

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 81

SUBJECT: God The Only Cause And Creator – December 4th, 2016

Made All Things For Himself

“The LORD hath made all things for Himself.” (Proverbs) All things have been created by our heavenly Father to express and glorify Him – and that means you! When we come to understand this basic Truth about ourselves and about others and when we live in accord with it – our lives become rich with meaning. We will have a peace and a joy never known before. Are you living your life as God’s expression or are you trying to work things out with human plans and reasoning – spinning in an orbit of self? The latter way will prove to be very futile. In Science and Health, we read, “God fashions all things, after His own likeness. Life is reflected in existence, Truth in truthfulness, God in goodness, which impart their own peace and permanence.” How wonderful that we, and all things, are fashioned in God’s own likeness! That is the Truth of being. Don’t accept anything less. *****

This reply is just me working this out.

I know before coming to Plainfield, I would have read “The LORD hath made all things for Himself” and thought it was a selfish thing. Learning here the impersonal nature of God, and also that He constitutes all of reality, I can see now that there was no one else for Him to make anything for. Also, the fact that God made it shows how unselfish He is!

From this new understanding, it is easy to see why I should look to Him alone for guidance: What else can help me live rightly? Certainly not my own limited understanding (I already proved what a disaster that is!). Only God has the perspective and the right to guide all of us, as we are all His ideas, expressing Him, in His creation. It gives me great joy to know that I don’t need to work out the variables and the pros and cons of each imagined

possibility, because God is the only determiner of what is truly possible, and in Him there “is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” (James 1: 17)

Therefore, since God is all (All-in-all), and God is impersonal, then the only way for me to live unselfishly is to express Him as He directs. Go where He has me go; do as He has me do; say what He has me say; work on the projects He has me work on, etc. (Also, to do it all with joy and gratitude, because even the difficult tasks end up a great blessing!)

Since God made all for Himself, then each of God’s ideas the world over are already worthy of Love, Truth, Life, goodness, and perfection. To think otherwise is to say that God’s work is flawed! This helps me see that much more why Christ Jesus had such compassion on all who seemed set upon by error, while having no patience for the error itself. As written above, he certainly didn’t “accept anything less” than God’s goodness and perfection.

And there is no reason I should either. *****

“then the only way for me to live unselfishly is to express Him as He directs”

The great thing about this is that this is not a moral directive from a church or a human opinion. It is just the way things are. It is the way this incredible Creator made everything. Therefore, it is the only satisfying way to live, the only profitable, harmonious way to live. The liar will try to lure us into thinking that we could actually be happy being selfish or by pandering to the senses, but that is the trap that we are warned about. Thank you for sharing your “working this out.” *****

This morning when I read the Golden Text: Proverbs 16; 4 “The Lord hath made all things for himself.” I thought – that includes me. So then... God made me for Himself for a reason... and I am his and not my own... and he cares for me. Very comforting and helps to get rid of false responsibility. *****

God Shall Judge

In preparing for our Bible study last week I read about how Samuel chose the next anointed king, “But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.” 1Sam 16:7

This week we read, “God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work.” Ecclesiastes 3

“For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God.” I Corinthians 3

I see now that not only is man’s human wisdom not able to pick the righteous but not the wicked either. Mrs. Eddy did counsel that a wicked man could have an attractive personality. I am grateful for my practitioner here who reminds me continually to stay with the spiritual facts and keep my heart right with God. Who am I to blame, judge, and condemn, when I do it takes away my peace and my focus off God. I am so grateful to be here learning how to think according to Jesus commands.

Pure, Perfect, and Enduring

“Immortal ideas, pure, perfect, and enduring, are transmitted by the divine Mind through divine Science, which corrects error with truth and demands spiritual thoughts, divine concepts, to the end that they may produce harmonious results.” *Science and Health*, This statement was given to me by a practitioner to work with when pregnant with our first child. It is a powerful thought and holds true for many instances – looking for employment, starting a business or project, finding a home... whatever the need might be. God’s immortal ideas are pouring forth “pure, perfect, and enduring” to bring any right idea to a harmonious conclusion. Truth is also correcting error and demanding every detail to stay in perfect alignment with the Divine will. Thank you Mrs. Eddy! *****

It is great to see one’s source of ‘pure, perfect’ in

Mrs. Eddy’s writings as you taught us to use first thing in the morning with the synonyms of God. In the short time I have been doing this I can see the greater ‘power’ I have received while praying with the synonyms daily resulting in greater peace and joy. THANK YOU!! *****

And Ye Are Christ’s; And Christ Is God’s.

