

The Plainfield Independent
Newsletter

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OUR THOUGHT FOR EACH DAY

By Mary Baker Eddy

“Every day, every hour, our work increases in effectiveness and power.”

THINK UPON THIS

Christian Scientists, be a law to yourselves that mental malpractice cannot harm you either when asleep or when awake. (S&H 442:30-32)

A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

Plato

“Know Thyself.”

JIM'S CORNER

Jeremy sends this:

“If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans!”

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day, usually the last Monday in May, is a national holiday set aside in memory of fallen service personnel. In times past, the day was often known as Decoration Day, a day at the close of the winter season devoted to decorating service personnel's graves. In some parts of our country the day is still referred to as Decoration Day.

How many readers will join me for two hours to celebrate this holiday and honoring our Service Personnel and supporting the “American Cause” by reading the Constitution? If you need a copy of the Constitution, please ask for a copy.

THE JOY OF READING

Jim Dible

At one time, when new to Science, it was suggested that each member of a small church read *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* completely from “cover to cover” during the year. At the time, I thought it to be impossible! Yet during that year, I did accomplish the project, and immediately started reading it again. Each time I completed the reading, I recorded the date on the blank page just following page 700 in my text. Since beginning this project, I have averaged well over two readings per year. I am most grateful for this inspiring suggestion.

THOUGHTS FROM MRS. EDDY

Mrs. Eddy encouraged all to not only occasionally “Watch,” but to *daily* watch — every day. This was not only for her time, but also to be utilized today as an effective part of our daily activities.

In the past several Newsletters we have attempted to encourage, inspire, and convey this very message to all, as an essential portion of our Christian Science Daily Activity. As each is inspired to “pray without ceasing” (I Thess. 5:17), it is inevitable that Christian Science will reach all mankind.

As each reviews these inspired Watches, given by Mrs. Eddy, at least

one of the watches or arguments will be found to create a burning desire to move forward.

WATCHES & ARGUMENTS

Here are added Watches and Arguments From *Divinity Course and General Collectanea*:

WATCH — Stick to the truth of being.
Page 35.3

WATCH — Know and realize:
Good is omnipotent.
Evil is impotent.
There is but one Mind.
There is no mortal mind. Page 36.8

WATCH — When we are better, we are not made worse.
When we help others, it does not hurt us.
The good we do does us good.
God is Life. God is never death.
We can no more lose life than we can lose God. Page 37.1

WATCH — No error can harm our Cause or a true Christian Scientist.
Good is supreme, it is all, and evil is powerless.
Our arguments cannot be reversed.
Truth is not hindered. It brings forth.
Page 37.4

WATCH — Watch and pray against becoming worldly; also for spiritual sense to govern all your motives and acts. Page 37.5

ARGUMENT — *For the weather.* The weather is in reality the atmosphere of the Mind that is God. It is His idea. God and man are not two, but *one*, in the sense that Principle and idea are one, inseparable.

That is why we can handle the weather of mortal belief just the same as we would meet a case of rheumatism.
Page 83.8

ARGUMENT — I am not separated from God and divine Science.
Page 85.1

ARGUMENT — When you lie down to sleep, know that you have self-control, and that the everlasting arms are about you, and that nothing can intrude into your quiet sanctuary — your peace and rest. You say you cannot sleep — why not rather say you rest in God who does not sleep? You need no sleep. Realize this, and the fear that you will not sleep will disappear and you will sleep. It is the assurance of knowing that makes us master of the situation. Page 87.6

ARGUMENT — Exceedingly important for children and heredity: Handle the belief of a latent, unconscious, subconscious, or human mind or instinct, as a possible channel for animal magnetism; also prenatal mesmerism, hereditary contamination. Page 90.9

ARGUMENT — Affirm that neither malicious influences to harm the innocent, nor physical causation, can produce any result, for there is but *one Mind*, even *Love*, and this Mind and none other *governs all*; is All. Page 91.8

OLD THEOLOGY

Lynda Spencer

Old theology was a topic of a recent Roundtable discussion. It was quite an eye opener. My experience in the “culture” was that this was nothing to worry about in “our church.” I realize now that this was a dangerous misconception, since what we are dealing with is false beliefs, not merely harmless old tradition.

On page 120 of her book of Addresses, Martha Wilcox describes it as embracing a personal sense of man as a material sinner who must be saved.

In addition to teaching that man is born a sinner, instead of being the loved child of God as the Bible teaches, old theology also says that man needs an intercessor between himself and God, when man has a direct connection to God that can never be broken! It teaches that God is a god of wrath, causing calamities to punish His creation. How could a good God, who is Love, cause evil? Many seemingly common traits, like self-depreciation, pessimism, and guilt, have their roots in old theology. So it is very important that these beliefs be discerned and rooted out of our thinking. Mrs. Eddy defines “Man” in the Glossary of Science and Health as, “The compound idea of infinite Spirit; the spiritual image and likeness of God; the full representation of Mind.” And that can never be touched by old theology!

