

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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CHRISTIAN SCIENCE - 12/29/13

My only authority

A little history: How did the Bible Study come about? We were always aware of the woeful lack of Bible knowledge among Christian Scientists - were thinking of some kind of Bible Class, but how? The Roundtable came about because it seemed the Lesson Sermons, which were compiled with great love and depth, were being largely wasted, and the service needed more body! In short the Lesson-Sermon was having little impact.

The Roundtable turned out to be a huge success, and Tony, among others, wanted more! About the same time, Tom made know his great interest in the Bible, and so we tentatively started the Bible Study on Saturday mornings, and it took off, so that now we hardly dare skip a week! One of the marvels of it, to me, is how much Bible we are covering. Looking down the Bible Study audio, we have hardly repeated the stories, etc. over a period of roughly two years.

This gives us an idea of how wondrously these Lesson-Sermons are being compiled - surely God's hand is on it, because there is no structured control. THE WONDER OF INDEPENDENCE!!! *****

“The Bible has been my only authority. I have had no other guide in “the straight and narrow way” of Truth.” *Science and Health* p 126:29-31. This statement doubly enhances my gratitude for our Bible study held every Saturday morning - for I am always amazed at how much I am learning! When these sessions

first started we weren't even sure how often we would meet or if it would catch fire. Well, it has! We now have archived Bible study sessions on our website dating back to October 2011 and we are still going strong. Each week I learn many things - always new and valuable. This deeper spiritual understanding (about Biblical events, people, and places) is so important, especially when you consider Mrs. Eddy deemed the Bible as her only authority! Thank you all who participate keeping it fresh and vital each time. *****

No teaching has been certified since Mrs. Eddy left

The Church Manual 88^{th ed.} states clearly: "Beginning with 1907, the teacher shall be elected every third year by said Board, and the candidate shall be subject to the approval of the Pastor Emeritus." Man. Art XXV111 sec. 2

Why did Mrs. Eddy require her approval and thereby make it impossible for the Board of Education to continue to function after she left: "Christian Science can be taught only by those who are morally advanced and spiritually endowed, for it is not superficial, nor is it discerned from the standpoint of the human senses." *Science and Health* p 461: 7-10

She did not trust ANY ORGANIZATION to carry out this requirement. Has she not been proven entirely correct. *****

Yes, she knew! I have been ruminating on what you said about class instruction, and yes, it did not make me a healer, even if I went through twice, second time as a visitor. Why did I do it? Because I must have felt unprepared. The theory is all there, nothing

wrong with what my teacher taught. Yet something was missing. Then you had those endless Association day speeches, with a few good moments in them to be sure, but such a waste of time and energy. I have found more spiritual sense with certain evangelical preachers and healers from other denominations. They are on fire! Because Love is also an emotion! It is a power! Having said all this, my teacher was a great Christian woman and friend, and a good healer. But instead of blaming my lack of progress on others, the cause must be found in my own consciousness. *****

Now that I look back on it, we as students or the teacher himself could not speak openly about the true history of the church because it was and still is under a veil. "Love is the liberator." *Science and Health* P 225:21-22 I'm grateful that here we can openly speak about what's happening in the Christian Science movement. Any error needs to be unmasked before it can disappear into its native nothingness. *****

By having the organization certify the teacher, the teacher relies up the organization for their credibility and so an unholy relationship. "Even the disposition to excuse guilt or to conceal it is punished. The avoidance of justice and the denial of truth tend to perpetuate sin, invoke crime, jeopardize self-control, and mock divine mercy." *Science and Health* p 542: 9-13 Certified teachers are not exempt - NOONE is! *****

Illumination of the spiritual sense

"Only by the illumination of the spiritual sense, can the light of understanding be

thrown upon this Science," *Science and Health* p 461:11-12

The beautiful song this past Sunday which is featured on our Homepage - "Why" - says it all.

But how many have come out of Class Instruction, Primary OR Normal, with any inkling of this?

What happens when someone thinks they have an understanding of this Science but has a dormant spiritual sense? They are a danger to themselves and everyone around them. They are indulging in the occult! - because they are entertaining hidden evil. Without spiritual sense, you become a tool of the devil.

Hitler played to those with no spiritual sense (including the intelligentsia of this and other countries). He convinced them that he was a man of peace, even while he was building a massive military. Even the Christian Science Board of Directors in Boston were fooled, and played along with the Nazis in the early '30s.

SO MUCH FOR SPIRITUAL SENSE! "Man's spiritual individuality is never wrong." *Science and Health* p 491:9-10 Why, why do we try to get along without it? *****

Along this line, why would you ever listen to what any politician is saying, or even any family member!! without listening to the inner voice/feeling. Children often have a much more acute sense than their parents, until they have been trained to ignore it! And so we must undo that training, stop filtering with "personal sense" and cultivate the very thing we were trained to ignore. Then Science will be found to be primarily of the heart, not the intellect. Then it will be found increasingly magnificent and energizing. *****

Thank you for this, it's beautifully stated. Incredibly, this was not emphasized when I attended Boston-approved "class instruction".

