

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 70

SUBJECT: Christian Science – June 26th, 2016

Our Vocation

Christian Science

I first read Science and Health With Key to The Scriptures when I was 18 yrs. old. I was raised in another denomination and my first healing occurred while visiting a home of Christian Scientists. In *Science and Health*, p 558. It states: “To mortal sense Science seems at first obscure, abstract and dark; but a bright promise crowns its brow.” I struggled with understanding, but something that God did wouldn’t let me give up. I was always brought back to Christian Science and here I am today at Plainfield surrounded by love, understanding of God, support, and comfort.

Illumination of the Spiritual Senses

“Only by the illumination of the spiritual sense, can the light of understanding be thrown upon this Science, because Science reverses the evidence before the material senses and furnishes the eternal interpretation of God and man.” *Science and Health* Once again Mrs. Eddy brings out the importance of cultivating spiritual sense – which is the ability to see and hear and feel God’s presence. It is a God-given ability but can be easily overridden by the aggressive testimony of the material senses if not watched against. Take time often to “Be still, and know that I am God.” (Psalms) Listen to what that inner voice is telling you. Study the Bible and our textbook. You will find your spiritual sense being illuminated – growing stronger and clearer as you value and cherish its unerring direction. *****

“To pursue other vocations and advance rapidly in the demonstration of this Science, is not possible.”
Science and Health

To me, this means to always remember what our vocation is—it’s to serve God, to glorify, or express God in everything we do, no matter what it is. We all have to do other things and jobs to go to, but to keep God first and foremost in our thought, we won’t slide down into mere human duties.

There is a wonderful article in the June Newsletter called “Pray Without Ceasing” that tells of a maid who found what that means. She says, “When I begin to work, I pray that I may have strength equal to my day; when I kindle the fire, I pray that God’s work may revive my heart; as I begin to sweep out the house, I pray that my heart may be cleaned from all its impurities; when I am preparing and partaking of the breakfast, I desire to be fed with the sincere milk of the Word.” That’s our one vocation!

Thank you! As we learn at Plainfield, “Christian Science is not an exception to the general rule, that there is no excellence without labor in a direct line. One cannot scatter his fire, and at the same time hit the mark.” The longer I’m at Plainfield, the more I understand that to pursue other vocations is impossible in doing the work for God and the world, for which I am very grateful. To have this purpose is the greatest gift God could offer me. ***

Not long after arriving at Plainfield, there was a lesson which included Christ Jesus saying, in Matthew 6:24, “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”

At the time, I came to see that I need to make sure I am not loyal to person, but to God. Since then, however, I've thought and prayed on that a lot, wondering if there was more to it. Then this week, we have the following citation from Science and Health:

8. 457 : 19-24

Christian Science is not an exception to the general rule, that there is no excellence without labor in a direct line. One cannot scatter his fire, and at the same time hit the mark. To pursue other vocations and advance rapidly in the demonstration of this Science, is not possible.

This had me look up the Webster's 1828 Dictionary definition:

VOCATION, noun [Latin vocatio, from voco, to call. See Voice.]

- 1. Among divines, a calling by the will of God; or the bestowment of God's distinguishing grace upon a person or nation, by which that person or nation is put in the way of salvation; as the vocation of the Jews under the old dispensation, and of the Gentiles under the gospel.**
- 2. Summons; call; inducement.**
- 3. Designation or destination to a particular state or profession.**
- 4. Employment; calling; occupation; trade; a word that includes professions as well as mechanical occupations. Let every divine, every physician, every lawyer, and every mechanic, be faithful and diligent in his vocation.**

Then it became clear: Mrs. Eddy isn't saying I need to not have a trade, but that my activities must be directed by God alone. I've been able to prove this to myself, as I know that in playing guitar, I cannot heed the calling of music theory and inspiration simultaneously. While working on the church Web site, I cannot worry about industry trends and what spiritual sense is telling me is right. I cannot even write this post by both being honest to my own understanding and what I think someone else might want to hear.

I am grateful to know that Christian Science is crucial in all areas of Life, not just in part. Knowing that living and working rightly gain the

promise of "the bestowment of God's distinguishing grace upon" us is such a blessing. Thank you for this lesson! *****

Let Your Light So Shine

This week's lesson brought home to me the importance of being un-selfed. To be working for the glory of God in all I do. It is easy to be selfish and focus on one's personal problems and everyday life, in general. I see this selfishness as absorbing the mortal picture. As quoted in our lesson this week, Jesus tells us to, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." To me this is telling us we should be radiating.

