

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Mind – February 19th, 2017

Romans 12:16

In Romans 12: 16, it says, “Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits.”

The “condescend to men of low estate” part, in French, interestingly reads “let yourself be drawn to that which is humble.”

It appears that the meaning of “condescend” has evolved over time, so I found this definition from the Webster’s 1828 dictionary to be helpful, and they even quote the same verse in Romans:

“CONDESCEND”

1. To descend from the privileges of superior rank or dignity, to do some act to an inferior, which strict justice or the ordinary rules of civility do not require. Hence, to submit or yield, as to an inferior, implying an occasional relinquishment of distinction.

Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Romans 12:16.”

I love this definition! It reminds me of Peter’s words, “Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons.” *****

The Definition of YOU

“MAN. The compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind.” (*Science and Health*) As we have been taught here, it is always good to remember, when Mrs. Eddy refers to “man” in our textbook, she is referring to YOU! So therefore, YOU are the combined ideas of infinite Spirit – in all its beauty and radiance and immortality! YOU are God’s very image and likeness! All that Mind is and represents YOU are! If you accept this as the

Truth of your being (which it is!), how can YOU ever feel sick, downcast, ugly, stupid, tongue tied, lonely, misplaced, or any of the other lies error tries to pin upon you? It would be impossible! So, remember who and what YOU are and don’t ever come down from your high estate as a beloved child of God! *****

Thanks for this post!

When at first we cannot take in this precious identity, we must at least be willing to accept and obey what has been given, until we understand and take it into our hearts. Past history does argue and dissuade, but our obedience to God is required for our own sake.

Through strong, consistent, and persistent correct identifying, we then take possession of the dominion that is ours and with it we begin to see the ‘aggressive lies’ for what they are. We gain greater conviction of what is true about us and that reveals the nothingness and powerlessness of evil of every sort: physical, financial, or mental. The constant reminders here about who we are is invaluable since without it, what would we be defending when error rears its ugly head? It is a wonderful motivation to know that doing our part is blessing the whole of humanity. *****

"Ye Are Not My People"

In Hosea 1:10, we read, “... in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, *Ye are* the sons of the living God.”

It occurs to me that, as in the days of old, when there were distinct divisions between people, whether Jews, Gentiles, or Samaritans, etc., today we are living the same divisions under different names, be it race, religion or political persuasion! The divided political scene harbors with it the temptation to think, “Ye are not my people”. So, to see the “others” correctly: “*Ye are* the sons of the

living God” can be a challenge, but a welcome one, and the whole point of this lesson, to be of one Mind! And to get beyond the material picture and see our fellow brethren for who they truly are, in reality, spiritual ideas of God, reflecting the same One Mind.

In *Science and Health*, p. 467, Mrs. Eddy states: “It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love. Mankind will become perfect in proportion as this fact becomes apparent, war will cease and the true brotherhood of man will be established.”...“thoroughly understood”, not just “understood”. Will have to work on that! *****

United

One of the most serious problems when people work together is the disuniting influence of human will, which results in contention and worse. The lesson is clear that the one uniting force is God. Those who unite with this one Mind, work exceptionally well with others who do the same. It has been observed that those who are united accomplish multiple times more than those who contend. It is God who unites, selfishness divides. Let’s recognize and accept only the one Mind for ourselves and others and thereby let this unity have its way. It is amazing and natural what God can do. *****

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

This is what we have learned to do in this church, dwell together in unity. To be of one Mind, obedient to God. It is good and pleasant to work together. We get a lot accomplished with no gossip, no backbiting, or criticism. If we see a brother in danger of becoming mesmerized, we speak up. If someone needs help with a task, we offer to help. This is Christly love, which is tough and tender. It is safety. It is the best place to be, dwelling in the love of God, dwelling together in unity. *****

How true this is! As a laborer (farmer), it was very easy to see that doing a job alone takes so much more time than in unison with someone else. One would think adding just one more person to the

same job would cut the time in half, but the efficiency goes way beyond that. And then the bonus is when people help each other, there is Christ in our midst. As Mrs. Eddy said “A good deed is the best prayer” (paraphrase) which is of course why the work gets done so quickly!!*****

“This is Christly love which is tough and tender. It is safety. It is the best place to be, dwelling in the love of God, dwelling together in unity.”

There is no one questioning who is the greatest; it is that selfless, humble accomplishing of GOOD which is so beautiful and so rare. *****

Fulfil Ye My Joy

14. Philippians 2

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

First definition of “accord” from the 1828 Webster’s:

1. Agreement; harmony of minds; consent or concurrence of opinions or wills.

What came to me when I read this was that when we demonstrate Love, seek only God’s Will, and having the one Mind “which was also in Christ Jesus,” we will also have the same joy. How else could I fulfill the writer’s joy unless this was true. God may give us all different abilities and tasks, yet the Cause is the same, and therefore so is the effect.

I’ve been thinking a lot about the difference between personality and individuality. What just occurred to me because of this verse is that as I do my work each day, I feel great joy. Now, if I think I get joy from coding the Web site, then that is personality. I know it is personality, because in the past coding Web sites alone has brought no joy and gave no blessing to mankind.

Instead, I need to understand that the joy is there because God’s Will is being done. What this church does is to bless all as God directs. My individuality is as God’s idea; my indivisibility from Him and His activities. As such it makes no sense to take a human activity as the base of my identity, no matter how naturally it seems to come or well I seem to do it: God has already done the work! I am just working to realize it in my consciousness.

SUBJECT: Christ Jesus – February 26th, 2017

Jesus' Promise

“He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” Christ Jesus

I love this statement in the Bible. It is so encouraging. It is Jesus' way of telling us that he is teaching us a divine Principle. It is a science, not a special gift for only a few people. Here, the word “believe” means to understand, and to understand firmly, nothing wavering. The truth that heals is something that anyone can learn and experience. Whenever life seems a little empty, this statement fills it with hope and purpose.

