

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 56

SUBJECT: SOUL AND BODY 11/22/15

...Become Servants To God

6. Romans 6: 16, 17, 22 (now)

16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

22 ...now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

In the midst of all that I was servant to, in the years before coming to Plainfield, there was this constant thought: "This cannot be all I was put here to do!" Now, with Christian Science, I can see that we are here for so much more than to be caught up in family drama, paying bills, and thinking about what will happen in the next episode of a TV show. I am so grateful for all that this church has brought to my life to show me how to truly live for God and as He intended!

Your right to rebel is just; but rebel with the superb conviction that your freedom is not only assured, but manifested. You are finding your natural, normal expression in so doing. We must all attain our independence, for only thus can we best help others whom we love.

— from *Teaching and Addresses on Christian Science*, by Edward Kimball, page 108 *****

Seeking With A Whole Heart

"Blessed are they that keep His testimonies, and that seek Him with a whole heart." (Psalm 119)
Have you ever tried to do anything in a half-

hearted way?! It usually doesn't work out too well! You get blown hither and yon with all kinds of tormenting thoughts like "you should be doing something else," "turn back," "how do you know things will work out? etc. etc. For this reason (and also for many others) seeking God with your whole heart is necessary in order to stay the course. It will also result in great sense of peace, joy, security, and well-being because you will be obeying your heavenly Father. The tormenting voices will be shut down. As was read so beautifully at our meeting last night from Mrs. Eddy's article on Fidelity, "Only by persistence, unremitting, straightforward toil; by turning neither to the right nor to the left, seeking no other pursuit or pleasure than that which cometh from God, can you win and wear the crown of the faithful."! It is so well worth the on going effort to do this!! *****

Apply It To Yourself

One of the early workers referred to Science and Health as "your biography". In other words, it is all about you! And the book should be studied in this manner. Take a sentence and let it apply to you. For instance, in our lesson this week on page 307, "The divine Mind is the Soul of man (me!), and gives man (me!) dominion over all things. Man (I!) was not created from a material basis, nor bidden to obey material laws which Spirit never made; his (my!) province is in spiritual statutes, in the higher law of Mind." Isn't wonderful to think about yourself in this light?! So remember, the references made about "man" do not refer to some other person – they refer directly to you!! *****

Walk By Faith, Not By Sight

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians) Here, Paul is addressing the members of the Corinth church who are learning to trust their spiritual sense, and not trust in their material senses. This is a fundamental point in Christian Science.

The material senses can't tell us anything about that which is real or true.

When you hear someone speak eloquently and persuasively, what does your spiritual sense tell you? Is it true or not?

When you are presented with a great job opportunity, what does your spiritual sense tell you? Is this God's plan for you? Will this bring you closer to God? Or is it a trap to take you away from God?

When you see a beautiful meal, a beautiful car, house, person, etc., what does your spiritual sense tell you? Does it bring you closer to God? Or is it the devil trying to tempt you away from God?

The material senses don't know a thing. They are easily deceived and deceiving. Man's spiritual sense is never wrong. That is why, in Christian Science, we learn to walk by faith, not by sight. *****

Thanks for your post. Gaining spiritual sense has to be our salvation, since without it we are really blind and deaf. *****

"... Ye Have Obeyed From The Heart..."

"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you." Rom. 6:17

I think this is a reminder that when we find Truth, to let it go deep into our hearts, with a great sense of love for God, and let it take root. Just trying to understand Truth intellectually doesn't work—the human mind can never get it. If we try to obey from that standpoint, we'll do things out of a sense of duty or obligation, or because we feel it's expected of us—the letter without the Spirit. But when Truth is deep within our hearts, we obey from the greatest sense of love and deep gratitude to God, and we are lifted out of "servitude to an unreal master." That obedience is rewarded and blessed. *****

Enmity Against God

"The carnal mind is enmity against God." Romans

Carnal - Pertaining to flesh; fleshly; sensual; opposed to spiritual.

Enmity – The quality of being an enemy; the opposite of friendship; ill will; hatred; unfriendly disposition.