1 Cor. 3:23 And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.

And From SH 176 Mistaking his origin and nature, man believes himself to be combined matter and Spirit.

Both citations remind us that we can never forget our true identity once we are awakened to this New Birth! Our salvation comes from this correct identifying just as our Wayshower proved.

From Matthew Henry: But it must be remembered, at the same time, that we are Christ’s, the subjects of his kingdom, his property. He is Lord over us, and we must own his dominion, and cheerfully submit to his command and yield themselves to his pleasure, if we would have all things minister to our advantage. All things are ours, upon no other ground than our being Christ’s. *****

Thank you. I often find it very helpful to be reminded that I belong to God, that we all belong to God. It puts us all on equal footing in God’s sight. No differences due to education, background, color, gender, etc. in the eyes of God.

So, if I want to know who and what I am, the only way I will do that is to know more about God, in whose image and likeness I am made. Mrs. Eddy writes in *Science and Health*, p. 90, “At present we know not what man is, but we certainly shall know this when man reflects God.” Also, on page 258: “We know no more of man as the true divine image and likeness, than we know of God.”

Thus the importance of learning as much as we can of who and what God is. This is why I enjoy the Bible Study and Roundtable so much. It helps me to discover who we all are. *****

SUBJECT – God The Preserver Of Man – December 11th, 2016

Truth and Love, The Preserver of Man

I found a few statements by Martha Wilcox in her address from 1941 that we can and should apply to our world today.

Democracy, or freedom, seems always threatened, both in the west and in the east. Politics is often played out under a sheepskin of wonderful promises, morality, religiosity, nationalism etc. Underneath can often be the wolf of egotism, selfishness, greed, lust for power and all the etceteras of mortal mind. Martha Wilcox writes: “Day by day, we should know that nothing unlike good is taking place. When we read or cognize that our liberty is being threatened by the dominating powers of autocracy, we can even take care of that, ...as we establish our thought on the side of Principle, ... the law that governs and cares for the universe.” “In every Christian Science treatment the only adequate denial is the absolute nothingness of any phase of evil.” “The desire to wipe a certain nation (race, religion) off the map, or to feel great disapproval of any person or group of people, is not the correct attitude for any Christian Scientist to take.

To make any error, however great, a personal error, is not the way to prove its nothingness.

Our work as Christian Scientists is to prove the powerlessness and nothingness of erroneous thought, wherever it is seen or whatever its form, through our own correct mental position of God’s Allness.” I paraphrase this from her writings: “The Allness and omnipotence of God is the wholeness and substance of every human being.” There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free...for we are all one in Christ. There is only one substance. *****

Thank you! That goes well with what we discussed at Bible study today. And we will have to read it tomorrow at the roundtable. Wonderful statement!

Reliance On God!

2 Chronicles 32:8 With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles.

These were Hezekiah’s words when besieged by the Assyrian king. It shows once again that reliance on the All power of God, trusting it and the sure good results. Sennacherib was trusting his army but like David, Hezekiah relied on God and the victory was on his side!

It’s not enough to voice how much we trust God; when something comes up, prove that trust by remaining calm and listening for His comfort, care and direction. Is God not always at hand? *****

Thank you for this post.

Sennacherib’s trust in his army, in his own strategic ability, and even in the love of his children, proved to be entirely misguided.

This reminds me of my life before coming here: I always felt I was one bad day away from it all unravelling. That turned out to be true, as it was for Sennacherib, and as it will be for anyone placing their trust in anything but God.

I am grateful for that “bad” day, because it turned out to be a great day...the day I began listening and learning to be receptive to “His comfort, care and direction.” It is now so clear that God absolutely is always at hand. *****

My Expectation Is From Him

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from Him.” (Psalms) Ok! Here it is! One of my favorite verses to keep in your “arsenal”! It is good to ask yourself often – what are you expecting? Are you expecting God’s goodness to be evident in your life? Or are you expecting the worst?! Where is your trust? for we are reminded later on in this Psalm – “Trust in Him at all times.”! This very simple rule will help keep you on the right path heavenward. *****

Thank you, I was carrying this statement with me in my pocket. When things get a little dicey with my

loved ones I often think wait only on God. I love the word only. That brings me to a better place and I get on with it.

