

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

WWW.PLAINFIELDCS.COM

ISSUE 77

SUBJECT: Unreality – October 2nd, 2016

You Can't Lose What Is Real!

“It is impossible that man should lose aught that is real, when God is all and eternally his.” (*Science and Health*) A simple Truth that has been taught in this church is – all that anyone can ever really lose are the false beliefs of sin, disease, and death because that is all that is unreal. I can remember being haunted by the belief I was going to lose something precious to me but what God gives can never be lost! All that can be lost are my unreal concepts, my personal sense of things. The lesson this week is full of examples of this Truth. Thank God Mrs. Eddy saw past the veil of personal sense and limitation to the real and the eternal. It might appear in her life she lost many things and yet she came to this realization and wrote “...nothing is lost, and all is won, by a right estimate of what is real.” (*Science and Health*)

I love this little poem found long ago;
Release
In prayer, I silence self, and rise above
My anxious human sense of those I dearly love
I place them all in God's wise care
Knowing they are so much safer there!*****

Yes, it is impossible to lose what God has given or what He wants us to have. Not losing Abigail is such a beautiful proof of this.

God protected the families of all his men, as well. When we work wholeheartedly for God, and put all else in His care, He does protect us in more ways than we could ever imagine. *****

I have this in my daily watch — Only what God wants is real and the only thing that can happen for everyone. That is if we allow His will. *****

Why Criest Thou For Thine Affliction?

Responsive Reading: Jeremiah 30

15. Why criest thou for thine affliction?

16. All they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey.

17. For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD.

When I woke this morning, it felt as though mortal mind was already working against tonight's meeting. Wednesday's can be very tough that way. Then I read the lesson and found the above verses. What a wonderful promise is given: Those negative, unreal thoughts will be devoured! After every testimony meeting I have been a part of, God has given me proof that this occurs because I have felt all the resistance ebb away to be replaced by this amazing feeling of peace and joy.

Since I know this happens, I really need to ask myself: “Why criest thou for thine affliction?” God has delivered me from so much already, and the Bible and Science and Health are filled with even more promises. I don't need to cry about it, worry about it, or stress about it — I just need to do the work He gives me, and take joy in it.

As Paul said: “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;” (2 Corinthians 4:17)

And of course, Christ Jesus said: “For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:30) If he could say that with all he went through, there is no reason for me to feel otherwise.

Now, I feel ready for tonight, and I am certain it will be a blessing to all!

I am so grateful for this church and this week's lesson. Thank you! *****

This is a lesson we all need to learn and it applies to everything we do. How often do I feel fear over

something in my home, in my job, in my work for church? Shortly after I arrived at the Plainfield church, I began to realize that I had developed habits of behavior that were based primarily on fear. That was a major eye-opener for me and was the beginning of learning to trust God and obey Him much more than I had.

Jacob once gave us a good quote from Martha Harris Bogue: “Fear is faith in evil; courage is faith in God.” David had enough faith in God and love for God, which gave him the courage to continue the battle until good was victorious over evil. Wonderful lesson. *****

“Wednesday’s can be very tough that way.”

At first I was not clear about why I felt bad on certain days of particular importance for Church activities. Realizing this to be supposed opposition to Wednesday/Sunday activities makes me more vigilant, first to deny any control or influence affecting any day. God is supreme and His law of Love alone surrounds and governs all. There are NO evil Wednesdays/Sundays, as mortal mind would have me believe and I am not fooled by it and will no longer be controlled by it, No More. I will send out Love, the most potent weapon. I feel that recognizing fear as powerless has been the most helpful for me; since it rendered all those negative thoughts powerless and thus NOTHINGNESS! Yes, “Why criest thou for thine affliction?” When I know now that THOU ART HERE! *****

Encourage Yourself!

