

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 95

SUBJECT: Sacrament – July 9th, 2017

Sacrament

The modern definition of Sacrament is “an outward and visible sign of inward and spiritual grace.”

Mrs. Eddy spiritualized this definition even further by centering upon the act of healing as the ultimate Christian sacrament, an outward demonstration accomplished by inwardly abiding “in the secret place of the Most High” without the least outward action such as laying on of material hands, anointing with material oil, partaking of physical bread and wine, going through prescribed ceremonial gestures, or indulging in audible prayer of any kind whatsoever. This is the invisible breaking of bread that Christ Jesus established and Mrs. Eddy elucidated, the sacrament that opens my mortal mind to the “spiritual perception of Scripture, which lifts humanity out of disease and death and inspires faith” (*Science and Health*, p. 547). *****

Thank you for this post! In regards to “...the sacrament that opens my mortal mind...” is it not more correct to say “...the sacrament that opens my thought...” as mortal mind is not ours, nor do we want it to be.

Mary Baker Eddy wrote on page 399 of *Science and Health*:

Scientifically speaking, there is no mortal mind out of which to make material beliefs, springing from illusion. This misnamed mind is not an entity. It is only a false sense of matter, since matter is not sensible. The one Mind, God, contains no mortal opinions. All that is real is included in this immortal Mind. *****

From the standpoint of absolute Christian Science, you are so correct! My comment is based on chapter 6 of *Science and Health*:
“SCIENTIFIC TRANSLATION OF MORTAL MIND.

First Degree: Depravity. Unreality.

PHYSICAL. Evil beliefs, passions and appetites, fear, depraved will, self-justification, pride, envy, deceit, hatred, revenge, sin, sickness, disease, death.

Second Degree: Evil beliefs disappearing, transitional qualities.

MORAL. Humanity, honesty, affection, compassion, hope, faith, meekness, temperance.

Third Degree: Understanding. Reality

SPIRITUAL. Wisdom, purity, spiritual understanding, spiritual power, love, health, holiness. Spiritual universe.

In the third degree, mortal mind disappears, and man as God’s image appears. Science so reverses the evidence before the corporeal human senses, as to make this Scriptural testimony true in our hearts, ‘The last shall be first, and the first last,’ so that God and His idea may be to us what divinity really is and must of necessity be – all inclusive.”

By the phrase “opens up my mortal mind,” I mean the gradual transformation of mortal mindedness to Immortal Mind-fullness. As a math-ignorant mind of a child learns the basics of the numeration table, then advances by degrees to master the principles of addition, subtraction, multiplication, etc. all the way up to integral and differential calculus, that mind is gradually throwing off ignorance and gradually embracing more and more understanding of the principle of mathematics in action, growing from simply believing that math is true to actually demonstrating its truth. To that successful student, ignorance is eventually completely thrown off, that former math-ignorant mind is now completely non-existent, replaced by complete mastery and understanding of the subject. *****

All Inclusive Spirit God

The Lesson brings out many times how essential it is to **accept** and **identify** consistently as a spiritual/immortal idea of God. Without that spiritual identification and hence our immortality,

our premise for demonstration is incorrect as *Science and Health*, p 284: 21-27 tells us:

The physical senses can obtain no proof of God. They can neither see Spirit through the eye nor hear it through the ear, nor can they feel, taste, or smell Spirit. Even the more subtle and misnamed material elements are beyond the cognizance of these senses, and are known only by the effects commonly attributed to them.

Furthermore; *Science and Health*, p 331 states: The Scriptures imply that God is All-in-all. The Scriptures also declare that God is Spirit. Therefore, in Spirit, all is harmony, and there can be no discord; all is Life, and there is no death... He is divine Principle, Love, the universal cause, the only creator, and there is no other self-existence. He is all-inclusive, and is reflected by all that is real and eternal and by nothing else. Therefore, in Spirit, all is harmony, and there can be no discord; all is Life, and there is no death.