Thank you Plainfield Church for teaching us how to always put God first no matter what we are doing during our days. *****

Pour Out Your Heart

“Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him.” Psalm 62:8

This statement had me thinking. Is there anything in my experience that I haven't taken to God? Is there something I think I will take care of? I need to pour my heart out to God. To take everything to him, not just the big things. Hourly I am checking my thought to reveal if I am going to him with a situation in the office, with something I have heard, something I have seen. Is there anything troubling me? I can't sift through my thoughts of what I will take to God. I can't hold back the erroneous concerns.

“Truth makes man free.” *Science and Health*, God has given us the freedom from error. We need to use it. *****

We really do not have to suffer once we catch a glimpse of this Truth and follow how to apply it as explained frequently in this Church.

We can give up the panic state of thought and turn to God always, trust and have faith enough to expect an answer to every problem. *****

What Does “I am Alpha and Omega” Mean?

I was thinking and praying about this unused Bible Study question, about its meaning beyond the fact that alpha and omega are the beginning and end of the Greek alphabet.

It occurred to me that if God had told me this, He may have said, “I am A and Z” — or perhaps “I am A to Z” — since Greek is not my native language. Thinking about it that way, I felt it would mean the beginning and the end, but it would also mean

more. It would mean He was all, and complete. It would mean that there can be no accurate description or understanding of God and His universe without the language of Love, the vocabulary of Truth, the grammar of Life, etc.

I am so grateful that God has imparted this way to understand Him that we have in Christian Science. Thank you. *****

Thank you. This is an excellent post. It also speaks to the infinitude of the Love and the Truth which are God. God is without beginning and end. The Truth and Love which are God has no beginning and it will never end. Time and space and all the mortal sense of limitation that go along with it are meaningless to God. They should be meaningless to us as well. This is our divine authority for dropping all sense of limitation about ourselves and others. Mrs. Evans taught us to put “unlimited” after our name whenever we think of ourselves. I am Bob Jones, unlimited. Why? Because that's what our infinite, good God created. *****

Powerless to Produce Suffering

“The cause of all so-called disease is mental, a mortal fear, a mistaken belief or conviction of the necessity and power of ill-health; also a fear that Mind is helpless to defend the life of man and incompetent to control it. Without this ignorant human belief, any circumstance is of itself powerless to produce suffering.” *Science and Health*, Think of this statement and the power therein! All that binds you or anyone is “ignorant human belief.”! Do you think that ill-health is a necessity and has power? Do you doubt God? Do you think He is incompetent to control life? When faced with any problem – challenge your false beliefs about the situation. Get down to the mat with error and destroy its insidious suggestions with the Truth! Then you will prove for yourself “how to demonstrate the Christ, Truth, as the healing and saving power.”! *Science and Health*, *****

SUBJECT – Is The Universe, Including Man, Evolved By Atomic Force? – December 18th, 2016

I AM THAT I AM

“And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM.” (Exodus) In the book, “Collected Writings” by Bicknell Young (for sale or download on our website), he wrote an article called “I Am That I Am” which helps explain what this powerful statement means and how we can apply it in our daily life. He states, “Every action, incident, movement, faculty, function, organ in the divine creation is an idea of God, and is constantly declaring, ‘I AM.’ Every idea must do this and cannot do otherwise. It does not know how and cannot know how to be unlike infinity, perfection, eternity.”!! *****

I am really grateful for all that I am learning here about God. It has helped me grow in my understanding in this powerful statement from our lesson, I AM THAT I AM. Before I could not feel what it was really saying to me. Now I see it is speaking of God as All in all. The early writers are very helpful in clarifying this statement which we are blessed to have access to. I found myself this week connecting this Bible statement to all I was reading and hearing about God. Strengthening my affirmations. Below is from a recent article shared here that I have been using this week. It means to me that my purpose is not about making people happy, fixing others, worrying about relationships, rushing about solving problems, or trying to make things perfect. God governs His creation perfectly. I listen, follow His commands and let Him unfold His plan to me. I need to get out of the way.

“Each one’s business, each one’s holy mission, is to see how abundantly he can express his own true individuality as a child of God; how certainly he can demonstrate this goodly heritage without interference or interruption; how faithfully he can resist false mental suggestion in order that in his daily life he shall reflect only Mind’s beautiful design and purpose.” Quietness by Violet Ker Seymer. *****

Thank you for these wonderful posts! I find that contemplating “I AM THAT I AM” is about as close to God as I can get. I can feel the power of God in those reassuring words that help me to feel

His presence. There is a lot to be said for quietness, the name of the above excerpt. Quietness will surely always help us to “resist false mental suggestion” in order that in our daily lives we “shall reflect only Mind’s beautiful design and purpose.” Thank you for sharing these quotes. *****

Go Forward

4. Exodus 14 : 5, 6, 15 (to 1st), 15 (speak), 19-22, 30, 31

5 And it was told the king of Egypt that the people fled: and the heart of Pharaoh and of his servants was turned against the people, and they said, Why have we done this, that we have let Israel go from serving us?