I have always loved this story – about David at Ziklag losing everything. Think about it – losing everything! He was greatly distressed and all the people wept “until they had no more power to weep”! And yet what did David do? Well, these are some things he did not do! He did not fall down into a little puddle of despair, he did not condemn himself, he did not blame God, he did not commiserate with others, he did not throw in the towel and consider himself a failure. What did David do?! He encouraged himself in the LORD his God!! What a wonderful response! And what an invaluable lesson for us all. When David turned to

His God in great humility asking for His help and guidance, he was encouraged not to accept the verdict, but to pursue this error, destroy it and then “without fail recover all”! Remember this lesson from the Bible in times of great despair – turn unreservedly to your Father, encourage yourself with His unfailing Love and power. Obedience to God makes it possible to recover all! As Mrs. Eddy states in Science and Health, “...nothing is lost, and all is won by a right estimate of what is real.” Thank God for this healing Truth! *****

Yes, thank you for this wonderful post!

David demonstrated that “The kingdom of God is within you.” Taking it home, I can ask myself: “Do I encourage (strengthen) myself in the Lord my God?” (I hope so!)

I love hymn 134 that states “I look to Thee in every need and never look in vain”–based on a beautiful poem by Samuel Longfellow. It encourages me. In fact, once we develop spiritual muscles, it feels much more natural to turn to God in time of trouble, than to cede to the temptation to condemn, blame, commiserate or throw in the towel. As you say, pursue the error and destroy it! *****

Thank all of you for this post and responses. I see how our merciful and loving God healed the distress of David with the truth, i.e.-“truth shall make you free.”- Holy Bible. In prayer, David knew he and his people were the blessed of God and not victims. “Truth is affirmative.” -S&H. Truth makes a positive impression. Truth improves every condition. Tough love, principled love, directed David in what to do, and the how to gain the victory. The result was wonderful. *****

“And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them?” (I Samuel 30:8) I love that at this point in his experience, David knew to turn to God for direction first, in this case kind of asking is this the wisest course, will this bring about the best results? What a wonderful example of how to live one’s life. Thanks for the wonderful in-depth posts about it. *****

I was faced with a challenge this week, and this post helped me to turn to God and not accept the verdict. I didn’t fall down into a little puddle of despair. I did not condemn myself or throw in the towel. I

held to God and felt peaceful that I had done the right thing and God would take care of the rest. And He did. The situation was reversed.

SUBJECT –Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – October 9th, 2016

What Did Jesus See The Father Do?

“Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.” What did Jesus see the Father do? I found it very helpful this morning to go over the synonyms for God, which Mrs. Eddy gave us. The Father is divine Principle. And what does Principle do? It brings justice to unjust situations. It treats everyone equally, with respect and care. It punishes injustice.

The Father is Truth. And what did Jesus see Truth do? He saw it correct all mistakes. He saw it heal all disease, correct all misconceptions, replace all false beliefs. And so he did as well.

The Father is Love. Love brings harmony to every inharmonious situation. It cares for every one of God’s children. It hates no one, nor does it condone hatred or revenge or envy anywhere.

Jesus saw God doing all these things. It helped me to recognize that God is always in the midst of us doing these things, and that if I make the effort to see God everywhere, I can’t help but follow Him in every way. I thank God for Mrs. Eddy, for her discovering the Science that illuminates the Bible for us. *****

This is wonderful!

Working with the synonyms has helped me so much, and this is making it even more clear how God works in my, and our, lives.

The following came to me after reading your post:

The Father is Spirit.

What does Spirit do? It is the “Divine substance; Mind; divine Principle; all that is good; God; that only which is perfect, everlasting, omnipresent, omnipotent, infinite.” (*Science and Health*, p. 594)

Therefore, “...in him we live, and move, and have our being;” (Acts 17:28)

And what does Spirit NOT do? It does not concern itself with the unreal; with false beliefs; or, with material so-called laws. Why? There is no life, no movement, and no being in matter, as it is outside of God’s good reality. The unreal must be uncovered and destroyed.

Jesus knew that anything that claimed circumstances outside of Spirit was being viewed through the lens of materiality and personal sense. He knew it was impossible for the daughter to be dead (Matthew 9:18) because death is not a part of “all that is good.” Spirit certainly never showed death to Jesus.