Being in the carnal mind is not a little thing. It is hatred against God. Opposition. We must strive moment by moment not to express the human mind. This is the work of a lifetime. *****

This is the key to understanding. The divine consciousness, God's Self-awareness is All, is REALITY. The carnal, human sense of consciousness must be completely false, the enemy to reality. There is nothing else but Mind, no physical body or universe. Just consciousness. Either the one and only real Mind, or the delusion. All of us are still working out the transition. The physical senses are the only source of error or evil, Mrs. Eddy wrote.

The well-known teacher, Dr. John Tutt, wrote that material, personal sense is the only devil there is. I feel it takes a constant yielding, praying, a humble allowing God to take over. *****

Present With the Lord

II Corinthians 5

6. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord:

Home: The present state of existence.

Body: Matter, as opposed to spirit.

8. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.

Thanks to all that I am learning, it's my understanding that being present with the Lord is a continuous practice to "turn from the lie of false

belief to Truth” (S&H citation 4 p.369). It’s most helpful to affirm God as my mind and the *only* mind each morning and to ask the questions, is this what God is saying, is this from God, is this what God wants, etc. throughout the day. This reminds me to keep God first and to keep my communication with Him “In whom we live, move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). *****

SUBJECT: THANKSGIVING 11/26/2015

THANK GOD!!

Yes, thank God for everything. I cannot say that enough. Thank God for the small glimpse of what is real. At least it tells me that something else has the **ONLY** power there **IS** or can be and **THAT** is saying a lot. Very grateful for Christian Science!

I am grateful that Christian Science is giving me the understanding and love to be grateful for all things. This lesson has shown me that not only am I to be grateful to God for all He has given me, but also — as this next statement says — to be grateful for all that everyone has!

6. Deuteronomy 26 : 11

11 And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the LORD thy God hath given unto thee, and unto thine house, thou, and the Levite, and the stranger that is among you.

It is because of how much divine Love gives to all that we have such a wonderful universe to live in. Even as last week’s lesson mentioned, the birds and the flowers that bring us joy are proof of the abundance of God.

There is much thanks for me to give every day! ***

Amen, amen, amen! Christian Science is the pearl of great price, for which I am very grateful. "Every good thing" in my life, I owe to Christian Science and to God. *****

"All These Blessings Shall Come On Thee."

"All these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God." -- when I obey God, and always listen to His voice, this is the promise that will come to me:

"Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field." -- I will be safe no matter where I am.

"Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep." -- Health will be mine, and to all that is mine.

"Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store." -- I will not lack for anything; infinite supply of all good is mine.

"Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out." (Webster 1828: to come in - to mature or grow. to go out - to issue forth) -- I will grow in peace and emanate this forth to all I come in contact with; there will be no confusion in my thought; no coming or going, nor ups nor downs, but steady spiritual growth. *****

....And Thou Shalt Rejoice

“And thou shalt rejoice in every good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee ...” (Deut.)

When we think of all the beauty God has given to mankind — the beautiful sky, grass, flowers, mountains, oceans, animals — how could we not rejoice in them and thank Him every day? But sometimes we take them for granted, or we get so involved in our “busy days” that we don’t even notice them.

Even during our “busy days,” are we awake to know that God’s hand is behind everything that works out well? That’s also a “good thing which the Lord thy God hath given unto thee.” So let’s remind ourselves (myself included!) to thank God often

during the day, and rejoice in, and fully appreciate, “every good thing.” This sounds to me like another commandment: “thou shalt rejoice”! *****

It came to me this morning that gratitude is not a chore. Being in such a state of mind that I needed that thought, it must be time to simply remember my blessings. I can certainly do that and am doing it now. *****

SUBJECT – ANCIENT AND MODERN

11/29/15

Personification of Evil

“Paul refers to the personification of evil as ‘the god of this world’”. The evil intent is to fear the appearance of evil, as evil people, and thereby worship it or give evil credibility. The example of Hezekiah is most admirable, who did not respond personally to the evil taunts and malicious threats, but rather “spread it before the Lord”. He also continued to pray, acknowledging that God alone was the God of “all the kingdoms of the earth”. This powerful truth strips error of its disguise, and makes it ripe for its own destruction. *****