"... by constantly sending forth thoughts of Love, Life, and Truth, whenever a delusion of their opposites presents itself... Am I radiating good or am I absorbing evil?" From the article Radiation and Absorption

"She (Mary Baker Eddy) discovered and passed on to us, as a priceless boon won through costly struggles, the knowledge that only as we find our happiness and our true spiritual destiny in receiving the things of God and giving them out to humanity, do we approach the divine standard."

Mary Baker Eddy Her Spiritual Footsteps by Carpenter Sr., Gilbert; Carpenter Jr., Gilbert

From this week's Daily Watch "47-WATCH lest you endeavor to apply the scientific process of Christian Science with the notion that it will operate successfully with one's thought turned in. It is a Science; it is exact and its rules must be rightly obeyed. One of its rules is that we must have unselfish and lofty motives..operates when thought is un-selfed and turned out to bless all mankind." 500 Watching Points by Carpenter Sr., Gilbert

Lofty: Elevated or noble in condition or character.

From Darkness to Light

Isaiah 42: 16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that

they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight.

Why remain in any darkness when the promise of that great Light is fulfilled. This light SH p. 558 says..... it has for you a light above the sun, for God "is the light thereof." Yes, Light that NEVER even dims! *****

Thank you—wonderful! And I also love the end of the verse that says, "These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them." No matter how long we may have been in that darkness, God will never forsake us. Anyone who reaches out for the Light will find it—it's there for everyone! *****

SUBJECT –God – July 3rd, 2016

God as the Divine Principle

Science and Health, p.275. To grasp **the reality and order of being** in its Science, you must begin by reckoning God as the divine Principle of all that really is. Spirit, Life, Truth, Love, combine as one, — and are the Scriptural names for God.

Once again we are reminded of our Principle; we are working to realize our perfection as God's image and likeness (as our true being). If we are not working this way, we are wrong from the outset! *****

To support this Truth, we also have what Science and Health states on page 19:29 "Jesus urged the commandment, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," Which may be rendered: Thou shalt have no belief of Life as mortal; thou shalt not know evil, for there is one Life,-even God, good." *****

The God-principle

"The God-principle is omnipresent and omnipotent. God is everywhere, and nothing apart from Him is present or has power." (*Science and Health*). This statement is a powerful way to begin your morning; it is a powerful way to begin your watch and also to end your watch. The physical senses would try

to bombard us with the belief that God is not omnipresent and omnipotent, so it is important to remain poised and unimpressed by error's false appearance. Mrs. Eddy began each day in her household with a unity watch in which they were all to handle the belief of fear. The workers in her home were to root out any belief that would claim God is not all power and all presence. This was essential for her to accomplish the vast amount of work she needed to do. Her home was a refuge from the storm. Work daily for yourself and your household in this way. If faithful, you will begin to see grand results. As was read at our testimony meeting this past Wednesday, "No evidence before the material senses can close my eyes to the scientific proof that God, good is supreme."! (Misc. p. 277)

Seeking God

While reading the Lesson I noticed in Psalms 9:10: And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou LORD, hast not forsaken them that seek thee. I remember also reading that Mrs. Eddy said that we must not just seek God, but must strive! I was happy to see this idea mentioned in Science and Health on page 21:9 – If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. Let us STRIVE together to Love our merciful God first and to love His creation.

To strive: to make great efforts to achieve or obtain something, fight vigorously, endeavor, aim, exert oneself, do one's best, labor, work. *****

Yes, striving is so important, and provides us 100% employment along the way!

Thank you for this reminder to strive, not just seek. "Going the extra mile..." *****

Thank you. And unless we ever believe that this striving is just too much work or too hard to sustain, let's not forget why we are instructed to do so. From Deuteronomy: "And the Lord commanded us to do all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, FOR OUR GOOD ALWAYS, that he might preserve us alive, as it is at this day."

This work is not for God's benefit. He may be a jealous God, but he is certainly not a selfish God. This work is for our own benefit, "that he might preserve us alive." We are the ones who benefit when we strive to know God better and to obey him every minute of every day. It may seem like a challenging discipline at times, but it's worth it, as we are discovering. God is the most loving, forgiving Father. We should feel that love when we strive to seek God. He is not a hard task-master. He is Love. *****

How Long Halt Ye Between Two Opinions?

4. I Kings 18

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word.

23 Let them therefore give us two bullocks; and let them choose one bullock for themselves, and cut it in pieces, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under: and I will dress the other bullock, and lay it on wood, and put no fire under:

33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.