I am so grateful to this church for showing me the authentic Christian Science that allows for this understanding. It is wonderful to begin to know these truths and to be able to put aside the fear that I used to have. Thank you *****

Beautiful! Thank you! I turned to this in Miscellaneous Writings page 124, which also reveals to us what Jesus saw in His heavenly Father and what we too can strive to emulate, “For ‘who is so great a God as our God!’ unchangeable, all-wise, all-just, all-merciful; the ever-loving, ever-living Life, Truth, Love: comforting such as mourn, opening the prison doors to the captive, marking the unwinged bird, pitying with more than a father’s pity; healing the sick, cleansing the leper, raising the dead, saving sinners. As we think thereon, man’s true sense is filled with peace...” *****

How so beautiful is all of this!! The synonym Principle often listed in the middle of the rest reassures of what we’ve been given. Principle with its attributes of firmness, stability, surety, certainty, reliability and permanence means unchanging foundation. Thank God! *****

What a thorough treatment to use daily! *****

Adulterous Woman

I thought this was a beautiful statement. It gives examples of both the importance of active love and the destruction of error as we have discussed in previous classes.

“In the case of the adulterous woman, Jesus performed the office of Christ by refusing to accept as true the false suggestion about the woman. By showing the false nature of the accuser, he silenced the condemnation and accusation of those who personalized sin. Then he, as “I,” being conscious of his own loving perfection, could not condemn her either. In other words, he first healed the accusing aspect of sin and then healed the victimizing aspect of sin.” Addresses by Martha Wilcox p. 27-28. *****

Duty and Privilege

“It is possible, –yea it is the duty and privilege of every child, man, and woman, –to follow in some degree the example of the Master by the demonstration of Truth and Life, of health and holiness.” *Science and Health*, 37:22. Good is not to be just taken, but to be shared with the world as Jesus and Mrs. Eddy devoted their lives to doing. There’s nothing greater! *****

Thank you.... When I think about duty and sharing, I come back to God’s unchanging perfection. This truth helps to keep me focused so I can think about my duty to God and man each day and share what I am learning here at Plainfield. I heard someone say from Plainfield, “My efforts are to realize the spiritual unchanging perfection already there. If I don’t ...self enters in.” I keep this statement on my desk. *****

Human Belief

Human belief is without understanding and makes the final decision on human discussion. It is either collective or singular, but always erroneous. The media does this and causes many people to believe what they say instead of each one going to God and getting the answer of what is right. This is the “blind leading the blind.” No God Truth, Life or Love in it. *****

In *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states, “There is no power apart from God.” Replace the lie with the “Truth, Life, and Love (which) are a law of annihilation to everything unlike themselves”

(*Science and Health*) and defuse the false situations. *****

One Primal Cause

“There is one primal cause. Therefore there can be no effect from any other cause...”

I love this passage! To me it incorporates the First Commandment, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me” but stated differently, so we can understand it better.

“Sin, sickness, disease and death belong not to the Science of being...”

When I read this today, I realized I had never really stopped to read it thoroughly. If those errors “belong not to the Science of being,” it would appear they can’t actually BE. That reminds me of the simple Truth taught here at Plainfield, that I’ve heard over the years: “If it’s not good, it’s not from God; we don’t have to have it, we can kick it out!” And “kicking it out” has led to countless healings shared at our Wednesday meetings over the years. I’m grateful for the practical teaching at this church, which helps me on a daily basis. *****

It is in this Church that I learned how practical Christian Science is, and that it is to be applied to all areas of our lives.

On page 427 of *Science and Health*, Mrs. Eddy states “Nothing can interfere with the harmony of Being.” This statement should tell me that anything disturbing must be a signal for me to use the Truth, “the might of Mind” to see its powerlessness; I must know that I am under the control and influence of God, His laws govern me and I cannot allow any other suggestions to take that place. *****

The Recipe for Life

The golden text this week is wonderful, “In the way of righteousness is life, and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” We all have something useful to do for God, every day He has something for each of us to do in His service. Obeying this gives a joy that can never be matched by willful indulgence. And that is living.