

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 31

SUBJECT- DOCTRINE OF ATONEMENT- 10/19/14

"It Should Be Thoroughly Understood..."

"It should be thoroughly understood that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love. Mankind will become perfect in proportion as this fact becomes apparent, war will cease and the true brotherhood of man will be established." (*Science and Health*, p 467:9-13)

It's the "thoroughly" that stood out to me in this stupendous statement. And, if we have a thorough understanding that "all men have one Mnd..." the results in the second statement are what we all wish for our world--perfect mankind, no more war, and all men sharing true brotherhood.

I'm just wondering, how does one achieve thorough understanding of this, and, can we demonstrate this in our own lives "as this fact becomes apparent"? I say we can, yes, on a daily basis, in our own lives, right now!

For instance, if we have a potential misunderstanding come up with our neighbor, we can start by seeing our neighbor as perfect, and understanding we "have one Mind, one God and Father...", and watch a possible conflict dissipate into its native nothingness because that conflict did not originate in God, the only cause. I saw a demonstration of this just this morning and I'm so grateful to God and to this Bible lesson (with the "Raca" warning in Matthew 5) for guiding me through this and preventing what could have been an awful situation!*****

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This quote has struck me many times; it follows what is said to be the first demand of Christian Science. Seeing others as less than the perfect man God created, makes God less than what He is! HE alone is ALL. This is a MUST statement that needs to be accepted, respected, revered, and obeyed. It is all based on the divine Principle LOVE, un-selfed!! We are not to love the wrong, but we MUST Love what God has created. Not easy at times, but IT IS A MUST.

I have had to watch my thoughts about my family members, and as you say, in obedience to that discipline of thought the healing Christ, works to reveal the real man. I thank God for these directions through Christian Science, and for all the healings that have come through this obedience. *****

In this week's Bible lesson, Jesus warns, "Whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool [the Greek word '**moron**'], shall be in danger of hell fire" (Matt. 5:22). Even so, Jesus was not afraid to use the plural of "moron" in his publicly upbraiding the Pharisees ("Ye fools and blind" -- Matt. 23), a fact which emphasizes the importance of exposing foolishness and evil - in the correct way - in order that error may be obliterated.

But I am helping error out when, in the name of uncovering evil, I continually think about, speak about, or personalize evil in such a way that it actually gets stronger. Error is always asserting that it is a mighty fortress when it is nothing but a house of cards. But before little David cleared things up, multitudes in Israel's army actually propped up the illusion of Goliath's evil by continually focusing upon how evil he was.

Similarly, repeating the mesmeric claim of "Who can fight against the dragon? Who can make war against him?" is not only mesmerism, it is malpractice that only intensifies and deepens the world's mesmeric dream-state, like a blundering physician administering a sedative to a patient who is already in a coma. Mrs. Eddy tells me, in so many ways, that my assignment is to awaken the world from its "cataleptic nightmare" (SH). In any given moment, I am either contributing to that catatonic spell or helping to break it.

Saul of Tarsus, the Goliath who persecuted the early church with such violent, misguided zealotry for God, would have continued to do so had not certain watchers prayed for him according to Christ's instructions in the Sermon on the Mount. It was as a result of Christians praying for their enemies, understanding "**that all men have one Mind, one God and Father, one Life, Truth, and Love,**" that Saul of Tarsus experienced a great epiphany and not only stopped terrorizing Christians, not only became a Christian convert, but became one of the greatest Christian leaders and teachers of all time! As shown below, this can happen today to any (and to many!) so-called terrorists and their leaders threatening the world today!

Every one of us now has the responsibility to pray for all the

members of the so-called "Islamic State," and for the 10 - 25% of the Islamic world that has embraced terror as a means of evangelizing the whole world into a spurious "oneness."

Below are just a few of the Saul-of-Tarsus-like conversions from Islam to Christianity that are occurring today -- through supersensible sightings, dreams, visions, epiphanies -- even in lands where missionaries and Bibles are forbidden! Let these testimonials move and encourage us to be far more untiring in our commitment to claim "Thy kingdom come" than the jihadists are in their prayers for world domination!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-L1KIU7lao>
- Ex-Hezbollah Iranian Muslim Saw Jesus and Jesus Said Who He Was - Afshin Javid - deeply moving

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SO_y78TmtnU
- A Muslim converted after seeing Jesus

Warning On This Subject From 1st Edition Of Science and Health

One of the tragic outcomes of professing CSers who have ignored Mrs. Eddy's warnings ("I cannot sin because I am a child of God"):

"The terrible effect of our false views regarding the atonement is to make a sinner less fearful to sin, believing a tear or a prayer will secure its pardon; this heightens hypocrisy and suffocates conscience... But for these false views regarding the forgiveness of sin, ministers and laymen would never break the commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery," and then talk of their love for God, and Christian experience.