The Malicious Form

“The malicious form of hypnotism ultimates in moral idiocy.” This sentence has arrested my attention. To break it down and to dissect it would mean that when one indulges in extreme hatred, it results in sleep, a narcotic state where one becomes an idiot not knowing right from wrong and departing from the laws of God. This is why Mrs. Eddy emphatically states in her masterpiece of an article, “Love Your Enemies,” “Hate no one; for hatred is a plague-spot that spreads its virus and kills at last. If indulged, it masters us; brings suffering upon suffering to its possessor, throughout time and beyond the grave. If you have been badly wronged forgive and forget...” During this holy-day season when there can be a tendency to get humanly busy or to become entrenched in some family drama, it is well to remember this warning and let all our thoughts and actions be

motivated by Love. Emmanuel – God with us!

Thank you so much for this post, and this reminder!

In the past, I have been repeatedly caught off guard when entering into family situations, and soon found myself angry about something. Learning about Christian Science has started to put an end to that, as I am beginning to truly understand the importance of the one Mind. I must no longer succumb to the temptation to mindlessly go through any portion of life.

Christian Science, as I am learning here, gives me the ability to express God by bringing blessings to every situation. In fact, I am now realizing that if something goes wrong, it is because I wasn’t active in Truth, and therefore unable to bring forth any blessings.

This helps me to understand why my practitioner has told me often to actively use my Science, and let my Christ go before me at all times! Thank you! The following has helped me, and feels right to share here:

Jesus is to us an educational exhibit of the Christ overcoming temptation. He is the manifestation of a sense that takes cognizance of materiality, and being endowed with Spirit, anointed with wisdom, overcomes it. The essence lies in the Mind which is in Christ, in the activity, power and presence of Christ, destroying error. Activity always does something; it destroys error. A right idea is always Christ “coming to the flesh to destroy incarnate error.” Every right idea is a saving idea; it saves from the wrong belief. For every wrong belief there is always a saving Christ. The process of activity of right ideas is your salvation. The science of salvation lies in the spiritual idea, which comes educating and transforming the mentality of mankind.
— from Teaching and Addresses on Christian Science, by Edward Kimball. *****

The Plots Of Wily Men

“He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that

their hands cannot perform their enterprise.” Job 5:12 Moffatt says, “He foils the plots of wily men, til they win no success.”

This is what the Bible study, Roundtable, Unity Watches and services at the Plainfield Church are doing - “foiling the plots of wily men,” not person, but error. We are learning to uncover evil and to strip the error of suppositional strength. There is one power, God. Praying with hope that God will take care of error is not enough. We need to strip error of its mask and to apply the Truth and to foil all evil attacks on mankind. Error is opposing the Truth and trying to destroy Christianity. IT CANNOT BE DONE!

Thank God for raising up the Plainfield Church and the unity of all the members. Thank you practitioners for the teaching we have received and are being taught on how to apply Christian Science. *****

“We are learning to uncover evil and to strip the error of suppositional strength.”

What the Truth Will Do
IDA G. STEWART.

January 20, 1906 Christian Science Sentinel

"It was nearing the Christmas holidays some five or six years ago, when I was hastily summoned to see a sick child. Upon reaching the home I found a little girl, perhaps six years of age, tossing on her pillow in delirium. The family was too frightened to tell me anything of the particulars of the case further than that she had been in this distressing condition for twenty-four hours.

I seated myself at the bedside, and as I listened to the incoherent talk of the little sufferer I perceived that she was believing in Santa Claus, was fearing and dreading him; that the strife, envy, and anxiety of Christmas gifts, were poisoning the child's thought, were polluting the sweetness and innocency which were hers by divine right. Although she was delirious, I explained to her audibly that Santa Claus and the wonderful reindeer, with their mysterious ability to intrude themselves upon her by descending the chimney, were myths; that it was divine Love reflected in love that brought her the gifts at Christmas time,

and that her parents and friends were the avenues through which she received them. I also told her that we celebrate the twenty-fifth of December in commemoration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, "that Godlike and glorified man" (Science and Health, p. 54); that Christmas signifies the birth of the true idea of God—the Christ—in human consciousness; that this dear Christ is God's gift to the world, by means of which we may understand the Father and be free from all evil and strife. By the time I had reached this point the child was lying quietly on her pillow, regarding me, her eyes opened wide with joyous wonder, and the fever and the delirium had gone.

