

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT- CHRISTIAN SCIENCE-12/27/15

THE LIGHT

I was very struck by the Golden text in the Lesson which mentions "light" twice, as well as Mrs Eddy's reference to "the Beam" and the "guiding star of being"

I looked up the definition of "Light" in Webster's 1828 dictionary which we know Mrs. Eddy used. It said,

"That flood of luminous rays which flows from the sun and constitutes day."

and "star" is defined as:

"An apparently small luminous body in the heavens, that appears in the night, or when its light is not obscured by clouds or lost in the brighter effulgence of the sun. Stars are fixed or planetary. The fixed stars are known by their perpetual twinkling, and by their being always in the same position in relation to each other. The planets do not twinkle, and they revolve about the sun. The stars are worlds, and their immense numbers exhibit the astonishing extent of creation and of divine power". *****

That is beautiful! It brings to mind God's glory, which was in last week's Golden text, as well as this week's. I love to keep the sense of God's (magnificence, splendor) glory, in mind; it helps to appreciate all good and do all good for His glory.

When I make my whole purpose about showing God's glory, pretty soon error becomes so small in thought and vanishes.

"Too soon we cannot turn from disease in the body to find disease in the mortal mind and its cure in working for God." Misc. p. 343: 5-7

Apparently the word "light" is mentioned 166 times in S and H and 235 times in the Bible....

Here are some of my favorites:

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Matthew 4:16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Matthew 5:14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

John 1:5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. *****

It's just fascinating to me how Isaiah, the highest Christly thought of his time, foresaw the coming of Jesus (a great light!) several generations later. It's as though he knew what the world needed and that the world wasn't ready for it yet.

Then Jesus, the Master, gave to the world what it was ready for, but then foresaw the Comforter. He told his disciples, "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now." He also knew what the world needed, and knew that it was not ready for the science yet.

When Mrs. Eddy discovered the Science of Christianity, she recognized it as the Comforter Jesus had prophesied, making it the final revelation of God to his creation. The Jewish "Messiah" has already fulfilled his mission. Jesus is not going to appear again in person, as many believe. We live in an exciting time. We have the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, in our very hands. Our great duty and privilege is to learn the Science and live it. *****

Error Is Without Intelligence or Reality

"The exterminator of error is the great Truth that God, good, is the only Mind, and that the supposititious opposite of infinite Mind — called devil or evil — is not Mind, is not Truth, but error, without intelligence or reality."

Intelligence means with understanding. Error is without intelligence or reality. It is dumb, a liar, and isn't real. Why do we listen to its lies? It doesn't say anything useful or helpful. It tries to pull us down. Error doesn't know anything!

We have the remedy. Replace these lies with the Truth and they exterminate the error. Exterminate means to destroy utterly; to drive away. It wipes out our belief in its reality. When it says, "I am sick" we can replace it with "God made man perfect." When it says, "we don't have time," we can replace it with, "I have time to do what God wants me to do." It is simple to wipe out the error because it is unreal and powerless! God, good, is the only Mind.

Thank God for Christian Science. *****

Two Reasons

"Only those quarrel with her method who do not understand her meaning, or discerning the truth, come not to the light lest their works be reprov'd." (S&H) Christian Science is truly the "pearl of great price" and here Mrs. Eddy lays out why anyone might reject it and there are only two reasons - the person either does not understand it or he is indulging in an error he does not want to give up. So, if you find someone resisting the Truth, trace it back to the delusional cause - realize animal magnetism has no power to keep anyone hoodwinked from finding their true relationship with the Father! *****

Thank you for this. It goes along with a recent Watch, in which it said, "...in reality all are Christian Scientists." This is the truth about man, and our (my) job is to handle the lie, and see it now!

Thank you for the transforming truths found in the Lesson, and all the Watches. *****

Yes, it is easy to go along and affirm that someone is resistant; but it is more helpful to see the truth about man and work from that viewpoint as Christ Jesus did.

I have found that at times this appearing stubborn attitude is due to some educational bias that one deems superior knowledge. Mrs Eddy says: The unbiased Christian thought is soonest touched by Truth, and convinced of it. *Science and Health*, p. x

The recognition that we do not know everything and the willingness to listen and obey avails much! Matt 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for their's is the kingdom of heaven. And nothing is impossible to God. Saul became Paul! *****

Evil Can Have No Place, Where All Space Is Filled With God.

"Evil can have no place, where all space is filled with God." (*Science and Health*)

When we begin to see the magnitude, the enormity of God filling all space, we realize there is no room for anything else! It's like when light comes into a dark room through even a small crack, it fills the whole room with brightness, and there is no darkness left anywhere. The light doesn't struggle to be seen, it just shines, and illumines every corner. The darkness—evil—instantly dissolves because it is nothing. It has no substance, no life, no energy, no force—no God—and can't do a thing. Like Peter's song, let's "Face the Light"!! **

Thank you. I use this phrase all the time and was so happy to read it in the lesson on CHRISTIAN SCIENCE. I think about this with my family, and especially with my grandchildren. Wherever they are...playing sports, in school, driving, and at home. I also think about it with our watches and send this Truth out to all mankind. It is very comforting to lean on this Truth. *****

Pitch-Darkness

The Christmas Service touched me deeply, hymn 222 and the readings from Isaiah were very

moving. I wept for joy.

I see now the "world" or "mankind" as crawling around in the pitch-dark dome, a mental, spiritual darkness. But then, suddenly, the dome cracked open, and a thin ray of light burst through! The birth of the baby Jesus signified the first humble ray of light into a lost world.

