

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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SUBJECT: Unreality – April 2nd, 2017

Unreality I Suppose

I was reading some of my notes. I do not recall where I read the following, but it is the truth. The same unlovely traits of character and disposition; the same calamities and tragedies, the same limitations, which have been “the world” down the ages, are our present world today. And they will continue to be our world until we learn that the universal false beliefs, the false mass-consciousness or mental practice, the mass-mesmerism, which claims to be our individual consciousness, is unreal. All false consciousness, being impersonal, can be overcome.

We reform the world only as we overcome ourselves, our thinking, our inner-being. The horrible world of hate, crime, death, disease and sin only appears because of our ignorance of the ONE Mind.

As long as I sense error, evil, of any kind, it must be handled as impersonal mass-mesmerism; as ignorance of God, Truth, and Love.

The Christ is that conscious at-one-ment with Truth and Love. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh in the world. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light ...

We should not cherish a reality which God does not know, nor could cause. *****

Thank you. This is a wonderful explanation – error is always mesmerism, and we can all awake to the Truth of being. What you wrote certainly goes along with our discussions this weekend (Bible Study and Roundtable) on “overcoming” and being able to see and comprehend now what is meant by the New Jerusalem. “This spiritual consciousness is therefore a present possibility.” (*Science and Health*). *****

Thank you both! Had I not come to Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, I would still be operating only in the human worry mind. But, I am learning and praying about real consciousness, as you have described. I am very grateful to be waking up!

No Reality in Evil

Science and Health, p. 186 Evil is a negation, because it is the absence of truth. It is nothing, because it is the absence of something. It is unreal, because it presupposes the absence of God, the omnipotent and omnipresent. Every mortal must learn that there is neither power nor reality in evil.

This citation tells us:

There is no reality in discord.

There is no reality in lack of any sort.

There is no reality in sickness, sin, or death.

God, good, is all that is real. Hence if I am seeing evil (negative situations everywhere) it means my vision is distorted. To correct my vision, I must correct my thinking, which shapes my vision and my realization! If I am seeing correctly, I should be realizing more of the present harmony, God’s infinite presence. *****

Depart From Evil

“Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.”

It wasn’t until I came to Plainfield that I learned about personal sense. Personal sense definitely is being wise in its own eyes. I am learning that when I am willful, pushing my plan, rushing around, or feel personal responsibility, I am being wise in my own eyes. It is the opposite of spiritual sense. In order to hear God, I need to slow down and get myself out of the way.

Matthew Henry Commentary

“There is not a greater enemy to the fear of the Lord in the heart, than self-conceit of our own wisdom... We must not faint under an affliction, be it ever so heavy and long, not be driven to despair, or use wrong means for relief. The father corrects the son whom he loves, because he loves him, and desires that he may be wise and good. Afflictions are so far from doing God’s children any hurt, that, by the grace of God, they promote their holiness.”

Wise:

1. Properly, having knowledge; hence, having the power of discerning and judging correctly, or of discriminating between what is true and what is false; between what is fit and proper, and what is improper; (Webster’s 1828)

Below is something I heard and kept that helps remind me to stop focusing on the human drama.

The Set Aside Prayer

God please help me set aside everything I know and everything I think I know about myself, You, and everyone so I can have an open heart.

“Think the way God would think about everybody.” Bicknell Young *****

Operation of Divine Principle

“The physical healing of Christian Science results now, as in Jesus’ time, from the operation of divine Principle, before which sin and disease lose their reality in human consciousness and disappear as naturally and as necessarily as darkness gives place to light and sin to reformation...” I love this statement from *Science and Health*, which is in the week’s lesson. It is so full of comfort, inspiration, and simplicity. As we let divine Principle operate in our life, healing comes about naturally, and also necessarily! It is a simple process, just as simple as darkness giving way to the light. It is also divinely natural and necessary for sin to give way to reformation. The whole world is being transformed by the operation of God’s laws – this divine principle. The leaven of Truth is ever at work. The

signs are here of Immanuel, or “God with us”!

The next sentences in that citation is “Now, as then, these mighty works are not supernatural, but supremely natural. They are a sign of Immanuel, or ‘God with us,’ – a divine influence ever present in human consciousness and repeating itself, coming now as was promised aforetime...” At one time, I had difficulty feeling the power and presence of God with me. I would work often with these statements, knowing God WAS with me and nothing could prevent me from feeling His Love and His presence. One thing that helped immeasurably was to be grateful – to be aware of all the good that would transpire during the day and to know the source was in God and to humbly thank Him for it. Gratitude instantly connects one with the Father. When we seek to know and feel God’s presence – we CAN know and feel God’s presence but it must be the great desire of one’s heart. *****

Great Is Thy Faith

Matt 15:28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

Jesus commented on this woman’s faith and rewarded that great faith with the instantaneous healing. Mrs. Eddy has also said that, “Only through radical reliance on Truth can scientific healing power be realized.” We must have faith, a lot of our striving must be to trust God, Truth, otherwise how can we have radical reliance on something we do not trust?

I have learned to trust Truth, by acknowledging ALL the “good” that comes as coming from God, the only source of all good. It has taken time to do this, to know that any good I do is also because I reflect His goodness, and not that I accomplished anything. To consistently see all good as bearing witness to God’s ALLNESS, His power and presence has great rewards.

SUBJECT: Are Sin, Disease, and Death Real? – April 9th, 2017

Unclasp the Hold!!

“Behold, my servants shall sing for joy of heart.
(Psalms – Responsive Reading)

“If we wish to be healthy we should take doses of the oil of gladness. There is not better medicine.”
(Dorothy Rieke – 3/20 calendar statement)

This week’s Watching Point #1, which begins,
“WATCH lest you attempt to do anything in Christian Science from any standpoint except that of joy....”