6 And he made ready his chariot, and took his people with him:

15 And the LORD said unto Moses, ...speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward:

19 And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and stood behind them:

GO FORWARD! This is a direct command. When we listen and do this, everything is made ready and safe which we call protection. This protection I think is actually God’s plan that unfolds once we heed the message. This concept was also brought up at a Roundtable Discussion. Listen for the message and then obey... the obedience part has often tripped me up but by coming to Plainfield Church, and being with people who are obedient to God my path has become clearer. I now often ask myself .. Am I obeying what You want me to do? *****

Ditto! “...being with people who are obedient to God my path has become clearer.” Yes! Plainfield has given me the spiritual muscle to go forward, trusting God, instead of going forward through sheer self-will. This has developed my spiritual sense, taught me obedience, and what a huge difference this has made in my life, completely turned it around I should say! By trusting God, and listening and doing the best we know how, He’ll take care of us better than we could ever have imagined. And yes, when we’re actively listening to God and grateful for His guidance, we are indeed

safe. Trusting in God's plan gets rid of all the "What ifs" and allows us to help others better, which is why we're here after all. *****

Thank you for these posts. It is interesting that in our December "Love is the Liberator" magazine there is an article called "Go Forward" taken from an early 1886 CS Journal. The author states, "There is no standing still in Christian Science – the movement is ever onward. To halt is to give place to the enemy which pushes hard behind. Neither may we look back; for having put one's hand to the plow he must 'go forward,' driving deep the plow-share, that every weed of evil may be rooted out." And Mrs. Eddy admonishes us that it is "not wise to take a halting and half-way position..." (*Science and Health*) Sometimes we might feel like stopping, turning around or taking some big long rest, but these statements remind us to "keep on keeping on."! The way is always upward and onward – and it is a way filled joy and satisfaction in obedience to God. *****

The Might of Omnipotence

Each day I have found new and inspiring ideas, and it reminded me to continue to be grateful for God's protection during Hurricane Matthew last October.

Exodus 14: 21, 22

And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.

And the children of Israel went in to the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left.

From a material standpoint, forecasts suggested this storm was going to cause much damage on the island where we own a rental property, including the possibility of a high storm surge that would cause severe flooding. But instead, the storm came on shore at low tide and when the surge rose up, the wind from another direction pushed it down the beach, and not full force onto the island, resulting in minimal flooding and little damage. And on the backside of the island, the water from the river rose

to the threshold of the back door (as evidenced by the river debris left at the door) but it didn't enter. I am still in awe of God's power.

Science and Health, p. 597: WIND: That which indicates the might of omnipotence and the movements of God's spiritual government, encompassing all things.

Science and Health, p. 134: There is divine authority for believing in the superiority of spiritual power over material resistance.

What Cannot God Do?

This question posed in *Science and Health* citation 10, is a very powerful one, which brings to light, the almighty power of God. Even a slight understanding of what God has done, in creating all, and working infinite wonders through Jesus Christ and so many others in The Bible, gives one more than enough reason to keep from doubting. Since I have realized and am beginning to truly understand God's power through the study and practice of Christian Science, I must do all that is necessary to stand firm on one side; the side of God. When I am aggressively tempted to fear, worry, or doubt that something good can happen with me, mine, or the entire world, no matter how big or small, I must remember that God is forever at work, ask myself the question: what cannot God do? And answer firmly and confidently NOTHING! *****

Thank you for this post, for this point is so important. In *Science and Health*, p.368, Mrs. Eddy writes, "When we come to have more faith in Spirit than in matter, more faith in living than in dying, more faith in God than in man, then no material supposition can prevent us from healing the sick and destroying error." The question "what cannot God do?" applies to each of us, since we are, in reality, His image and likeness, the reflection of this infinite, all-power. When you realize that you are God expressing himself, and that there is nothing that God cannot do, you become empowered with something that no one can ever take from you. I am so grateful to be learning the real Science of Life and the power and dominion it gives us over everything that is not of God (no matter how big or small it appears).