THOUGHTS FROM EUSTACE

*Jeanne shared the following
at a recent Roundtable.*

“It is our work to begin vigorously to prove that God is Love, and that He is proving His care by making His children active and alert.

“We have work to do ourselves; we cannot expect God to do our work. He cannot hear that kind of prayer. He hears only the prayer of being active about His business. As Mrs. Eddy says, “Be active, and, however slow, thy success is sure; toil is triumph.” (Mis.)

“If you succeed in making your mind a blank, thinking that by thus doing you can place yourself in a listening attitude to hear God’s voice, you have let the bars down and opened your house for the devil’s entrance. That idle, listless mood is exactly the opportunity evil desires, and Satan will quickly find something to fill idle minds.

“Keep active and no matter how slow your progress may seem to be,

success in the end is assured.

“I can dimly see what she (Mary Baker Eddy) was thinking, — that malicious mental malpractice would so beguile the Christian Scientist with a false sense of peace, that he would be robbed of all his opposition to its subtle arguments, and so, little by little, darkness would take the place of light and the world would sink back into blackness.

“This will inevitably take place if we become indolent and imagine that all we have to do is to listen for God’s voice. *We* need to *be* the voice of God, and to be about His business every instant. We cannot rest. Malicious argument is always trying to lull us to sleep. To be on guard continually is our only protection. As Longfellow’s Psalm of Life states it,

‘Let us then be up and doing,
With a heart for any fate;
Still achieving, still pursuing,
Learn to labor, and to wait.’”

Eustace p. 531

WILLING WORKERS

Jeremy Palmer

I am so grateful for all the readers at this church. It is a wonderful blessing that we have so many who take part in the reading. I know that each one is handling a lot of resistance each time they read, because each and every reading brings out more spiritual meaning in the Bible and Mrs. Eddy’s writings than I receive in my own study of them. Certainly that wouldn’t happen if the resistance to Truth wasn’t handled.

It is very inspiring how many people tirelessly work to make sure the mission of this church carries on. So many different needs are met all the time, that my role in the scheduling committee is largely just writing down the names of those who volunteer on

their own.

When I needed the church, it was here waiting for me, and I now understand that was possible because of how God works, to move us to fill the roles that He opens for us. I often think about all those right now who need the church as much as I did; and because of how God directs this church, I know it will be here for all of them.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

Carol Conroy

Recently I saw a man stumbling along the sidewalk. He was obviously under the influence of something (alcohol or drugs, maybe). As soon as I realized his situation, words came to me from something in Watches, Prayers, and Arguments Given by Mary Baker Eddy, on page 46. The whole quote says:

“One day Mrs. Eddy said to a student, ‘Are you working?’ He began to tell of his hours of study and work. She said, ‘When you see old age, do you declare that Life is eternal activity, beauty and joy? When you see the leaves falling and hear the wind blow, do you declare that there is no change, decay or cold? When you see deformity and disease, do you declare that man is made in the image and likeness of God?’ The student answered, ‘Mrs. Eddy, I am not working.’”

That was such a wonderful reminder to see everything and everyone as the very presence of God. What does God know about this? What was I seeing? Was I seeing God’s beautiful creation, man upright and pure, attracted only to

the things of God? Was I seeing only the glory of God present in that dear soul?

Mrs. Eddy’s question to her student was the perfect illustration of how to pray without ceasing. It’s being on our toes every minute, never absent-mindedly just looking around, but seeing the face of God everywhere. That kind of prayer sends out a healing energy that raises world thought. Who knows how far it will reach!

“FIXING YOUR GAZE”

Mary Beth Singleterry

“Fixing your gaze on the realities supernal, you will rise to the spiritual consciousness of being, even as the bird which has burst from the egg and preens its wings for a skyward flight.”

Such beautiful imagery, and within this sentence lies what I call a “big little secret.” Error always begs that you fix your gaze on it — whether it be a sensational news report, a negative doctor’s report, a pain in your body, an unhappy relationship, etc. It begs for you to get swept up into its mesmeric suggestions. The first part of this same paragraph admonishes us to “detach sense from the body” and to break “away from the mutations of time and sense,” and, yes, if we can break away and detach ourselves from a mesmerism and fix our gaze on the “realities supernal,” we will rise out of this Adam dream, this false sense of life in matter, and find our true being in God.

Editors Jim Dible
and Carol Conroy

This is an informational newsletter for members of the Plainfield Christian Science Church, Independent, intended to be a means for communication with each other, and is supported and provided by the efforts of the membership at large. Each member shall do his part to ensure the continuing success of Independent Christian Science as a worldwide activity.

Let us begin with our Newsletter.