The sweet and spiritual significance of the death on the cross, is Love laying down all of earth to instruct its enemies the way to heaven, proving what heaven is, and how obtained. We speak of the blood of Jesus as efficacious to save sinners; it is the efficacy of the Truth and Love that Jesus taught and demonstrated, which alone can destroy sin; and sinners are never saved. The blood of Christ was an offering of Spirit and not matter, a pledge of undying Love. O! highest conceptions of spiritual sense tell us, what is Love."

Listen: <http://bit.ly/1s7uFKM> *****

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Thanks for the post. This from the lesson "Divine Truth, Life, and Love gave Jesus authority over sin, sickness, and death. His mission was to reveal the Science of celestial being, to

prove what God is and what He does for man." speaks to this quote (*Science and Health*, p. 26)

This gives assurance that as we strive to be a reflection of divine Life, Truth and Love, we too can demonstrate this healing power, even if in smaller degrees. Even the Bible patriarchs like Abraham, Moses, Jacob etc. only caught glimpses of this healing power and had wonderful demonstrations. May we all continue to "chisel" thought, repent our sins, seek reformation by obeying God and thus move higher, reflecting more of this supreme power.

Christ Jesus would not have promised the possibility of "greater works" if reflecting the Christ power was impossible; we can humbly accept this promise and never stop working for it.

SUBJECT -PROBATION AFTER DEATH - 10/26/14

So What's All The Fuss?

"Science reveals Soul as God, untouched by sin and death, — as the central life and intelligence around which circle harmoniously all things in the systems of Mind. There is neither growth, maturity, nor decay in Soul." (*Science and Health*, p 310)

Human good is far more tenacious in perpetuating material error, a self apart from God, and therefore embracing growth, maturity, and decay!! How ironic!

"Mrs. Eddy was always fighting against being deceived by illusion, especially the illusion of human good, which has only human falsity back of it. Had Mrs. Eddy been deceived by human good or evil, such an error would have thrown her back into the universal human belief which is the train that is taking every mortal on earth down to destruction." (Visions of MBE, by G. C. Carpenter, p. 84) *****

I found that every time my life was harmonious, it turned into "horribleness." I had shut God out. At first it was so-called wonderful, but without God in my life, it was an illusion and a bad dream and brought harm which is part of harmonious. Then all the problems started because I was fast asleep. As I woke up to the fact I was having a nightmare, and worked and prayed to God, my life turned around. I'd rather have some challenges to wrestle with, not a harmonious life, and with God I am the victor.*****

So should our lives be ever agitated? Mrs. Eddy speaks of the "ever- agitated but healthful waters of Truth" in contrast to the "quiet surface of error." This whole thing about human good and human harmony and how they're deadly in Christian Science seem to pretty well trip everyone up – at least some of the time. As much as we talk about it here and I think I understand, I still turn around and get tripped up by it the next

day, which makes me think I never totally understood it in the first place. So I guess I'll really step in it this week by asking, how does one tell the difference between human harmony and spiritual harmony? How do we know that the harmony we experience either individually or as a church is the good kind or just the bad human variety that's lulling us to sleep and distancing us from God rather than bringing us closer to him. *****

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Spiritual sense. Without it you cannot tell. In 1st Edition *Science and Health*, it is explained that "personal sense" can never understand Truth. Only through Principle does understanding come. Personal sense is just belief.

Most CSers are operating entirely from the standpoint of personal sense. I recommend searching "personal sense" 1st Edition - it will help. Then start questioning yourself, "Am I governed by personal sense here, or Principle?" Don't think you can put this off. Without spiritual sense, you simply are unable to discern right from wrong, although you think you can! That is the danger of personal sense. *****

Also - Spiritual Footsteps is full of examples where the good worker would be rebuked despite everything looking fine. Mrs. Eddy was not impressed by outward appearances, but smelled the human, personal, Godless motive behind it.

Some of us were privileged to witness Mrs. Evans in operation at her best. Rarely was there not a rebuke on entering a gathering - the harder one tried to make sure it was harmonious, the more likely the rebuke. Once the "atmosphere" of human harmony was shattered, there was a noticeably clearer atmosphere afterwards.

This I believe illustrates "Where two or three are gathered together IN MY NAME, there am I in the midst of them." Christ does not smooth over to establish human harmony. His presence is always a rebuke to it. If not rebuke to human harmony, not presence of Christ. *****

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I'm thinking it's time to re-read the trial (*Science and Health*, starting on p. 430) where Personal Sense is the plaintiff! This whole "personal sense" thing seems to be a key point in a correct understanding of Christian Science. I look forward to

understanding this better because I don't want the harm in harmonious! *****

Steadfastness

Steadfastness: 1. Firmness of standing; fixedness in place. 2. Firmness of mind or purpose; fixedness in principle; constancy; resolution....., Webster's 1828 dictionary
These verses stood out from the lesson: "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." 1 Peter, 3:17-18

They made me think of how crucial it is to be steadfast in understanding Truth. I am mistaken when I accept certain discords as real, while I work to see and handle the mesmerism at work in other situations.

