

FORUM HIGHLIGHTS

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ISSUE 36

SUBJECT- TRUTH – 01/25/201

The Sword of Truth

“And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword...”
Rev. 19:15

The Word of God can cut through every lie and destroy it. It is the weapon of the righteous. We just need to remember we have this weapon and use it to rebuke every lie that appears to us. That is true obedience to God. *****

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That is why the best sermon ever preached is Truth practiced and demonstrated by the destruction of sin, sickness, and death. *Science and Health*, p 201: 1-3, 7-9. We are laborers in His vineyard, our work is to practice and demonstrate Truth. If we want to get paid (receive our reward) we better be working (practicing Truth) and not just talking it. *****

Liar, Liar

Psalms: Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously

Error is the liar. So personal sense, when undetected, lies under the mask of good, honest people. It must be detected or delusion follows. My practitioner once told me to "distrust personal sense, your spiritual sense is never wrong."

The Divine Mind is being reflected and voiced or mortal man has absorbed error and is voicing a lie - personal sense. This applies to everyone. No one is exempt. Just because someone claims to be a Christian or a Christian Scientist or even a CS Practitioner doesn't mean they are off the hook from personal sense. We have to be on-guard all the time and double check our thoughts and distrust

and test the ideas and thoughts that come to us. Carpenter has a great watch this week:

126 —WATCH lest you believe that what is called a personal opinion is something that is originated by mortal man. Mortals have no original thoughts. One either reflects divine Mind, or absorbs a belief in a human mind with all the error that it includes.

In any case, one's thoughts are never his own. Hence, when a student is not reflecting and voicing God, he is voicing, not a personal opinion, but animal magnetism. It may appear to be his personal opinion, but that is merely deception. Mortals never originate thoughts. *****

In the culture of CS the idea of dualism is fostered. But there is only one reality. The world we live in right now is the only one there is and it is spiritual. It is vital we are clear on this point. We walk with God, now. As Eustace said, we have to realize that we are in the kingdom of heaven right now. As our thought rises and becomes more spiritual and we leave our mental swaddling clothes behind (materialism) we will behold that which already is.

CS is an awesome power to behold. I am so grateful that I am here now and away from the culture.

That is why you see so much suffering and disease, mortals separate themselves from God, and that is the whole reason the textbook was written in the first place. *****

"Being Past Feeling..."

Ephesians 4: 18-19:

"Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling..."

Before coming here, this described my thought to

an extent, and I'm grateful to recognize it is a dangerous place to be. I felt alienated from God, yet error suggested that I was fine and should be content in the "good" human mind and that trying to spiritualize my thought would subject me to more attacks from mortal mind so I should just stay where I was. "Being past feeling" is exactly where error wants us to be - lulled into the material world and so entrenched in mortal mind that one seems to have lost a spiritual sense of God.

I am learning to resist this subtle but very malicious thought and rise in rebellion against it!

Subject to Change and Dissolution

The only fact concerning any material concept is, that it is neither scientific nor eternal, but **subject to change and dissolution**. *Science and Health*, p. 297 (Emphasis added.)

After so long of suffering from error's bullying I find it a great armor to know that error has no foundation whatsoever; and that no matter how big, frightening, down-pulling, demoralizing, and dire a picture it dares to present, I should ALWAYS remember it is subject to change and dissolution! While TRUTH is supreme and eternal!! Thank you God. *****

What a comfort to know that the Truth is changeless! All material notions about health or diet get debunked on a regular basis, and even material history is subject to change so that much of it turns to fable... where I suppose material history has always resided!

I am grateful to know the Truth, and to know that it is the Rock of Ages. What a comfort to know we can depend on it through eternity! I realize that it would serve me better to put more time into learning more of the Truth, and less into anything that would be "subject to change and dissolution."

Man's real existence as a child of God

My practitioner brought this to my attention, from the lesson:

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. *Science and Health*, p. 288

This feels like the next step from the verse that struck me last week:

Of what avail is it to investigate what is miscalled material life, which ends, even as it begins, in nameless nothingness? *Science and Health*, p. 550

So "what mortals seem to have learned from error" is "nameless nothingness." Therefore, the beliefs I have about myself and life are lies, doing their best to prevent me from seeing my "real existence as a child of God."

I am so grateful for this message, because before coming here, the only thing that felt inevitable was that "nameless nothingness." Now I am so blessed that Christian Science is step-by-step bringing me closer to what God made me. Thank you! *****

"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."

I love the fact that I can't truly learn anything from error. I can only *seem* to, because I can't really learn something from nothingness! What seems so important or real in this world truly isn't. The Truth shines upon us to obliterate the (seeming) darkness. I am so grateful to have access to this Truth, to know our real existence as a child of God.

Only Real Recuperative Power

"By conceding power to discord, a large majority of doctors depress mental energy, which is the only real recuperative power." Think of this – mental energy is the only real recuperative power! That is why, when working out a problem, it is so important to keep one's joy and gratitude. This may seem difficult, but none the less, it is essential and

can be done - because both joy and gratitude come from God and are not dependent on outward circumstances. Hold on to this truth and you will find yourself lifted out of a problem much more readily than otherwise. "The recuperative action of the system, when mentally sustained by Truth, goes on naturally."! *Science and Health*, p. 447

SUBJECT - LOVE - 02/01/15

Love Inspires

"Love inspires, illumines, designates, and leads the way."