The subject was presented to her at greater length, she asking and answering questions; the fever abated, the frightened breathing and cough ceased; and in an hour from the time that I took seat beside her bed she arose, well!

Christmas, in Christian Science, stands for the real, the absolute and eternal, -the things of Spirit, not matter. Science is divine; it hath no partnership with human means and ends, no half-way stations, nothing conditional or material belongs to it. The basis of Christmas is the Rock, Christ Jesus; its fruits, inspiration and spiritual understanding of joy and rejoicing; not because of tradition, usage, or corporeal pleasures, but because of fundamental and demonstrable truth, the heaven within us."*****

This is such a touching testimony and certainly corresponds with the following article by Mrs. Eddy - “Christmas for the Children.” It would also help explain why sometimes little children do get sick at this time of year – their dear little innocent souls cannot abide all the materialism and – as this article brings out, the deceit that goes on all in the name of Christmas!

CHRISTMAS FOR THE CHILDREN BY MARY BAKER EDDY

Methinks the loving parents and guardians of youth oft-times query: How shall we cheer the children's Christmas and profit them withal? The wisdom of their elders, who seek wisdom of God, seems to have amply provided for this, according to the custom of the age and to the full supply of juvenile joy. Let it continue thus with one exception: the children should not be taught to believe that Santa

Claus has aught to do with this pastime. A deceit or falsehood is never wise. Too much cannot be done towards guarding and guiding well the germinating and inclining thought of childhood. To mould aright the first impressions of innocence, aids in perpetuating purity and in unfolding the immortal model, man in His image and likeness. St. Paul wrote, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, . . . but when I became a man, I put away childish things."

Pleasant View, Concord, N. H. December 28, 1905

Remove The Mask

Thanks to the lesson writer for a very powerful lesson, so on point for this "season."

This is the time error hides behind the mask of "Flu season," "The holidays," etc. when we are supposed to have certain expectations; plus they pose as that relative, feeling lonely, fearful, depressed.

Error hides behind these beliefs, or appears as someone, something, some where attempting to disrupt our peace. But the Lesson says:

Science and Health, 447: 20-22, 24-27

Expose and denounce the claims of evil and disease in all their forms, but realize no reality in them. . . . To put down the claim of sin, you must detect it, remove the mask, point out the illusion, and thus get the victory over sin and so prove its unreality.

Also, I found the message from Isaiah to be very instructive: "Be not afraid of the words which thou hast heard..."

An evil threat is always an empty threat, because there is no God in it. When I see clearly and trust only the Truth, the evil threat has no power over me. The only hope of evil is to get you to believe that the threat has power, and in doing so, you give it the only power it has.

This is how hypnotism works. The human mind

will come up with some theory, people will begin to believe it, and then it becomes a law to them.

Whether in medicine, politics, or religion, this is how the human mind, so-called, enslaves mankind. Our only salvation is to cling steadfastly to the truth, which removes the mask. Our battle is not with people, but with false, hypnotic beliefs. Hezekiah saw this clearly, and in seeing it clearly, saved the nation. *****

"Hezekiah Prayed Before The Lord..."

"Hezekiah went up into the house (the consciousness) of the Lord, and...prayed before the Lord."

I love this story of Hezekiah. Matthew Henry writes: "This history exhibits a strong proof of the good of firm trust and confidence in God." *****

I think it's really important to note that his prayer was a righteous prayer. He prayed not only for the people of Jerusalem, who were under attack, but for all mankind.

"I beseech thee, save thou us out of his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the Lord God, even thou only."

His motive for praying to God was not just to save his life, or even the lives of everyone in Jerusalem, but to demonstrate to the entire world that God is the only God. This is the unselfed love that Mrs. Eddy tells us is required for Christian healing.

From our textbook: "Love for God and man is the true incentive in both healing and teaching." (p. 454) To me, this means that it is not enough to call a practitioner (or pray to God) for help just to get myself well (bodily, financially, etc.) but my incentive for calling a practitioner or praying to God for help must be to get closer to God and live a more God-like life so that my life will show others who and what God is and what God does for his creation. That is Christian Science healing. Anything else is faith healing, which is no better than hypnotism.