However slow my growth may be, consistently seeing error as a mirage of evil, and strive to see the truth will keep me steadfast with what is of God and real. Thanks to the lesson writer. *****

This passage from Peter is addressing the issues of the heart. When the heart desires God and strives to keep God first, he is one with his Principle and thereby steadfast. A steadfast heart is in tune with Good and can feel what needs to be corrected. It is not a mental process or intellectual moment. When I am 'on fire' I feel it radiating from my heart not my head. *****

Mastery of Science requires that I pass through progressive degrees of probation, tests of my spiritual steadfastness, each more challenging than the last, as illustrated in the story of Joseph.

To personal sense, fate had betrayed Joseph, violently tearing his coat of many colors from him and replacing it with the cloak of an Egyptian slave, only to strip that away from him with equal dispatch and replace it with something even more humiliating: a convict's uniform. It seemed that error, in the guise of human treachery, had succeeded in rendering Joseph completely powerless and ineffectual.

Yet in spite of his fetters, in spite of the stifling confines of a dungeon, steadfast Joseph resolved to remain close to God, serving God with unconfined, unfettered, radical commitment to the practice of offering every moment of his life up to God without succumbing to complaint or despair. Somehow Joseph knew that the Infinite cannot be confined, cannot be subject to human limitations and is, in fact, utterly incapable of recognizing the very existence of limitation.

Thus, even in prison, he dedicated each seemingly menial, trivial assignment to the service of God and benefit of neighbor, infusing it with value that increased as he fulfilled

one after another, like a wise investor maneuvering an asset to great advantage. The sum of each "insignificant" act performed in a spirit of unconditional service to God and commitment to excellence - His Excellency - thus created a whole greater than the sum of its parts. Such protracted dedication could only elevate him, bring him closer and closer to God, so that during this period of spiritual probation, he could go nowhere but up.

Orison Swett Marden on Napoleon's chef: "I do not know how it is," said Napoleon in surprise to his cook, "but at whatever hour I call for my breakfast my chicken is always ready and always in good condition." This seemed to him the more strange because sometimes he would breakfast at eight and at other times as late as eleven. "Sire," said the cook, "the reason is, that every quarter of an hour I put a fresh chicken down to roast, so that your Majesty is sure always to have it at perfection."

Such was the Life-quickened, intricate consideration that infused every minute particular of practical service to His Majesty, God and His image, that Mrs. Eddy required of her pupils-in-residence in performing everything, regardless of how trivial it seemed to be, to dedicate every moment to the glory of His Majesty; for being faithful in the probationary accomplishment of small things advances one's way along the path to doing "the greater works" as nothing else can.

Joseph did not despise the day of small things (Zech. 4:10), for it was exactly these small things and his inspired approach to them that parlayed him at last into a position 2nd-in-command to the ruler of all of Egypt. And so, finally, "the form of the fourth" (Dan. 3:25) garment of Joseph was that of a robe of unfading majesty to match perfectly his unfading steadfastness, his unwavering determination to glorify God -- no matter what.

Spiritual Footsteps From Ch. 17 - Opened To This Yesterday

"It is one thing to drink of the living water furnished by one spiritually endowed, and another to gain for one's self the understanding of how to gain that living water. Yet, no one is a true Christian Scientist until he makes this demonstration. No one can call himself Mrs. Eddy's true follower, merely because he or she appreciates and partakes of the living water she has furnished. "Go, and do thou likewise," is the demand of infinite Love. Each pilgrim must go to the Father, in order to do those greater works to which Jesus referred.

Any branch church of Christ, Scientist, will suffer a loss in spirituality, if the membership permits itself to allow one spiritually-minded student to carry the burden of demonstration. False peace may be the outward sign of this loss of demonstration; but such a situation stifles individual growth, and is really the blind leading the blind, where the one who leads and those who follow, are blind to the

seriousness of the situation." *****

Great point! And this is why Plainfield church has succeeded in spite of great resistance and persecution. Nobody is allowed to dominate. Everybody is required to demonstrate, and our testimony meeting last night is proof of the fact that everyone in the church is demonstrating. *****

Growth of Christian Character

From Footsteps, page 210

"The consciousness of God's love and care must be accumulated by every student of Christian Science during those times when there seems no great need. Then, when the waters of mortal mind seem to rage, he will be sustained. "

"As a result the faithful storing of oil in the lamp of consciousness will keep his light burning, during the hours of darkness."