I have always found the definitions of these words helpful – to think what Love does for us when we are willing to reflect that Love!

"inspires" – informed by the Holy Spirit; to communicate Divine instructions to the mind (and of course we know God IS our mind!)

"illumines" – to enlighten the mind, to cause to understand

"designates" – to point out, to select for a certain purpose

The best way to approach any task is to know that Love inspires, illumines, designates and leads the way. It will help you with a problem at work, writing a lesson, raising a child -whatever you are confronted with, let Love be your inspiration and your guide. *****

About The Golden Text

"God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." - II Timothy 1:7

Patience, calm, deeply undisturbed, has brought me back to God, many times.*****

This passage always reminds me not to indulge in fear, because I'd rather have a sound mind! One of the definitions of "sound" in the 1828 dictionary is, "Founded in truth; firm; strong." So if

I truly ground myself in Truth, I won't have occasion for fear, or if beset with fear, I'll know right away how to deal with it, how to reverse it. Way before finding Plainfield, even while a "student of Christian Science", I lived through episodes of terrifying and paralyzing fear (usually brought on by my own bad choices). Often I realize that I came into my "right mind" (aka a sound mind) through the clear and practical teachings on Christian Science here in Plainfield. I am very grateful for that! *****

Good Courage

"Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart:" (Psalm 27:14).

If the Psalmist is encouraging us to be of "good" courage, then the implication is that we should refrain from "bad" courage. "Good" courage is the moral courage that is described in the lesson, "the lion of the tribe of Judah." It is the courage to stand for what you know is right by God, no matter what the consequences. Often, it feels uncomfortable to be of moral courage. Your heart is open, full of divine love, and the worldly minded and selfish may persecute or ridicule you for taking the stand.

"Bad" courage is the animal courage described by Mrs. Eddy as that which is motivated by human will. It is the so-called courage that blunders forth without regard for God's direction and generally causes much damage.

The difference can be seen in the way a rebuke is given. A rebuke given out of love will often feel uncomfortable at the time, but it will have a healing effect, because it is directed by God, divine Love. A rebuke given out of anger may briefly feel good as you vent your anger, but it does not help the situation, and will only make matters worse, because it is totally "self" centered and not given out of love.

Hence the admonition to "be of good courage."

Thank you for this clarification of moral vs. animal

courage. It's very helpful.

Regarding moral courage with regard to public speaking, it's often hard to speak up for the first time if one has never spoken in public. I know it was for me, but there were things I just needed to say in a public forum regarding important issues in town. But once I did muster the courage the first time, it became easier and easier each next time.

This passage is very encouraging, as God does indeed "strengthen thine heart" to keep going forward to speak up for what's right! For it's really felt in the heart, the urge to speak up. And then we can "wait on the Lord" as to how we should say it-- that's trusting in God to provide us with the right words to bless the situation. *****

One Thing Have I Desired

"One thing have I desired of the LORD....."

How many things do you desire? Is it a long list?

Think about it and think also about this -

"One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in His temple."

Make dwelling in the house of the LORD, beholding His beauty and inquiring in His temple your one desire and seek diligently after it. You will find all your other desires will pale in comparison as you find a peace and a joy you never thought to be possible! And one by one God will fulfill those other desires you are in need of as well.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Christ Jesus) *****

The Purer Our Love

The more difficult seems the material condition to be overcome by Spirit, the stronger should be our faith and the purer our love. *Science and Health*, p. 410

I used to struggle with this demand until I understood what is meant by love in Science. It meant to gain the correct view of man; it forced me to use my spiritual sense, to see people correctly, to

see the spiritual Truth of harmony right where the error appeared to be. It helped me separate the error from man and break the mesmerism of situations. Getting self (personal sense) out of the way, allowed the action of the purer love. It proved and proves that Love alone has the ultimate power, that it is the Liberator! It makes us free! *****

Isaiah 41: 10-13

At one time it was suggested I work daily with the passages in this week's lesson Isaiah 41: 10-13 ("Fear thou not; for I am with thee, be not dismayed; for I am thy God....") – to keep them by my bedside, to work with them in the morning, afternoon and evening, and to commit each verse to memory. This did much to wipe out fear and also to establish the presence and power of God with me.

Working with statements of Truth in this manner is the "renewing of your mind" – it is replacing old patterns of beliefs with the "enduring, the good and the true." *Science and Health*, p 261 And if done earnestly and consistently – it works! *****

Tenderness

The quality of "Tenderness" which Mrs. Eddy speaks of (*Science and Health*, p. 514) that "accompanies all the might imparted by Spirit." is so significant and important in striving to see oneself as God's reflection, freed of human will. *****

For me, I feel it is an important part of loving your neighbor. If I share what I have learned here with others, but my attitude prevents them from listening, where is the love? It probably would have been better I kept it to myself.

It reminds me of this paragraph from "TO A FIRST READER" in Miscellany, by Mary Baker Eddy:

God has called you to be a fisher of men. It is not a stern but a loving look, which brings forth mankind to receive your bestowal, — not so much eloquence as *tender persuasion* that takes away their fear, for it is Love alone that feeds them.