

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 32

SUBJECT- EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT - 11/2/14

The Nations Around Us

The lesson this week is not a very pleasant one with the history of Israel's downfall. They failed to destroy and resist the false influences of the people with whom they consented to live.

I wonder to what degree Christian Scientists can or do free themselves from the general trend of mortal mind, the consciousness of the world, the generally accepted reality of the completely unreal and non-existent.

Maybe we think we do free ourselves, but I feel we could be pretty caught up in the general sweeping currents of this world, more than we realize. After all, "mortal existence is a state of self-deception." (*Science and Health*, p 403)

And *Science and Health* also teaches us that: ".....all evil combines in the belief of life, substance, and intelligence in matter...organic life..." and: "Christian Scientists must live under the constant pressure....."

I pause, read it again...constant pressure!!!

"...of the apostolic command to come out from the material world and be separate." (*Science and Health*, p. 451)

If we only could constantly realize the all-ness of God.....*****

I think the point is these imposters, all the negativity of mortal mind, would seem to affect us if we don't build a strong defense against it. Mrs. Eddy says, "Evil thoughts and aims reach no farther and do no more harm than one's belief permits. Evil thoughts, lusts, and malicious purposes cannot go forth, like wandering pollen,

from one human mind to another, finding unsuspected lodgment if virtue and truth build a strong defense." (*Science and Health*, p. 235) It is a "constant pressure" and might not always be easy – but it is well worth the effort! We can't worry about what everyone else is doing – the question is "What am I doing?"*****

What I took from this lesson is that wishy-washy faith is a recipe for disaster. I went back to the Bible to get the full context of what befell the children of Israel in the books of Joshua and Judges. The lesson says Joshua told his brethren that God would expel the Canaanites and such from before the children of Israel so that they may go in and occupy the land. However in the next book, Judges, the angel of the Lord says that, "I will not drive them out before you."

That is because the children of Israel defied the command to not mix with the Canaanites and other tribes and to not worship their gods. So the Canaanites and others remained to be a thorn in Israel's side due to their earlier disobedience. Subsequently, the children of Israel continued the cycle of doing evil, then crying out to God only to be delivered by a messenger from God.

By this time, Joshua and all the elders that were around in his time had surely passed, so they had almost collectively forgotten the great works that God had done for them. This vicious cycle is everlasting punishment indeed and exemplifies the need to stay ever vigilante and close to God, no matter the storm that rages about us. Aside from the bone headedness of the children of Israel during this time, what really struck me was God's enduring forgiveness and patience. *****

And what does this all mean to us, given Mrs. Eddy's revelation?
Are we to destroy all those who do not "know" Christian Science? Obviously not. In Science, we

are dealing with our own consciousness. What is the poisonous influence there? Personal Sense!!! If we do not expel this damnable stuff as quickly as possible, we become enslaved - "personal sense embraces sin, disease, and death" (1st Ed. *Science and Health*) EMBRACES IT!! Personal sense prevents us from understanding Truth - because it is the stuff of belief, not understanding.

A Scientist without understanding is not a Scientist. "Principle is imperative." Do I believe what is in our textbook? Do I believe what I have been taught in Christian Science? Then I am not a Scientist.

We might say we are doomed to everlasting punishment in the realm of personal sense/believing. Understanding/demonstration only is acceptable in Science. (That's why it is called Science)

This is the practical we can take from this Bible story *****

"Choke The Errors In Their Early Stages"

"Choke these errors in their early stages, if you would not cherish an army of conspirators against health, happiness, and success." (Science and Health, p. 405)

Little children know instinctively that well-being abides and well-being abounds, harmony abides and harmony abounds, perfection abides and perfection abounds, and that there is no room for anything else in the universe but the Presence of God that abides and abounds forever.

Two little children may fuss or fight together, but scarcely two minutes later, they are sharing the same lollipop, because little children feel the mood of disharmony as so uncomfortable that they will instinctively, instantaneously repent of it, naturally "choke" it, and choose better-feeling thoughts in its place. This is also because little children know joy, are joy, and live joy, the fruit of the Spirit, the well-being that alignment with God brings.

Little children feel the disorientation of misalignment in a pronounced, penetrating way, as a chastening more intense than that which the

prodigal son felt when in the "far country," far away from the Father.