I am so grateful to Mary Baker Eddy for recognizing this fact, discovering the science Jesus referred to (and practiced), and then giving it so clearly to mankind. *****

Thank you for this post: His words are a wonderful promise and a compelling call to action!

The following on page 196 of *Miscellaneous Writings* by Mary Baker Eddy speaks to this: The sweet, sacred sense and permanence of man's unity with his Maker, in Science, illumines our present existence with the ever-presence and power of God, good. It opens wide the portals of salvation from sin, sickness, and death. When the Life that is God, good, shall appear, “we shall be like Him;” we shall do the works of Christ, and, in the words of David, “the stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner,” because the “I” does go unto the Father, the ego does arise to spiritual recognition of being, and is exalted, — not through death, but Life, God understood.

Knowledge of the Glory of God

Paul, referencing the first verses in the Bible in Genesis 1, stated “God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” The fundamental

fact of existence is that the light of Truth does shine forth, and Paul clarifies that it shines in our hearts, is the basic essence of our being. It may seem that at times, we have to drill down rather far to find it, but still it is there and is the truth of who we are as God's image. The fact that we are given the knowledge of the glory of God is more than just a pleasant thing to think about, but rather it is a vital force for good operating in our lives. This light leaves no room for dull, lazy, or forgetful thinking, but rather is a call for sharp clarity of mind. The pleasant appearances of evil, the wolves in sheep's clothing, can never deceive anyone who has a clear focus on this divine light. Going back to Genesis 1, the next event after the appearing of the light was the firmament, or the distinction, line of demarcation, between right and wrong. So, this knowledge of the glory of God is our defense from deception. *****

Beware of the Leaven

Matthew 16:

5. And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

6. Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

“Leaven” From the 1828 Dictionary: Any thing which makes a general change in the mass. It generally means something which corrupts or depraves that with which it is mixed.

The idea is that leaven “passes secretly and silently through the mass of dough.”

Jesus was instructing his disciples to be on guard when hearing the doctrines of the Pharisees and Sadducees, who espoused the inventions/traditions of men and lacked the spiritual sense of the Scriptures. He compares their doctrine to leaven because they sought secretly to “infuse their notions into the minds of men; and which, when imbibed, spread their infection, and made men sour, morose, rigid, and ill-natured, and swelled and puffed them up with pride and vanity” (Gill's Exposition of the Bible). He advises his disciples to look about them, to watch, lest they should be infected with them. What a great lesson to be watchful of the pervasive and secret workings of animal magnetism. The disciples at first did not understand his meaning.

Thank you for this post and thankfully Christ Jesus gives the antidote in Luke 13:20. And again he said, “Where unto shall I liken the kingdom of God?” It is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Mary Baker Eddy explains this in *Science and Health*, p.117:29-5 Jesus bade his disciples beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees, which he defined as human doctrines. His parable of the “leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened,” impels the inference that the spiritual leaven signifies the Science of Christ and its spiritual interpretation, — an inference far above the merely ecclesiastical and formal applications of the illustration.

Science and Health, p.118:11-25 In their spiritual significance, Science, Theology, and Medicine are means of divine thought, which include spiritual laws emanating from the invisible and infinite power and grace. The parable may import that these spiritual laws, perverted by a perverse material sense of law, are metaphysically presented as three measures of meal, — that is, three modes of mortal thought. In all mortal forms of thought, dust is dignified as the natural status of men and things, and modes of material motion are honored with the name of laws. This continues until the leaven of Spirit changes the whole of mortal thought, as yeast changes the chemical properties of meal.

“as yeast changes the chemical properties of meal.” is a beautiful idea to me because it implies the material is no more and the conversion to the spiritual, perfect, child of God.

To be a Be-er and a Do-er!

I like very much what Bicknell Young says in his article “Oneness” about following in the path of Christ Jesus, “What are we to do about the traditions and difficulties of the world today? Are we just so many others waiting for something to happen, or are we feeling and being the power of the one Mind, knowing its presence, our presence, dispelling erroneous beliefs, and not waiting for, but being that something needed to heal. Mrs. Eddy says (Ret. 86:4): ‘There is but one way of doing

good, and that is to do it! There is but one way of being good, and that is to be good!’ Unless the individual is a be-er and do-er of the Science he knows, it is of little avail. To know ourselves divinely is a necessity. We are not human beings at all and never have been.” We all have opportunities everyday not to be a passive spectator but and to be a be-er and a do-er thus showing forth the Truth of God’s perfect universe! *****

Thank you! I love this: “To know ourselves divinely is a necessity. We are not human beings at all and never have been.” To realize this takes an effort on our part. But when we do, it is what helps us most on this plane of existence.

As strange as it may seem to some, I can’t really identify myself as a human. The word seems even foreign to me now. This church has helped me realize that we are truly spiritual beings... as Jesus taught and Mrs. Eddy explained... and knowing this we can “be” and “do” the good we are here to express. *****

Go And Do Likewise

Science and Health: “Implicit faith in the Teacher and all the emotional love we can bestow on him will never alone make us imitators of him. We must go and do likewise, else we are not improving the great blessings which our Master worked and suffered to bestow upon us.” As Mrs. Eddy points out, though we deeply love Jesus as we read and study his words and his sacrifice for us, as in any class, we have to go forth and strive to demonstrate what we learn; this is the challenge. Endless gratitude to Plainfield for taking up the work of teaching us and helping us to “go and do likewise.” *****

After being in Christian Science all my life, it is here that I’m learning what it means to really practice this Science. It is not to make our lives better, but to put God first and make the world better.

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