35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

39 And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.

Elijah's complete faith that God can overcome any obstacle is so inspiring! I had myself in a humanly impossible situation, drowning in decades of ungodly behavior, and essentially in a blink God changed it all and brought me here. I marvel over it quite often still, as humanly there seemed to be no solution.

Also, it is a good reminder to me that I don't need to "prepare the way" or "make it easy" for God to work. To do that is to still be halting between two opinions. I need to work within my own consciousness to completely realize His Allness, and trust that His work will be done in His time. *****

What struck me here is that you allowed the old stuff to completely burn away, just as any doubt was burned away on the altar, even the water was licked up!

So many people wallow in their past, ruminate, and what a waste of time that is. We are taught to never forget how far we've come, but we have no time to waste on the past because there is so much of God's glory to experience and share in the NOW, as you say, "completely realizing His allness" and trusting His perfect plan. Hallelujah! *****

Everyone His Own Physician

Science and Health, p. 144. When the Science of being is universally understood, every man will be his own physician, and Truth will be the universal panacea.

Truth as the universal panacea, means even now, the Truth I have made my own must be used immediately as error tries with its false beliefs! Mankind's true liberty is already here, it has been here for over 100 years; the little we can do to help others know and understand it is very much needed. *****

The thought that "every man will be his own physician" arrested my attention this week as well. I think it is fair to say, no one ever really likes going to the doctor or to the hospital, so what a wonderful Truth – to know we can be our own physician acknowledging God as the universal answer to all our ills. It corresponds to what Mrs. Eddy writes on pages 462-463 in *Science and Health*. "Anatomy, when conceived of spiritually, is mental self-knowledge, and consists in the dissection of thoughts to discover their quality, quantity, and origin. Are thoughts divine or human? That is the important question. This branch of study is

indispensable to the excision of error....” We can do our own mental anatomy and root out offending errors, before and even after they take form in some mesmeric belief called sin, disease, or death. God is the Great and Only Physician and we can trust Him to make us every whit whole!!

I, too, paused at this awesome sentence “When the Science of being is universally understood, every man will be his own physician, and Truth will be the universal panacea.” As the reflections of God, the “Great and Only Physician” as stated above, then yes, we’ll reflect that too!

It is understood by holistic health practitioners that fear and stress bring on dis-ease, and that these negative factors can be alleviated by a change in thought that will then be felt in the body. So Christian Science has had a profound effect on enlightened medicine quietly being practiced in the shadow of the medical-industrial complex, ironically itself the nation’s number one killer.

This has made for what I have found to be many receptive listeners and hungry hearts for the Truth—the Laws of the Universe—as discovered by Mrs. Eddy in Christian Science. The Christ, Truth is usually the missing ingredient in even enlightened medical practices. I’m now always eager for the opportunity to bring up Jesus in relation to his teaching of the Laws of the Universe and how he healed all disease, and how we as God’s children can claim our divine, perfect health as spiritual reflections of the One God.

As we claim the Truth for ourselves and those in our sphere of thought, this has a ripple effect, reaching out to the far places of the world...*****

We Are Not Of Ourselves

Science and Health, p.204. ... but in Science it can never be said that man has a mind of his own, distinct from God, the all Mind.

This is helpful reminder that all the wrong thoughts that come could not possibly be my thinking; they all must be lies from mortal mind, NO mind. Only

through Science has this truth been made so clear; a wonderful way to help bring us out of bondage into our present freedom.

And we can have utmost gratitude for those who have gone before us, heard the correct thoughts, and taught them and/or wrote them down for us. Moses, Jesus, Mrs. Eddy, all gave us the divine principles by which we can recognize God’s right thoughts and thereby spot the counterfeit. Our task is to “take them to heart.” Moses instructs us in Deuteronomy, “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart.”

Science is not an intellectual exercise. This is why our spiritual sense is the only sense that can perceive and appreciate it. The so-called human intellect cannot help us recognize God or anything right. This should put to silence any sense of pride (or regret) that any of us has a superior (or inferior) mind. Or that anyone is better or worse than anyone else. All of mankind’s problems can be traced back to the belief that each of us has a mind distinct from God. It just isn’t true! And if we can demonstrate what is true, we can change the world. *****

The Strength of My Life

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27) What do you fear at this moment? Do you think there is anything too big for God to overcome when you make Him your light and salvation? What do you think gives strength to your life? Are you trusting in your exercise regime? Your diet? The support of a friend? The security of a job? God is the strength of your life! Turn to Him for He is the source of your being. Tap into this Almighty and Everlasting Source and you will find the security, strength, health, joy that you seek.