Thinking the wrong thought over and over again -- as adults oftentimes do -- allows that thought to mature into a belief. This belief, persisted in, then attracts other wrong thoughts related to it, confirming its "reality."

At last, this belief matures into an inverted kind of understanding that the Bible calls "understanding darkened." The haste with which little children banish misaligning thoughts comes from the honesty with which they sense the apparent "absence" of God that results from such thinking, leading them to automatically, unconsciously follow Mrs. Eddy's inspired command to "stand porter at the door of thought," to make sure this insidious thought-process is disallowed at the very beginning (*Science and Health*, p 392).

In Mrs. Eddy's stupendous "An Allegory" (Misc. p 323), the porter is standing on one foot, completely off-balance, his faculties of discrimination divided, rendering him unable to separate truth from error.

Thus can an assertive wrong thought overwhelm the clueless, complacent porter as it gains entry into the promised land of Soul, beating its drum of self-insistence as the armies of the kingdom of personal sense occupy more and more of the sacred land over which God had long ago given man dominion.

Thus, I need to treat any thought -- no matter how small, no matter how slight -- that takes me away from that feeling of centeredness in Life, Truth, and Love as something so disordering that I immediately stop thinking it and constructively replace it, drown it out in flood-tides of spiritual thoughts: Christ-centered, Christ-elevating thoughts, thoughts of gratitude, of appreciation, mighty passages of scripture, psalms, hymns, spiritual songs, angelic thoughts of divine empowerment.

This is the essence of Christ's teachings in the Sermon on the Mount, which is God's basic training manual on the "warfare with one's self" (Misc. 118).

SUBJECT -ADAM AND FALLEN MAN-12/9/14

Rousing!

A few of the words from the Golden Text and Responsive Reading are particularly helpful in rousing me for this great lesson: Arise, shine; Awake, awake; put on thy strength; Shake thyself; Break forth into joy. This continues throughout.

Mrs Eddy warns, in one of the first watches in WPA pg. 28, that it is imperative to destroy the belief in mesmerism or there will be no Cause.

"Now will you rouse yourselves? You have all the power of God with you to conquer this lie of mesmerism. The workers in the field are not healing, because they are not meeting animal magnetism, which says they cannot heal. Will you keep your watch?"

This is the warfare with oneself and for mankind. So grateful for the literature made known on this Web site for this important work to be done. Without this instruction we could all be still fooled into believing in "fallen man." *****

I can remember early on, when struggling with an onslaught of negativity, not yet knowing how to stop its steady and accusing voice, I would work with hymn #296:

"Rouse ye, soldiers of the cross, And lift your banner high; Servants of a mighty cause, Put sloth and slumber by. Rouse ye, rouse ye, face the foe, Rise to conquer death and sin; On with Christ to victory go, O side with God, and win!" Singing it (alone!) and at the top of my voice, really helped me to face this foe, to rise up and resist the insidious lies error tries to claim are true and thus gain a victory over an unreal master! I will never forget this and still sing that hymn vigorously to this day.

The command to rise up out of the Adam dream is a very important one and one we need to face daily! *****

Webster's 1828 dictionary:

IMPER'ATIVE, a. [L. imperativus, from impero, to command. See Empire.]

1. Commanding; expressive of command; containing positive command, as distinguished from advisory, or discretionary. The orders are imperative.

2. In grammar, the imperative mode of a verb is that which expresses command, entreaty, advice or exhortation; as, go, write, attend.

A list of imperatives in this week's Bible Lesson:

Arise, Shine – Isaiah 60:1

Awake, Awake, Put on, Put on – Isaiah 52:1

Shake thyself, Arise, Sit down, – Isaiah 52:2

Break forth into joy, sing – Isaiah 52:9

The scripture is clear. It does not say "Just relax and lie limp while I, not you, ever-so-gently awaken you now. Then I, not you, will pick you up as you gradually acclimate yourself to waking consciousness. Then I, not you, will dust you off while you're yawning, looking longingly at your pillow, frowning a little, protesting at my awakening you, a little irritated at my dusting you off. Then I, not you, will take the keys of heaven and loose you from the chains of slavery around your neck. And then I, not you will put on your beautiful garments of righteousness without you having to lift a finger to cloth yourself in them. And finally, I, not you, will set you on the throne of dominion over all material conditions where you can, if you wish, slump over and go back to sleep, snoring to your heart's content, although I would advise you to try to open your eyes once in a while, just a little (but this is entirely at your own discretion, of course), My child *****

Material Man Is Shut Out From The Presence Of God!