Foundation on a Rock

Bible citation 6, Luke 6:47 and 48 says: “Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”

Matthew Henry’s Bible Commentary says, regarding this:

It is putting a cheat upon ourselves if we think that a bare profession of religion will save us, that hearing the sayings of Christ will bring us to heaven, without doing them. This he illustrates by a similitude (v. 47-49), which shows,(1.) That those only make sure work for their souls and eternity, and take the course that will stand them instead in a trying time, who do not only come to Christ as his scholars, and hear his sayings but do them, who think, and speak, and act, in everything according to the established rules of his holy religion. They are like a house built on a rock. These are they that

take pains in religion, as they do - that dig deep, that found their hope upon Christ, who is the Rock of ages (and other foundation can no man lay); these are they who provide for hereafter, who get ready for the worst, who lay up in store a good foundation for the time to come, for the eternity to come, 1 Tim. 6:19. They who do thus do well for themselves; for, [1.] They shall keep their integrity, in times of temptation and persecution; when others fall from their own steadfastness, as the seed on the stony ground, they shall stand fast in the Lord. [2.] They shall keep their comfort, and peace, and hope, and joy, in the midst of the greatest distresses. The storms and streams of affliction shall not shock them, for their feet are set upon a rock, a rock higher than they.

Thank you for this Lesson, and for the Bible Studies, which get us to “dig deep.” *****

Be Ye Doers of the Word

“But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” (James 1: 22)

There is a great deception associated with too much human education, and too much reading. The deception is that you think you know something just because you have read about it. You can’t know something until you have proven it to yourself. You can’t know love until you have expressed Love. You can’t know mathematics until you have solved problems. You can’t know what is good until you have overcome evil.

Paul is very clear, in this week’s responsive reading, how we should live our lives – continuing instant in prayer – and by doing so, we daily “present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” God never requires anything unreasonable of us! *****

Obey

Science and Health, p 496 “...in Christian Science the first duty is to obey God, to have one Mind, and to love another as yourself.”

OBEY, verb transitive [Latin obedio; Gr.]

1. To comply with the commands, orders or

instructions of a superior, or with the requirements of law, moral, political or municipal; to do that which is commanded or required, or to forbear doing that which is prohibited.

2. To submit to the government of; to be ruled by.
3. To submit to the direction or control of. Seamen say, the ship will not obey the helm.
4. To yield to the impulse, power or operation of; as, to obey stimulus. *****

SUBJECT: Life – July 16th, 2017

Eternal Truth, Eternal Life!

Science and Health, p 288. The eternal Truth destroys what mortals seem to have learned from error, and man's real existence as a child of God comes to light. **Truth demonstrated is eternal life. (Emphasis Added)**

The fact that each demonstration contributes to the realization of unchanging spiritual perfect Life, must be a motivation for a joyful desiring to expose evil's lies each time a belief is manifested. Each demonstration, whether "small" so called, or "big" confirms the spiritual truth of our perfection now, our immortality, because God, our Life is forever!

Thus each doing their part impacts the world thought, bringing into view, the truth of our being, by correcting some of the false education that keeps mankind in bondage. *****

Thank you for this post!

This is why it is so important for us to strive to know the truth as best we can. And this can only be done by opening our hearts and paying attention to our spiritual sense, which is God (Truth) speaking to us. In *Science and Health*, (p. 272) Mrs. Eddy writes: "The spiritual sense of truth must be gained before truth can be understood." She emphasizes over and again the importance of relying on our spiritual sense alone to put into practice (demonstrate) what we know of the truth.

And the best part is that we don't have to know everything there is to know before we can start to demonstrate Truth. If we know one thing in Science to be true, that seed of truth contains all the

power of the universe to accomplish whatever God has for us to accomplish, and to experience eternal life. *****

"Life is Real, and Death is the Illusion"

(*Science and Health*, p 428)

From the time of so-called mortal birth to the time of so-called death, people have learned to be double-minded about virtually everything: to honor the testimony of the spiritual as well as the physical senses, to acknowledge that good always exists together with bad and to "take the good with the bad," philosophically speaking. The Bible calls this state of mind "eating the tree of knowledge of good and evil," making evil equal to, or even stronger than, Good, placing other gods before God that is the All-Good. This is quite like saying, "We must recognize and accept the fact that 2+2 equals 4, but 2+2 also equals 5 and other sums as well."

