

*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

Let us accept Science, relinquish all theories based on sense-testimony, give up imperfect models and illusive ideals; and so let us have one God, one Mind, and that one perfect, producing His own models of excellence. {S&H 249:1-4}

A QUOTE FROM THE PAST

Ben Franklin

“Men will ultimately be governed by God or by tyrants.”

Thou art right, Mr. Franklin, for when God is omitted from His place in our life, anyone or anything can step-in and rule us.

Members are invited to share their favorite, “*Quotes from the Past*” by submitting them for publication in future editions of our Newsletter. Thank you.

JIM'S CORNER

The Interstate system first found in the Bible:

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
Isaiah 40:4

CHRISTMAS SEASON

This year may we all attempt to transform Christmas into a most Holy

Day rather than another holiday? Consider including in your study those precious items Mrs. Eddy included in Miscellaneous Writings dealing with Christmas and found on the following pages: 159, 161, 320, 369, & 371. Finally, study Chapter XIII (p .256-263) of Miscellany in which Mrs. Eddy included a number of articles concerning Christmas. All has been studied and will be studied again.

Celebrate not so much the birth of Jesus, but celebrate the risen Christ.

WORDS FROM MRS. EDDY

"Behold, the kingdom of God is within you"—within man's spiritual understanding of all the divine modes, means, forms, expression or manifestation of goodness and happiness."

Submitted by Lynda

The Privilege of Going to Pleasant View

From *Watches, Prayers, and Arguments*
by Gilbert Carpenter

There are those who contend that, when Pleasant View, as Mrs. Eddy's earthly home, ceased to be her platform of scientific activity because she had left our midst, the watches which she issued to students should have been likewise destroyed, since they were adapted solely for use at the time she issued them. But if Pleasant View is thought of

as a state of consciousness, where one strives to use every activity of daily life as an opportunity to establish divine Mind as his only Mind, then it is correct to say, that eventually every follower of Mrs. Eddy must go to Pleasant View, as part of his endeavor to escape sense testimony and find eternal reality and harmony.

If Mrs. Eddy was helping the students in her home to attain a state of consciousness where God is recognized as supreme, by giving them these daily watches to work with, what is to prevent present-day students from a similar effort, namely, to strive to fulfill the mental requirements she placed on those who came to live with her as mental workers? And are not those who had the privilege of going to Pleasant View, and learning what these requirements were from her own lips, obligated to unfold them in such a way, that future generations may learn the same lessons and, if faithful, receive the same blessings?

Mrs. Eddy's earthly home, called Pleasant View, or Chestnut Hill, is not important to students today, but her sense of home that she established is, namely, a place where one seeks to establish divine Mind as supreme in all that he does, even in the most commonplace and menial tasks, and to continue this effort, until he has made divine Mind his permanent Mind, and all belief in a so-called human mind has been ruled out. A student who seeks to fulfill this purpose may declare that he has been to Pleasant View, in proportion as he fulfills the purposes of Pleasant View. By seeking to do everything from the standpoint of divine Mind, he makes his own home a Pleasant View, and if using Mrs. Eddy's Watches will help him in this direction, he should have

them and use them eagerly every day.

What can be more helpful to the student who is ready for the privilege, than to learn from Mrs. Eddy's Watches, how to occupy his time?

DAILY

In our last Newsletter a topic was stated, "DAILY," in which a number of Mrs. Eddy's many topics to consider for daily use was introduced, and in this issue the topic will be expanded. Again, each quote will be followed by the position on the page from which is copied from *Course on Divinity*...

WATCH — Nothing can reverse the Truth, for Truth is All. Page 35.7

WATCH — Declare daily:

No mesmeric influence can prevent the law of spiritual growth, understanding, development, expression, discernment, humility, freedom, health, wealth, and healing from having boundless freedom in your consciousness.

No mesmeric influence can separate you from the infinite Mind and its faculty. Page 37.9

WATCH — The first thing in the morning, call on God to deliver you from temptation and help you to be *awake*. Then do your chores, not as a dreamy hashish eater, but with a clear sense of what to do and just how to do it. Then sit down and first get yourself into a consciousness of your power with God, and then take up the outside watch. Sit until this is clear, — if two hours.