"In divine Science, the material man is shut out from the presence of God. The five corporeal senses cannot take cognizance of Spirit. They cannot come into His presence, and must dwell in dreamland, until mortals arrive at the understanding that material life, with all its sin, sickness, and death, is an illusion, against which divine Science is engaged in a warfare of extermination. The great verities of

existence are never excluded by falsity." (*Science and Health*, p 543)

Who is this material man? You and I, if we are relying on the corporeal senses to tell us what is what.

"Things look fine," even while we ignore an uneasy feeling within. -> material man.

"He sounds good - makes sense." even while we ignore an uneasy feeling within. -> material man.

"He is annoying as hell, but I do not want to ruffle any feathers." -> material man

"We had a wonderful gathering. Everyone was lovely." with no thought of Principle at all. -> material man

Note that whether you are a Christian Scientist or not makes not a hill of beans of difference - it is whether or not you rely on the five corporeal senses...*****

I thought material man is a myth? If so, how can you or I ever be a myth? Isn't it a form of dualism to identify yourself with material man at any time?

It seems like this passage is not talking about you or me, but the belief that there is this thing called "material man". From someone without a background in CS, "material man" does not indicate a bad thing. It indicates the truth about man. I think for those who've been in the texts for a while, "material man" immediately carries warning signals and red lights! So, I wonder whether this passage is really about probing our motives and thoughts, or more about laying out the case for Science to someone who thinks "material man" is just the way it is.

That said, your examples are certainly good examples of human mind shutting out/not wanting to hear God! Your examples, like ignoring a bad feeling or not wanting to rock the boat, are more insidious (I think) than the "five corporeal senses" insofar as the corporeal senses are hearing/seeing/tasting etc., and covering over a bad situation in order to preserve harmony is a spiritual offense. *****

I thought material man is a myth? If so, how can you or I ever be a myth? Isn't it a form of dualism to identify yourself with material man at any time?

Yeah, man - a myth, like dreamland, man - really cool place to be... relying on the corporeal senses is identifying with material man and embraces dualism. *****

Okay. But how are the examples you listed "relying on the corporeal senses"? They seem to be examples of shutting out God (ignoring spiritual sense) as opposed to being shut out from God because that's the very definition of material man.

I guess what is irking me is that this passage is addressing the prevailing belief of what it means to be man, the very basis of mortal existence. And saying, hey, this mythical man is shut out from God and has nothing to do with God. Elsewhere, Mrs. Eddy addresses prevailing Christian thought like atonement. We can't just translate it into at-onement, we have to consider the context of the statement. It's kind of like talking about atonement as being at-one-ment to apply this statement to things like "ignoring a bad feeling" or trying to keep the peace without a thought of Principle. *****

Was wondering if someone would ask that. If you ignore spiritual sense, what else is there? Called personal sense in the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, later material sense/corporeal sense, etc. "Irrksome?" Good. The big problem with CSers is that they are too often familiar with text but completely missing how radical it is, and so live on in dreamland, assuming, for example, that material man is the other guy.

The previous paragraph in *Science and Health* (my other thread) should be equally "irksome," but those familiar with the text just glide over it and do not see how demanding Science is.

Material man is not a thing, but a state of thought - as such we are all susceptible until we ascend. In the meantime, we must strive: "We apprehend Life in divine Science only as we live above corporeal sense and correct it." (*Science and Health*, p. 167) *****

Eve's Apple

This morning these statements hit home.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat..."

"God made man... to reflect the divine Spirit."

How often do we justify what we are doing by the arguments of personal sense or pride and then make excuses for what we did, just like Eve?

How often am I sleeping or reflecting? *****

I noted in Genesis Chapter 3 that Adam did not merely say that his wife gave him the forbidden fruit but instead says the woman "who thou gavest to be with me", indirectly pointing the finger at God for his reason for disobedience. Similarly, the chapter opens up indicating that God created the serpent which later beguiled Eve. This tale seems to purport that God could be the author of evil as well as good. Thank goodness for Mrs. Eddy for setting the record straight. *****

Good point! Thanks. How sneaky the serpent is to get us to believe even for a moment God is the source of our problem!! *****

"God made man in His own image, to reflect the divine Spirit."