The truth is:

"God is All, and in all: that finishes the question of a good and a bad side to existence. Truth is the real; error is the unreal. You will gather the importance of this saying, when sorrow seems to come, if you will look on the bright side; for sorrow endureth but for the night, and joy cometh with the light. Then will your sorrow be a dream, and your waking the reality, even the triumph of Soul over sense. If you wish to be happy, argue with yourself on the side of happiness; take the side you wish to carry, and be careful not to talk on both sides, or to argue stronger for sorrow than for joy. You are the attorney for the case, and will win or lose according to your plea." (Christian Healing by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 10). ***

Definitions from James

4. James 1

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

These are from the 1828 Webster's Dictionary:

Filthiness

3. Corruption; pollution; defilement by sin;

impurity.

Superfluity

1. Superabundance; a greater quantity than is wanted; as a superfluity of water or provisions.
2. Something that is beyond what is wanted; something rendered unnecessary by its abundance.

Naughtiness

1. Badness; wickedness; evil principle or purpose.

The definition of meekness from “Meekness and Restoration” by Florence Roberts has stayed with me since first hearing of it:

“It is no wonder that the original meaning of the [meekness] is ‘liquid.’ Thus the ability of all liquids to conform naturally and perfectly to the form they are poured into.

Engraft (This definition is from the British Dictionary.)

2. to incorporate in a firm or permanent way;

With these definitions, that verse from James becomes:

Wherefore lay apart all defilement by sin and any abundance of wickedness, and allow yourself to conform naturally and perfectly to the Word of God, and incorporate it in a permanent way.

I am very grateful for how each week brings increased understanding of the Bible and *Science and Health*, and makes it all practical and meaningful to our lives. Thank you! *****

What Is The Purpose Of Life?

I love the passage from Proverbs which answers this question very clearly. It says, “In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.” It is clear that there is more to life than just existing, and definitely more to life than mere selfish indulgence, however pleasurable it may appear. The so-called pleasure of selfishness ends quickly - it can never be satisfied. The joy of serving as God directs is something that settles well in the heart, satisfies the soul, and is the recipe for life. This is the Life that is God and is shown forth in man, and carries with it an energy unseen by the physical senses, and is upheld by the Almighty Himself. *****

Hold Perpetually This Thought

“Hold perpetually this thought, — it is the spiritual idea, the Holy Ghost and Christ, which enables you to demonstrate, with scientific certainty, the rule of healing, based upon its divine Principle, Love, underlying, overlying, and encompassing all true being.” (*Science and Health*). This is a call for perpetual (constant) humility! It is never any person doing the healing work – it is always God and holding that Truth perpetually in thought, without any deviation throughout the day and night, is what enables demonstration and healing to transpire – and it is all done with scientific certainty!! What an encouraging and uplifting statement to work with. And think about it – this rule of healing and its divine Principle is underlying, overlying and encompassing your being – God has you covered my friend! But the key always has been and always will be – humility before Almighty God! *****

God Keeping

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

This made me think about what keeping means.

The 1828 Webster’s Dictionary says in part: To hold, to retain, not to lose, keep in memory, mind or heart; have custody for security or preservation, protect, guard, sustain, to tend to have the care of.....

The Bible:

Behold I will keep thee in all thy ways whither thou goest.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

Keep my commandments. *****

Science and Health, p 428 **“To divest thought of false trusts and material evidences in order that the spiritual facts of being may appear – this is the great attainment by means of which we shall sweep away the false and give place to the true. Thus we may establish in truth the temple, or body, “whose builder and maker is God.”**