My goodness – I have received so many wonderful reminders this morning about the importance of keeping my joy! As we continue through this Lent season, it is a welcome reminder. Only good is going on and only God is in control of His universe – how could we not be happy when we have these wonderful Truths from the Bible and *Science and Health* to keep in thought?! *****

Positive Expectation

This lesson is full of the admonition “Be not afraid”, and “weep not.” It took me a long time to appreciate the importance of the first citation in *Science and Health*: “Christian scientific practice begins with Christ’s keynote of harmony, “Be not afraid!” Think of it, our practice of Christian Science has to begin with losing our fear. Before Jesus healed the man of palsy, he told him “be of good cheer.” Before he raised the dead son of a widow, he told her “weep not.”

A positive expectation is always necessary for Christian healing. Jesus was teaching people the unreality of sin, disease, and death, to trust in the one good, God. Therefore, he was always admonishing his patients not to fear them, and not to weep over what is essentially a bad dream. Before he raised Lazarus, he thanked God. This shows the total trust he had in God.

The lesson for us is profound. I have to ask myself, how much do I trust God? If I fear disease or death, if I love or fear sin, if I fear evil, am I really

trusting God? No, not really. Having a positive expectation in the face of disease or death or any other form of evil shows my trust in God and my receptivity to the truth that makes us free. If I am still weeping over a “bad” experience, or if I am still fearing a “bad” situation, I am not trusting God. This positive expectation is a sign of one who is truly practicing Christian Science and not just talking about it. Great lesson! *****

Thanks for this post! When I learned that it is sinful to fear, and understood why, that did something for me. To be sinful was not okay, but somehow to be fearful was something I tolerated for so long. That understanding contributed to my effort to claim the Truth of God’s love more and to stay with it until fear went away to its nothingness. *****

Thank you both! Since coming to Plainfield I have been working on fearful thinking. What Mrs. Eddy says in this Lesson has helped me to stay strong:
5. 410 : 14-21

Every trial of our faith in God makes us stronger. The more difficult seems the material condition to be overcome by Spirit, the stronger should be our faith and the purer our love. The Apostle John says: “There is no fear in Love, but perfect Love casteth out fear. . . He that feareth is not made perfect in Love.” Here is a definite and inspired proclamation of Christian Science. *****

Thank you for these posts.

“Christian scientific practice begins with Christ’s keynote of harmony, “Be not afraid!”

Keynote: (synonyms): substance, essence, heart, core, essential, central principle

I spent decades going to Christian Science churches, not realizing how much my life was driven by fear, nor did I really understand how to handle fear. I would read the words, but could not put it into practice. One of the first things a practitioner here did for me was start chiseling away at this fear. Watching my thinking, being obedient to God’s precepts, being honest, letting go of the past, understanding true goodness and how to pray about evil, were a few things that were required. I can see the more I practice this Science of Christ, correctly taught here, that the heart of all Mary Baker Eddy’s works are, “Be not afraid.” Anything else is not

spiritual healing and does not destroy the fear permanently. I am grateful for all that we have in this church to help us grow in grace and understanding. *****

The One True Desire

David states in his psalm that he had one desire and that he sought after it, to dwell in God's house all his days, to behold God's beauty, and to inquire in his temple. I have found this very helpful when tossed about by many desires. To me, it means to stay conscious of how close God is all the time, to open my eyes to see His goodness all about, and when I need guidance, not to go with the innumerable and ever changing opinions that are so prevalent, but to listen to that spiritual sense which is devoid of human will and so rich with God's blessings. Nothing gets me into more trouble than misguided desires. These need to be laid to rest, set aside, and the one desire to be sought, as David stated. *****

Reading this immediately brought to mind the statement in *Science and Health*, p. 261:4 "Hold thought steadfastly to the enduring, the good, and the true, and you will bring these into your experience proportionately to their occupancy of your thoughts." Go to God only for everything and at every moment and be blessed. *****

God Will Hold Thy Right Hand...

2. Isaiah 41

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.

Upon reading this, I remembered learning, as Wikipedia states, "The handshake is thought by some to have originated as a gesture of peace by demonstrating that the hand holds no weapon."

Thinking of it this way, as God takes our right hands, He is showing us that the battle is His, stated in 2 Chronicles 20: 15:

... Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.

Additionally, though — since God is impersonal Truth, Love, and Life — as He holds our right hand, we then have Truth in our hand: The Sword of Truth! Since what we learn to fight in this church is that which offends God, it is logical that we meet these offenses impersonally with God, and never with fear, or any ungodly, personal method.

When Truth is offended by the claims of its counterfeits, error and lies, then we meet those claims with Truth.

When Love is offended by the claims of its counterfeits, hatred and fear, then we meet those claims with Love.

When Life is offended by the claims of its counterfeits, sickness and death, then we meet those claims with Life.

What a practical, inspired Science this is! I am so grateful for each and every lesson. Thank you!

Lead me in a Plain Path

"Teach me Thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies." What a beautifully pure and simple prayer! In a world today consumed with what is known as "too much information" it is well to ask God for a plain (open, clear, not difficult) path to follow. Our enemies (always mortal mind) would like our thought to become confused, overburdened with — "is this right? Or maybe this is what is right?" attempting to keep us in a perpetual state of anxiety. God will teach you His way and show you His path, when you strive to keep thought uncluttered and filled with angel messages from Him. Become as a little child, take your Father's hand and walk with Him. *****

Science and Health, p. 414 Christian Science declares that Mind is substance. Also, that matter neither feels, suffers, nor enjoys. Hold these points strongly in view. Keep in mind the verity of being, — that man is the image and likeness of God, in whom all being is painless and permanent.