I take this to be a statement of our purpose. This is why God made us - to be His image and likeness. To be as God is. Not to be God, but to be like Him. And if I think that there is any other purpose to my being here, I'm deceiving myself. I am then the "material man" that is shut out from the presence of God. Why is it shut out? Because it is a myth, with no basis or purpose. The selfish motives, desires and aspirations that come to me are not my friend! Only when I love unconditionally, forgive eternally, and encourage only the good in others do I begin to fulfill my divine purpose, as our Father

intends. Only then can I feel the joy that no man can take away from me. *****

There are no mortal Adam and Eve, talking snakes, nor a knowledge of evil in Mind's infinity. It is pure mythology. All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation. This nasty myth tries to make God a partner in mortal delusion. And it seems to have succeeded in most of Christian theology. *****

SUBJECT – MORTALS AND IMMORTALS - 11/16/14

No Mortals

Excerpts from an Address called "Instantaneous Healing," by Doris Dufour Henty, C.S. (Mulberry Press)

Instead of praying about our troubles, we are to see them as non-existent before we begin to pray. Prayer is the sacred acknowledgement of absolute perfection already established.

Unless one accepts the suggestion, "I am a human mind with a human body," disease is impossible.

Do not try to get a more harmonious human mind, but acknowledge instead that because divine Mind is the only Mind, there is no human mind at all. If we keep a human sense of mind, we keep all the trouble there is.

The only place where discord claims to exist is in the human mind.

Instead of believing that we have to reject evil from human consciousness, we must acknowledge that there is no human consciousness. So long as you admit a human mind, you have no protection whatever against the return of those errors you have tried to dismiss.

Truth tolerates no suggestion of a human mind. The Christ-identification is forever free from personal sense. *****

Unless one accepts the suggestion, "I am a human mind with a human body," disease is impossible.

Do not try to get a more harmonious human mind, but acknowledge instead that because divine Mind is the only Mind, there is no human mind at all.

This is why I find, "All is infinite Mind and its infinite manifestation" from the Scientific Statement of Being most helpful. It is always worth checking always if I have accepted a discord as real and then praying to heal it! *****

Yes, the whole of Science is in that statement, but because we repeat it so often, it could seem to lose some of its meaning. Then we have to stay right there and work with it until its full meaning becomes once more clear and immensely powerful. *****

The main point I am trying to make with this excerpt from Doris Henty's writings, is the same as found in the Statement on body by Mrs. Eddy, namely that you cannot improve, clean, or sweep the human, carnal, mortal mind.

This opposing mind-illusion has to go. We do not get results by improving our thoughts, but be replacing them with God's thoughts.

Luke 11:24-26

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and finding none, he saith, I will return to my house whence I came out. And when he cometh he finds it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.

...lose sight of mortal selfhood to find Christ, the real man... (*Science and Health*, p.316) *****

Flesh? Spirit?

"He that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap

corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Gal. 6:8)

In the language of the 1st Edition of *Science and Health*, flesh is personal sense, Spirit is Principle. He that operates from the standpoint of personal feeling and a desire to fulfill that personal feeling will reap all kinds of trouble, whereas he who strives to hear and do the will of God, despite personal feeling, will be on the right path. The former may be popular with the world, the latter will not be! That is the cross. Take it up! - that is, if you are interested in obeying God and reaping everlasting life. *****

Speak The Word Only

Matt 8:8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

This is a beautiful example of faith becoming understanding! I remember as I took my gradual steps in understanding some of what I was learning in Science, I began to trust more. When I had to travel I was more confident that God being everywhere was real, and my family were in His care.

This is why it's important to keep growing spiritually even through the storms; it brings us to where no one can tell us $1+1 = 3$ *****

It hit me this morning how the Centurion was so far ahead of his time and how he had progressed tremendously in spiritual understanding that he knew the Christ was not limited by a physical body and his servant could be healed without Jesus actually physically being there to lay on hands per se. I never glimpsed the importance of this truth in this story before.