I so appreciate Mrs. Evans' and the Plainfield Church's teaching about this important point. It was a major shift for me to know that you have to feel the Truth in your heart, not just think it! *****

First Things

The Bible Lesson for this week contains at least 37 references to light, its nature and activities (including "light," "illuminate," "enlighten," "star", "dawn," "morning," "beams," "ray", "radiance," "reflection," and 2 references to spiritual day).

The light referred to in this lesson is the light of God, the same as that of the first day of creation, "not from the sun nor from volcanic flames, but it is the revelation of Truth and of spiritual ideas. This also shows that there is no place where God's light is not seen, since Truth, Life, and Love fill immensity and are ever-present. Was not this a revelation instead of a creation?" *Science and Health* p 504:10-15

First day is thus an eternal, infinitely unfolding revelation of the nature of God and all the ideas that reflect, radiate the light of God. This is the same First Light that appears on the very first paragraph of *SCIENCE & HEALTH*, the light that we are always to put first in our lives and thoughts. This is the light that we are to receive with less and less resistance, moment by moment. And the only possible way to receive this Light, to put it first, is to walk in it, otherwise it will become darkness and more, "for if the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!"

It is no accident that Mrs. Eddy begins her most important book with Christmas, yet she fills her text not with conventional feelings of excited anticipation of material holiday reveling. Hers are instead the exalted thoughts and feelings of spiritual anticipation of all that is best about Christmas, yet heretofore hidden

and unfulfilled. In this she never lets up, never lets the sun go down on reflecting her vision to us. Our role is to help fulfill these first words: to keep the dawning of the Christ light undimmed that began with Mrs. Eddy's discovery, Christian Science, to cast that reflected Christ light more and more brilliantly every moment, the light that taketh away the sin of the world, the light that increases as we follow the First Great Commandment more and more intensely, more and more determinedly, more and more single-mindedly and uncompromisingly in the darkness-destroying radiance of First Love.

On a practical level, Mrs. Eddy writes of "wakeful" shepherds whose wakefulness in a world gone to sleep enabled them to align themselves with the light. As Christ said, "And what I say unto you I say unto all," no exceptions, "Watch." and as the greatest hymn of liberation ever written proclaims:

"I have seen Him in the watchfires of a hundred circling camps; They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps; I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps: His day is marching on." *****

Peace, peace...

One thing mesmerism leads students of Christian Science to resist above all else, is the recognition of error and the handling of its claims. They want to make their demonstration by declaring good. This attitude is the hypnotic influence of fear. Mortal mind is not willing to deny itself, and thus take the first step toward its eventual destruction.

With the revelation of Truth, error became malignant through self-justification. (A few things from Frances Thurber Seal's addresses. The Bookmark carries them.) From *Science and Health* here are the following snippets: "So-called mortal mind,-

being non-existent....." p 513:27-28

"mortal existence is a state of self-deception...." "The mortal so-called mind produces all that is unlike the immortal Mind." p 403:15-16 and 26-27

So I concluded that I start to exist only in proportion as the divine consciousness becomes my consciousness. I am either the Christ-consciousness, or I am nothing, unreal, a lie, a self-deceived trance-like dream. I must allow Mind to be "me." Or remain part of mortal mind's nothingness. *****

SUBJECT: GOD - 01/05/14

love God and keep his commandments ...

To love God and keep his commandments is the whole of man in God's image and likeness (*Science and Health* paraphrase). How do I love God? *****

If we have read this week's lesson and are still wondering how to love God, there is a mental logjam going on. When this happens, I find it helpful to stop and consider, honestly, what I care about most. Who am I most concerned about pleasing? Who /what do I trust most? When we find that God, Life, Truth, and Love, is not what we most care about, etc., we now face the fact that we are idolaters, just like the ones that worshiped the golden calf.

What's wrong with that? It was tangible, was made of expensive stuff, everybody was doing it... non-intelligent matter! Need I say more? Yes. Even a loved one is non-intelligent matter unless God is there. *****

This command includes much, even the SURRENDER of all merely material sensation, affection, and worship.

False appetites, like coffee and alcoholic beverages; I know that no one would care about these, or think that they taste nice, if it were not for the drug they contain, the effect they seem to have on our feeling and mood. When I fear what my body, my stomach could do to me, this is also a false negative worship.

To love Truth, or Spirit, with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength is to dislike error, or matter. *****

There are a lot of instructions in the lesson on how to love God, and it shows how active it is. It is easy to say, "oh, yeah, I love God" - based on some sympathy or agreement with the beliefs about God. But, unless it's daily reflected in turning from materialism, watching, etc., it's not really love. It's like saying, "yes, I'm in support of what God stands for", but not actually standing yourself. I find this to be a hidden trap, because you think "of course I love God." *****

Call upon Him in Truth

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth." Ps. 145: 18 You cannot fool God so don't even try. After all He is Omniscient. Healing can't be experienced unless you have a totally open and honest heart. I know at one time I tried to fool myself as to my true feelings and motives - covering up what I felt wasn't in line with being a "good Christian Scientist." It is so liberating to drop all this phony stuff. Be what God made you and address those uncomfortable feelings. Bring them to the light of day to be healed with the real truth of your being. Mrs. Eddy's New Year's letter to the 1st Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Misc. p 147 is a good one to work with in this regard. She speaks of the "man of integrity." Truly, this is the man we should all aspire to be. *****