrow is not the master of joy; that good can never produce evil; that matter can never produce mind nor life result in death. The perfect man — governed by God, his perfect Principle — is sinless and eternal. *****

I was praying more or less along these lines too. When aggressive suggestions come to us, as for instance physical discords, pain, sensuality, lust, anger, dismay, discouragement, despair, all the etceteras of the devil's superactive and inexhaustible fantasy reservoir, we can understand this: Anything that comes to my consciousness, and desires to be "me," to constitute my experience, my reality, if it does not come from God, it is NOT CREATED.

If it is not created, it is unreal. It is a lie, completely false. It is animal magnetism, hypnotic evil suggestion.

The "Eternal Thought," the divine Soul and Mind, even Love infinite, the thoughts of His heart, is the only creator and cause.

Whose I Am!

"For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve." I love this statement of Paul's! His unswerving devotion to God is what saved him and his men from total destruction when faced with the tempestuous wind, Euroclydon. What a wonderful lesson to remember and to live by...."whose I am, and whom I serve."!