It is still very dark, but do we now we have a suspicion that there may be light somewhere? NO! More even: We know that outside this dome of mortal mind, of falsehoods and false thinking, ALL IS LIGHT! There is nothing else!

God, Who hath also sealed us, and given us the earnest (the guarantee, assurance) of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor. 1:22.)

Reality is all light, no darkness is there. Outside of the self-imposed dome of darkness, all is light. What can WE possible do to allow in more light? We cannot enlarge the crack in the dome, but we can allow the light to be brighter in us. Let the Christ-child be born in us every day. *****

SUBJECT- GOD - 1/3/15

Working Out From God

“In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry. His origin is not, like that of mortals, in brute instinct, nor does he pass through material conditions prior to reaching intelligence.” S&H

As a child, I thought I had to be good, love and do the best I could and then when I died I would be like God, if I did a good job here on Earth. Coming to this church taught me we do not work up to God, we work out from God, perfection. We don't have to pass through material conditions to reach intelligence. We are already there. It makes living the truth easier, working out from God, than climbing up to God, which was an uphill battle.

Thank you for this wonderful Lesson. *****

Spirit

"There is but one real attraction that of Spirit. The pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind." (*Science and Health*, p. 102).

This statement in Mrs. Eddy's explanation of animal magnetism is so clear and direct. One cannot fear, or be easily drawn away, when we have her wonderful Christian Science to hold onto. *****

To Believe

I checked out the Greek and Hebrew words for "to believe" in my Strong's. The Greek synonyms include: to have faith, to give credit, to commit to the charge of, entrust. There is a mental persuasion, opinion.

In the Hebrew the word for believe is "aman" and the same word is used for "to turn to the right" or "to go to the right hand."

So when Jesus told his disciples-fishermen to cast the net on the right hand, he actually told them to believe. The Hebrew synonyms seem to include: to build up, support, foster, render, to be firm, trust, to be permanent.

TO KNOW THAT WHICH IS *****

Thank you. I always understood believe as used in the Bible to mean, have faith with understanding, so it is good to have these expanded meanings. Gives the word more for us to work with. *****

Wow! Such good and interesting messages coming from the Forum already. And it's only Monday! Thank you! I always felt that "to believe" meant (to me, at least), "to KNOW" Anyway, I am thankful for this great lesson and the clear message it sends to parents, or anyone who guides, or is entrusted to children. Thank you again to the Lesson Writer. I found this a refreshing approach on the subject: GOD. *****

“Part of our teaching here was to memorize certain definitions Mrs. Eddy gives in *Science and Health*, one being the word - “BELIEVING. Firmness and constancy; not a faltering nor blind faith, but the

perception of spiritual Truth. Mortal thoughts, illusion.” (p. 582) This goes along with the definitions given by Jacob which I found so enlightening. So often I have thought I knew the definition of a word, but what I thought I knew was sometimes very superficial. The borders of my books are now filled with definitions of various words. Thank you very much for these posts! ****

Out Of The Hand Of The Wicked

Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. Ps. 71:4

Reading this passage today, I realized that “wicked, ...unrighteous and cruel man” was not another person: It was who I was when I embraced error fully. I didn’t — and don’t — need to be saved from other people, it is mortal mind that is the enemy and what I need to be delivered from. Only with Christian Science would I have ever even begun to understand this impersonal nature of good, and the nothingness of evil. Thank you! ****

Nothing Unworthy Of Perpetuity

“Is not the propagation of the human species a greater responsibility, a more solemn charge, than the culture of your garden or the raising of stock to increase your flocks and herds? Nothing unworthy of perpetuity should be transmitted to children.” This was a statement given to me by a practitioner before the birth of our first child. How important it is to make sure, when dealing with children, we transmit to them only what will bring them closer to the Father. They are already so innocent and pure - they love to hear the Truth being told and respond to it being lived. On that same page in *Science and Health* (61), Mrs. Eddy also states, “What hope of happiness, what noble ambition, can inspire the child who inherits propensities that must either be overcome or reduce him to a loathsome wreck?” The care of children is indeed a solemn charge and to remember first and foremost that God is their Father-Mother and it is He alone to rely on for guidance. We are not frightened caregivers battling about on our own! God is our Creator and He governs His universe for He is All-in-all! *****

I have found this to be exactly true, and since coming to Plainfield I have become a better caregiver, and a better grandmother, in general. Now, I constantly pray to be listening for God's guidance with every interaction I have with the children whether driving them, playing, or having a conversation. Thank you. *****

Teaching Your Children

What greater blessing can we give to the world than to leave with the next generation a love and respect for the ways of God. Talking to children and reading God’s word definitely has its place. It has been my experience that children learn more by observation. They watch your every move. They listen to conversations with others and observe the resulting actions. Hence the importance of an example of someone who honestly strives to follow the divine leading as best they see it. *****

Our Ancestry

“In Science man is the offspring of Spirit. The beautiful, good, and pure constitute his ancestry.” (*Science and Health*)

Since our ancestry is the “beautiful, good, and pure,” we can’t experience any so-called “inherited” diseases, or any weaknesses or habits from our parents, grandparents, etc.—because their ancestry is the “beautiful, good, and pure,” too! So where could these possibly come from? Nowhere!! They have no origin.

As far back as we can trace our ancestry, in Truth, all we will find is “the beautiful, good, and pure.” And this is also the only thing we can pass on to our children. !

So there is no excuse to indulge any frailty that we may blame on Aunt Lucy’s alcoholism, or Uncle George’s heart disease—if it’s not “the beautiful, good, and pure,” it’s not part of our inheritance (or our "DNA"!) and we can vigorously reject it! We’re the “offspring of Spirit,” in Truth, not one of our ancestors was ever anything less.