Page 48.4

WATCH — Declare daily, 'I am healed, and scientifically healed.' Christian Science is the victor, and vanquishment is unknown to omnipotent Truth. I

cannot be grieved or disappointed, since God is All and my life is hid with Christ in God. There is nothing lost. Mental malpractice cannot reverse my declarations, cannot touch my conscious or unconscious thought, for there are not minds many. There is only one Mind, divine Mind.

No aggressive mortal suggestion can cause me to forget my duty to God, to our Leader, or to mankind. Mind is unlimited in its source and supply. Man's substance is in Mind, and cannot be impoverished. There is no poverty, no lack. Fear is no part of consciousness. Consciousness is cognizant only of the things of God, good. There is no reality in discord. God's child cannot suffer and be unhappy, because God is the only power and He never made anything but love and peace. Page 49.7

PRAYER — Students do not pray enough. They should go by themselves at least three times a day to pray. Their prayers should consist of much giving thanks, more realization of the perfect, as well as the denial of error. There is too much denial of error and too little realization of the perfect. Page 62.6

Evening Prayer

Before you are ready to close your eyes in sleep, be sure you are not holding anything unlovely in your consciousness, anything unlike God; laying aside every fear, put yourself entirely in His charge. Quiet yourself with the thought that He who has all power will protect you, give you health, and all you need in abundance, and know that whether sleeping or waking, you are safe because your life is hid with Christ in God. To declare that you are well is the exact truth; you are not flesh,

but rather the ray of divine light that, shining upon flesh, makes it appear alive. This *you* is spiritual and cannot be sick. Remember that power is exerted by merely stating a truth. All truth is the word of God. Assert it constantly, even though your so-called human mind screams falsehood. It is to acknowledge Him, to have your mind stayed on Him, to be directly benefitted by the activity of good. Page 64.8

Leading a Bible Study

I recently had the opportunity to lead a Saturday morning Bible Study. I thought, "I can do this," and was soon to learn that was a mistake. Being my first attempt, I wanted to present the study questions as quickly as possible in case they needed to be refined. The questions were submitted, and I received a loving critique with some beautiful quotes from the Bible. I realized I had to let God lead me. So armed with this information, I reread the Bible Lesson to find those guiding quotes were from the Lesson! While I was reading the Lesson, I certainly was not absorbing it very well. I realized I was working from a standpoint of self and not from God.

I turned to what C. Lulu Blackman wrote in *WE KNEW MARY BAKER EDDY*, Second Series; "The swift healing that followed my obedience to Mrs. Eddy's demand that I take my first patient gave me a keen insight into her characteristic faith in the power of the Word of God when applied through the Science she was giving to the world. She had arranged no details, provided no patients. She gave the command and knew God would 'supply the wisdom and the occasion for a victory over evil.'" I finally thought, "God will do

this,” and started fresh. The next set of questions was accepted.

I am so grateful for this lesson. I wasn't told what to do, or how, by person, but lovingly guided to make a demonstration from the standpoint of God. It demonstrated to me the faith the “guiding lights” at Plainfield Christian Science Church have in God. It gave me a living example of the effect of Plainfield's watches and the prayerful support of the congregation, because I had never made a demonstration like this before of getting self out of the way.

For anyone who has not moderated a Bible study, here are some reasons why I would encourage you to do so:

1) You cannot fail because God will lead you.

2) You don't need to know the answers to the questions because God has infinite ideas and the participants will find a lot to share—more than an hour's worth!!

3) The blessing to you will be immeasurable, and your blessings in turn will bless all.

Mike Pupko

Let's Raise the Thought of Christmas

Jeremy Palmer

A Christmas tree and presents,
family all around,
But there's no cheer in symbols,
no meaning without God.
Can Truth be purchased wholesale,
and shipped right to your door?
This season's without reason
if gifts are all you've sought.

I've raised my thought of Christmas
from more than just a tree.
The Christ is bringing freedom
from every material need.

We all want children happy,
and thought these gifts would please,
Yet what we've been sold, in February's
old, by June it's in the trash.
The gifts of God are plentiful,
eternally brand new.
They leave us fulfilled and years later
still, we treasure every one.

Let's raise our thought of Christmas
to one of certainty,
That Christ has brought us freedom
from sin, death, and disease.

The suggestions are aggressive,
our temple's under siege.
Let's scourge the moneychangers,
take back this house of prayer.
God's kingdom is within us,
and all false gods must go.
With Science let us say, Christ's day is
every day, God's Love is all we need.

Let's raise the thought of Christmas
for everyone to see.
The Christ has brought us freedom
from every false belief.

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.